

# COOPERATION TO UNITE PEOPLES WHEN WAR O'ER

**Russell Tells of Prosperity Brought to Ireland by Co-operative Societies—Movement On to Spread It Among Fighting Nations When War Is Over.**

BY CHARLES EDWARD RUSSELL  
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DUBLIN, May 30.—In County Limerick, Ireland, is a place called Meenahela Bridge. It is a poor, mountainous district, and agriculture has always been backward there. Also, unprofitable.

In March, 1913, agents for the Irish Agricultural Organization society induced seventeen farmers of Meenahela Bridge to start a co-operative association.

In less than two years the co-operators had much more than doubled their area under tillage, their milk supply to the district creamery had increased from 188,000 to 317,000 gallons, the producers were getting more for their milk than they had ever had before, the society's agents had taught them unsuspected things about the capacity of their soil to produce.

### Life Re-Made for These Irish People

There is another region in northwest Donegal, a place called Templecroone. "It was one of the most wretchedly poor districts in Ireland," says an eyewitness. "The farmers were at the mercy of the gomben traders and the agricultural middlemen. Then a dozen years ago a co-operative society was formed. I am sure the oldest inhabitant there will agree that more changes for the better for farmers have taken place since the co-operative society started than he could remember in all his previous life."

"The farmers control their own buying and selling. Their organization markets for them their eggs and poultry. It procures seeds, fertilizers and domestic arrangements. It turns the members' pigs into bacon. They have a village hall and an allied women's organization. They sell the products of the women's industry. They have a co-operative band, social gatherings and concerts."

Life has been re-made for the people of this district and in hundreds of others by the simple substitution of co-operation for competition and of fraternity for the distrust that reigned in the jungle.

Looking upon these astonishing and joyous results, the supporters of co-operation in Ireland begin to see what they have in hand is a revolution and nobody can guess how far it may go, nor how much good it may do.

Among the developments of the movement is a co-operative wholesale plant at Dublin for the purchase at wholesale prices of goods and supplies for co-operators. It is just an American mail-order house, except that it is run for the benefit of communities instead of the private profits of a few rich partners.

### Rural Credit in Ireland

Co-operation grows and widens in all of its activities.

Take rural credits. It is a big problem, as we in the United States are beginning to find out. In the old days in Ireland, when a benevolent government had enabled a tenant farmer to buy his farm, the result often showed that the government might as well have left him alone. If he had no money to buy seed or to feed his cow the farm wasn't much good to him.

You would hardly believe the desperate tricks a farmer was sometimes driven to. Most often he put himself into the hands of a local tradesman (gomben) and became for the rest of his life that tradesman's bound chattel. The tradesman let him have money nominally at 10 per cent, and really at worst than that. Part of the bargain was that the borrower should buy everything at the trader's store, and of course in such conditions the trader hardly did a thing to him.

Co-operation began to knock out this pleasing device. It lent money to the farmer at 4 1/2 and 5 per cent. This brings me to another good lesson for us in this story. Every inch of the way co-operation has been fought in Ireland by the powerful reactionary influences represented by the traders.

The real trouble about ending competition, the real trouble about ending war and bringing about peace and a good understanding among the children of earth, is always the powerful influences that make money out of the other thing. In other words, the interests.

In Ireland the trader is a bigger

man in politics than a saloonkeeper in the Twelfth ward of Chicago. The government stands in awe of him and politicians lick his boots.

### Emancipation from Money Interests

Under these conditions, to emancipate the people of Ireland has been a hard job. Every phase of the new movement has been covered with lies and fought with political tricks.

Honore Plunkett was for years the efficient head of the Irish agricultural department. The trading interests made war on him because of his work for co-operation, and finally they got him.

Then they put into his place a man opposed to co-operation. He is still there.

Yet, in spite of official opposition, it goes its way, turning poverty into comfort and giving opportunity to people who never had opportunity before.

But it is not merely its better material conditions nor even improved and increased production that the backers of the movement make the most of.

Co-operation is changing the life of the farm household from isolation to a rational state of human association with a chance for knowledge, relaxation and amusement.

As soon as a co-operative society is started anywhere it must have a meeting place, for everything is determined by the vote of the members. They get a hall. It becomes a social center. Having a social center they use it for lectures, concerts and dances. The women start organizations of their own. The young people have a club. The next thing you know the somnolent community has awakened to social life. People get acquainted with one another and learn that after all they're a pretty good sort.

