

tural holdings in Ireland, so that some 160,000 still remain to be dealt with.

Such a vast scheme of land settlement could not be effected without great changes in social and economic conditions. Changes have, indeed, taken place, and these distinctly for the better. Though the main Land Acts are of too recent date to allow of their full effect being made manifest to visitors yet to those of us who are engaged in agricultural administration the reform is very apparent. It is not merely by what the farmer has done, but by the spirit in which he is attempting to improve, and by the rise in his standard of living and in his brighter outlook on life, that we, who are on the spot, measure the strength of this new force.

Work of the Department.

But it is to the work of the Department of Agriculture that I wish specially to direct your attention to-night. This department was established in 1900, the year following your last visit. It is not merely a Board of Agriculture in the sense in which that term is understood in Great Britain. In addition to agriculture, it is charged with the administration of that form of Technical Instruction which in England and Scotland is under the educational authorities. It also deals with fisheries and rural industries, besides having the care of various science and art institutions.

The sum annually available for the purposes of agriculture, rural industries, and fisheries, which was recently augmented by £19,000 for special work in congested districts and by an indeterminate amount from the development fund, is £105,000, of which £78,000 represents the 'whiskey money' given direct in your country to the County Councils, and £5000 corresponds to the sum spent in Great Britain by the Royal Commission on Horse Breeding. This does not, however, comprise all that is spent on agriculture under the department's immediate supervision. In addition, each of the 33 County Councils raises a voluntary rate (for the most part equal to 1d in the £) which yields annually about £43,000, a very substantial portion of which is devoted to the department's agricultural schemes. I would have you note these facts well, for we are constantly being told, and it is everywhere believed in Great Britain, that Ireland receives moneys for agricultural development which have no counterpart in grants to England or Scotland. But England, as well as Ireland, has her 'Whiskey Money' and her Horse Breeding Fund, and if she does not see fit to supplement these by a direct rate, as Ireland does, that fact should not be overlooked when comparisons are made between the two countries. The root of the misunderstanding lies in the fact that whereas in England the 'whiskey money' was handed over unconditionally to the County Councils, in Ireland it was given to the Department who are responsible for its application, even when this is made through local authorities.

Department's Financial Operations.

We may note here also an important provision of the Act creating the Department. It is that all our financial operations on behalf of agriculture must, as I have already indicated, receive the concurrence of an Agricultural Board of twelve members, eight of whom are chosen by representatives of the local authorities, and the remainder nominated by the Department; while the whole policy of the Department, and of the Board itself, is subject to criticism by an Agricultural Council or Parliament of 103 members, two-thirds of whom, as in the case of the Board, are elected by the County Councils.

Turning now from these central authorities to local administrative machinery, we see that each County Council appoints a County Committee for Agriculture and delegates to it the expenditure of the rate raised and of such sums as the Department places at its disposal. The rate and the Department's grant together form the County 'Joint Fund' for agriculture, the whole being subject to the control of the Department. As a matter of fact, of the £105,000 to which I have referred, about £50,000 is spent through County Committees and the remainder by the Department itself. We are often asked how much of our funds and energy

we devote to education. My answer is that the whole work of the Agricultural Branch of the Department is educational. Whether it is the provision of a scholarship in agriculture or of a professorship in this College, the purchase of a high-class sire for a backward district, the sale of a plough or a harrow on easy terms where hitherto the spade only has been used, the introduction of seed potatoes where change of seed is not practised, the erection of a fence in the Donegal Highlands, or even the compulsory destruction of weeds, we regard each and all of our activities as a form of agricultural education suited to the needs of a particular class of the community. I find it wholly impossible to separate our expenditure into that devoted to what is generally classed as technical instruction in agriculture and that which many regard as direct aid, so intimately are science and practice blended in all our operations.

THE SHEPHERD OF ALL CHRISTENDOM

Mr. Joseph Francis Wickham contributes to the April number of the *Catholic World* an interesting and thoughtful article on a visit to the Holy Father at Rome. The title of the article is 'The Shepherd of All Christendom.' After a graphic description of the visit to the Vatican and the reception by Pius X. Mr. Wickham writes thus of what the Papacy has meant to the world:—

And as I was losing myself in these thoughts within the peaceful Vatican walls, suddenly in imagination I heard the clashing of arms and the tramp of soldiers and the notes of the trumpet call; I saw the tossing of countless war pennons and far-flung lines of battle; and as the whole panorama of nineteen centuries opened wide, in clearest of vision I beheld the historic figure of the Papacy. I saw the first Pope crucified, head downward, on the very Vatican Hill where rises now the great Cathedral. I saw the reddening of the white sands of the Flavian Amphitheatre as, one by one, the Pontiffs passed into martyrdom, faithful unto death. Thirty of the first thirty-one Popes wear the martyrs' palm because of their believing of the Word of the Nazarene. I could see in fancy the terrified flock gathered in the secret recesses of the catacombs, and the shepherd standing on guard, encouraging and strengthening and keeping alive the sacred fire of their faith. The Imperial City might fling the might of ten persecutions against the infant Church, but the sleepless sentinels, on duty for the King, showed no faltering. I saw the measured lances of those long centuries when Europe was semi-barbaric and the Popes fought with doughtiest vigor against barons and emperors for the rights of God and the weal of the individual. I beheld the Papacy, with splendid audacity, casting defiance into the chancellories of many a State, forecasting well the temporal loss of possible defeat, but willing to endure any pain rather than be unfaithful to doctrine that she held was Gospel.

Passing Down the Centuries,

I saw a Hildebrand crossing swords with a Henry the Fourth of Germany; a Gregory the Ninth with a King Frederick; an Innocent the Third with a Philip Augustus; a Pius the Seventh with a mighty Napoleon. And looking into the face of the Pope that had just passed by, I had seen the unmistakable consciousness that election to the Papal place had commissioned him with a divinely-spoken obligation to defend Christ. France, attempting to blot out the Light in Heaven, found in that white-haired Pontiff a foe man worthy of her steel. Concordats might be broken, convents closed, nuns exiled: there would be no capitulation. Better that every cathedral in France—Chartres, Rheims, Orleans, even mighty Notre Dame of Paris—be beaten flat to the ground, with not a stone left upon a stone, than abandon truth. The City of God will never seek peace by selling her birthright. A Papal audience is not merely the physical act of being admitted to the presence of his Holiness and receiving his blessing, though it might well stop there. Since Peter first took resi-

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