

Industrial Age Slow in Coming to Emerald Isle

Editor's note: Next month President Kennedy visits the land of his ancestors. It will be a sentimental occasion and Ireland will put its best foot forward. This is another of the profiles of countries written by United Press International reporters living and working there.

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Dublin—It is not for nothing that Ireland has been called "the Emerald Isle." The industrial age has been slow to come here and the Irish countryside lies mostly untarnished, lush and green. Ireland's slow industrialization is not an unmixed blessing. This is still primarily a land of farmers but its agriculture has not been enough for Ireland to keep in economic step with the rest of the world. Its problems run deep, and it lives with rela-

tively high chronic unemployment.

Yet for so small a land, Ireland has made great human impact on the world. Its folk songs are hummed and sung wherever people gather. Its emigrants have played a dramatic part in the building of America. Its patron saint, Patrick, has been virtually adopted in many lands and its symbol, the shamrock, treated on all the continents as a talisman of good luck and good will.

Land of Contrasts
A land of contrasts is Ireland. The past and the present live comfortably together. It lies beside Europe but its spiritual empire is in North America.

The basic wealth of Ireland is in agriculture. Only in the last 40 years has there been an effort to build up industry, and it has been slow going. Centuries of occupation brought Ireland into the 20th Century as a chronically back-

ward nation. Not until the civil war of 1922 was the truce signed that ended Britain's long occupation.

Ireland is divided into four provinces—in ancient times they were known as kingdoms—which are again subdivided into counties, 32 in all. Only 26 of those counties are governed from Dublin and constitute the republic of Ireland. Their population is only 2,815,000. The other six, part of the province of Ulster, were separated by an act of the British parliament in 1920. These comprise northern Ireland and are subject to Britain.

The Irish Republic never has recognized the separation and agitates still for union. The constitution of the republic states unequivocally that "the national territory consists of the whole island of Ireland, its islands and the territorial seas."

Ending of the partition or the reunification of the coun-

try is the outstanding major goal of Irish foreign and domestic policies.

Ireland's efforts to join the European Economic Community, which failed in the wake of President de Gaulle's hostility to Britain's application for membership, are a yardstick of the economic progress made by the country in the last 40 years.

Although Ireland has made good progress, she still needs the impetus of foreign capital and pursues an active policy to encourage it including spe-

cial grants and tax concessions.

One attraction to foreign investors is the prospect of relatively cheap labor where the average industrial wage is 12 pounds, (approximately \$36) a week.

In the past two years about 50 foreign-controlled companies have set up manufacturing plants in Ireland, and many of them in the free trade zone at Shannon Airport in County Limerick.

The rate of marriage in Ireland (5.8 per one thousand)

has always been a source of worry to governments and social workers, particularly in the rural areas where the marriage rate is low and the marriage age high, normally in the late 30's.

The traditional reluctance of the elders in the rural families to let go of the land has been recorded as one of the key difficulties in this respect. Lack of social amenities and suitable housing plus the lure of city lights are other reasons behind the poor marriage rate.

But one of the less understood facets of Irish life today is the influence of the tiny Protestant minority. Although surrounded by an overwhelmingly Roman Catholic population, the Protestant minority has traditionally exercised influence well beyond its numerical strength.

One president of the Republic of Ireland, Douglas Hyde, was a Protestant and his religious beliefs appeared to play no significant part in the minds of all parties when they agreed to his selection.

Ireland, which once boasted the description "the island of saints and scholars," has produced many great literary figures such as Joyce, Shaw and O'Casey. The influence these men exerted is still evident in the scores of study groups meeting in the capital.

Once a nation of playgoers, Ireland has seen its theater steadily declining for years and at present it has reached its lowest ebb.

The once-famed Abbey National Theater, training ground for many famous actors and film stars, is currently the butt of an ever-surgeing critical controversy. Its failure to accept plays from Irish writers that have since become internationally acclaimed has played a large part in the criticism of the Abbey.

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SLOW IN DEVELOPING—Ireland, whose basic wealth lies in agriculture, has been slow to build up industry. In the top picture, workmen put dried turf, or peat, into cart to use as fuel during the winter, while in the bottom picture, draftsmen draw on specially-prepared metal outline of nose and rear sections of a turbo-prop airfreighter. (UPI)

Freedom Savings Bond Drive Here

The second annual Freedom Savings Bonds Drive is now under way in all cities of the nation. The quota assigned for Medford is \$105,000.

The drive will continue until July 4, according to Thomas S. Pradeaux, chairman of the Oregon Savings Bonds committee. Pradeaux has voiced the hope that every family in the state with a regular income will buy at least one Savings Bond during the drive.

No county quotas have been assigned but all major cities and towns in the state have been asked to assume dollar goals equal to last year's sales in May and June plus a small increase.

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