The Irish Agricultural Organization society is the name of the central body that inspires these momentous changes, pushes them along by sending out organizers and publishing tracts and pamphlets. In Plunkett House, Dublin, where it has its headquarters, it maintains a steadily increasing library for the benefit of the co-operators. Plunkett house, by the way, is named in honor of the persistent man who on a wholly unselfish impulse gave to the movement its start.

### How Central Body Works

One of the labors of this central body is to keep the thing plumb to the original plan. This sought to avoid the reef that has wrecked so many co-operative societies in America by ruling out the joint stock idea and the soulless corporation. The organization is always very simple. No matter how much money a member puts into the venture he has but one vote. The use of a part of the proceeds for educational work is usually insisted upon. Beyond this and a certain percentage, all of the net returns are divided among the customers in the proportion of the business they have furnished.

The co-operators are constantly entering new fields; there seems to be a reasonable basis for the prediction that in comparatively few years all the agricultural business of Ireland will be done co-operatively. I can't stop here to enumerate the ramifications of the idea. I can only instance the fact that some societies are making electricity and furnishing it to members for power and illumination, and old houses that never before knew anything but a candle now glitter with incandescent bulbs.

The thing grows because in at least two ways it is fundamentally sound, progressive and wholesome.

First, it stops waste and secures the greatest results from human efforts. Hardly a farmer in Ireland could afford to farm with traction engines, gang plows and power machinery. Co-operation puts all these things into his hands, and now with far less labor his fields produce a far greater yield.

### Co-operation Opposes War Ideas

But beyond all these considerations is the other phase of it. The co-operative movement grows because its last foundation is a wonderful and unassailable truth.

It is based upon the great fact that the earth produces enough for all its inhabitants and there is no need and no excuse for the scrambling fight in which under competition men tear bread from one another's lips.

There is bread enough for all. The lying excuse is made that war must be, because this nation or that is cramped and crowded in its own land and must expand to live.

Co-operation demonstrates that there is not a country on earth that cannot produce far more than it produces at present, nor one in which the ambition of its people may not well be satisfied at home.

Perhaps it is because of this great, noble, humanizing truth that the co-operative movement is always found in practice to spread fraternity, good will and a better understanding. What men in Ireland are naturally the most antagonistic? Nationalists and Orangemen. Yet in the co-operative movement nationalists and Orangemen work most amicably side by side. Father Finlay is one of the great nationalist leaders of Dublin

# DO YOU WANT HEMP PLANTATION? HOW THEY GET THEM IN THE TROPICS



Staff Special.

MANILA, P. I., June 24.—In competition with Alaska, South America, Australia, and other lands beckoning to energetic young Americans to come and help them develop their resources by winning a livelihood, what can the Philippines offer?

Public lands, with maximum homesteads of 2500 acres, on which can be grown practically all tropical products.

The best of these crops for the average white American settler to tackle is abaca (hemp), says Director of Agriculture Harry T. Edwards.

"How many Americans realize," he speculated, "that of the 75,000,000 acres embraced in the Philippine archipelago, only 10 per cent is under cultivation?"

White men now in the Islands are disproving the lazy man's excuse that only the natives can work in the tropics. In southern Mindanao, especially, American pioneers are cultivating hemp and coconuts, just as they would operate farms in the States.

"Abaca (hemp) has the advantage over coconuts for the settler of aver-

age means, because it comes into maturity bearing at from 2 1/2 to 3 years. On the other hand, it requires better soil and a more evenly distributed rainfall.

"Large areas of excellent hemp land are available for settlers. The abaca plant, from whose fibre the hemp is made, is planted 400 and 500 to the acre. In appearance it is like the banana. Under normal conditions an average yield should be one-half ton of dry fibre, per acre. Average quality, termed 'good current' at normal quotations brings about \$220 per ton at Manila. The net incomes per acre will be around \$45 during normal times.

"The fact that Manila hemp is produced in commercial quantities only in the Philippine Islands is of enor-

mous advantage to the insular farmer.

"Prospects for the further development of the hemp industry were never more favorable than they are today. Large areas of public land, in every way suitable for this crop, are available in Mindanao, Samar, Mindoro and other islands. The present hemp fields occupy nearly a million-acre area.

"The most important factor is that within the past year the Philippine government has placed this industry under its supervision, providing a system of grading and inspection under which all hemp must be exported.

"The Bureau of Agriculture in the Islands is eager to aid any settler in solving his farm and stock problems, and through its scattered branch stations makes available the best scientific assistance.

"I must, however, again advise any American immigrant not to come to the Philippines as a stranger and expect to go into hemp or coconut growing even on a moderate scale without some funds. In my estimation, he should have at least \$2500."

# TO CONSTRUCT ROAD TO LAVA BEDS SULTAN'S ILLNESS CAUSE OF REGENCY

KLAMATH FALLS, Or., June 25.—At a meeting Monday, held at Bear Paw cave, in the lava beds, the Klamath and Modoc county delegations completed arrangements for the commencement of work on the lava beds road project.

The Modoc county delegation is ready to go to work July 5 and expects to have its portion of the highway completed by August 1. Klamath county will begin soliciting subscriptions at once and make the other necessary arrangements for the completion of its portion of the road at the earliest possible date. It is proposed to have another good road day, when all the workers available will help on the project.

It is expected that this road will be extensively used in connection with the Columbia highway and central Oregon route between California and north Pacific coast points.

Paris, June 25.—Information has been received from Constantinople, says a Havana despatch from Athens, that after it became apparent last week that the illness of the sultan was of a serious nature, the royal princes met and decided that Yusof Izzet, eldest son of the late Sultan Abdul Hamid, should assume the regency. This proposal was vigorously opposed by the committee on union and progress, resulting in a deadlock, the solution of which has not yet been found.

An operation for the removal of a stone in the bladder has been performed upon the sultan by Professor Israel, the German specialist, who has been at the sultan's bedside for several days, according to a Constantinople despatch received at London by the Reuter Telegram company last night.

# FRECKLES

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Be sure to ask for the double strength othine as this is sold under guarantee of money back if it fails to remove freckles.

# SANDRY TO INSTALL SCREENS FOR FISHES THROUGHOUT STATE

SALEM, Ore., June 25.—The state fish and game commission Thursday appointed H. L. Kelly of Oregon City, master fish warden to succeed R. E. Clanton, who was chosen superintendent of state hatcheries. Carl D. Shoemaker, of Roseburg, was elected state game warden, on account of the resignation of A. H. Lea of Portland, who was appointed by the commission at its last meeting.

L. L. Jewell of Grants Pass was appointed deputy game warden for Josephine county. He replaces Fred Merrill. J. H. Driscoll, also was appointed a deputy game warden to succeed Sam L. Sandry, who was named superintendent of screens and screen construction throughout the state. The board elected M. S. Barnes of Paisley, deputy for Lake county.

In the future the commission declared, that all aspirants for positions with the state game or fish departments would be given examinations to test their fitness.

ROSEBURG, Or., June 25.—Carl D. Shoemaker was born at Napoleon, O., June 20, 1882, and graduated from the public schools there in 1900. He graduated from the Ohio State university in 1904, in the B. A. degree, and graduated from the law department in 1907. He practiced law in Columbus, O., until 1911, when he came to Roseburg and purchased the Roseburg Evening News, January 1, 1912.

His paper, republican, has taken active part in local politics, and led the dry campaign in this county. He is secretary of the Douglas county republican central committee, and is a member of the Oregon bar, Odd Fellows, Masons, Elks, is a Presbyterian, is married and has two children.

Shoemaker is a thorough sportsman and has spent much time in the game districts of this part of the state.

His appointment meets general approval here.

Mr. Shoemaker was endorsed by the Medford sportsmen, when it was learned that Mr. Ewing would not be appointed, because the republican county committee refused to endorse his candidacy, although the committee at once endorsed Mr. Shoemaker, the Roseburg candidate. Local sportsmen felt southern Oregon was entitled to the wardenship and when Mr. Ewing was rejected got behind Mr. Shoemaker, a ste latter had supported the Medford candidate as long as there was a possibility of his appointment. The objection to Mr. Ewing is said to be due to the fact that he voted for Roosevelt in 1912 instead of Taft.

Mr. Kelly is well known in Jackson county where for three years he was in charge of hatchery operations at Elk creek for the U. S. Bureau of Hatcheries, leaving five years ago to take charge of hatchery operations for the Argentine Republic. While there he stocked all the streams of the country with Rogue river steelhead, which have thrived wonderfully in their new home.

Mr. Jewell was formerly an employee of the Bureau of Hatcheries at Elk creek and also on the lower river. Recently he has been in the employ of the state hatcheries.

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