

THE CORK INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION.

IN this Exhibition, which opened on the 3rd inst., there is an evidence of the industrial revival in Ireland, despite of the trade depression and distress which have obtained in the country for the past two or three years. Following quick upon the Exhibition in Dublin of last year, in some respects that of Cork may be said to be a great improvement. Although not assuming to be a display of an international character, the Cork Exhibition is much more than a local one, for it has a number of exhibits from the sister kingdom, showing, different wares. Cork, however, itself, and the province of Munster generally, is well represented. It is evident, from the nature and variety of the exhibits, that some manufacture has of late been advancing in the south of Ireland, as well as in other parts of the kingdom, for it may be discerned from the appearance and extent of some of the exhibits that several nearly dormant trades of certain centres have been revived, and others have had renewed vigour imparted to them. This is particularly true of Cork in some branches of trade, and among them that of furniture, the manufacture of which once made Cork conspicuous.

It is not necessary for us, neither have we space at our command, to enter into long details concerning the opening ceremony, the trades' processions, or lastly, though chiefly, a detailed notice of the exhibits and exhibitors. The daily Press have been more or less elaborate, if not always accurate, in regard to these matters; and, perforce, we must confine ourselves to a general notice. The opening ceremonial was most successful, and passed off without a hitch. The Mayor, with Lord Bandon and the architect and builder, having reached the dais, the Mayor, in a short address, in which he expressed a hope that this occasion would be the advent of prosperity to Ireland, handed the key to Lord Bandon, who formally declared the building open, amid great cheering. The Lord Mayor of Dublin, with several members of the Corporation, including some members of Parliament, attended.

THE BUILDING

The building occupies over three acres of ground, and is mainly of timber. It occupies the space known as the Corn Market and the Brokers' Hall. The Great Hall of the building is 187 ft. 6 in. long, and 75 ft. wide, and the height from the floor to the apex of roof is about 56 ft. A spacious gallery runs north and south each side of Hall. The pillars which support the roof are of pine, 12 ft. 6 in. apart, dividing the side aisles into bays, finished overhead with arched trusses. The panels overhead are filled in with circles, &c. The architect, Mr. Walker, C.E., and Mr. Delany, the contractor, can both be congratulated for their respective work. The former designed a building which, though of a temporary nature, is well fitted for its present purpose, and the latter finished his contract well, and with remarkable expedition.

SOME EXHIBITS

Of the exhibits, it may be generally said they are most numerous, and many of them very important. Every branch of industry in Ireland, and the principal of those in England are well represented. The exhibits of the heavier English materials are not numerous, but then it must not be forgotten that the Cork Exhibition did not aspire to an international character. In ironmongery and hardware there is a good display from, the centres of the cutlery trade. There is also a large amount of agricultural machinery and appliances from the well

known English firms. Both in fictile and textile wares and fabrics, Ireland has a respectable show. Good Irish pottery ware is now no novelty, but there is ample room for the extension of the trade. Irish marbles, marble work, and building materials, and work of kindred branches to the building trades may be seen in variety in the Cork Exhibition.

Among the Dublin exhibitors lire Mr. Howard Grubb, who shows a portable astronomical observatory and several telescopes. Messrs. Booth, Brothers, a selection of workmen's tools and other building appliances. The exhibits of this old established Dublin firm includes—Firstly, planes for carpenters, cabinetmakers, coopers, and other wood-workers. Secondly, mitre-cutting machines for picture-frame makers and joiners, and also corner cramps for same. Thirdly, lathe chucks and apparatus for amateur turners. Fourthly, bolted boxwood blocks for wood engraving. Fifthly, tools, patterns and materials for fret-cutting and solid carving; and, sixthly, illustrated catalogues are on view of the tools and machinery manufactured by the exhibitors, whose display is an excellent one. The Great Southern and Western Railway Works, Inchicore, engines and carriages. Messrs. Edmundson and Co., exhibit Wigham's patent atmospheric gas machine. The Cabra Deaf and Dumb Institution, a case of fine and varied exhibits the work of the inmates. Rutland Mills, Co.: Dublin, exhibit a selection of ivory buttons. Waiter Carson & Sons, Bachelor's-walk, dairy utensils and other articles; Francis Smyth and Son; a fine variety of umbrellas and parasols, all of Irish manufacture; Mr. Frederick Vodrey, Mary-street, specimens of glass engraving; Messrs. Cherry and Smalldridge, Seville Works, specimen canisters of their Irish mustard. Mr. P. J. O'Neill, Great Brunswick-street, has excellent specimens of altars and crosses, also a fine pulpit. Spencer and Son, Grafton-street, have a display of optical instruments and architects' requirements. These exhibitors are makers to the Board of Public Works. Messrs Boileau and Boyd, Bride-street, exhibit various chemicals and colors, for which the firm has been long noted. For samples of machine belting, the stand of Mr. William Wilby, High-street, may be visited with advantage. Mr. Richard Wright, engineer, Nelson-lane, exhibits his crown printing machine—the second made in Ireland. Messrs. Parkes and Son, Coombe, occupy a large space with implements and ironmongery. Messrs. Sullivan, Brothers, show a fine collection of school furniture; Arnott and Co. also exhibit furniture ware; and Coghlan, Harris and Sons exhibit billiard and other tables; and there are a number of other exhibitors in this line whose furniture articles are very good. Mr. James M'Cready displays an Irish spinning-wheel made of bog oak, with other designs in fancy woods. An interesting feature among the Dublin exhibits is a collection of *fac similes* of, ancient Irish crosses by the late Henry O'Neill, with other works of the deceased artist which are now becoming rare. Architectural models are shown from Dublin and a number of other places in this and the sister kingdom, and numerous other exhibits in connection with the building and decorative trades, which we cannot enumerate.

Belfast sends a variety of good exhibits and articles of native manufacture. Among many others are Messrs. Harland and Wolff, the celebrated ship-building firm of Belfast, which shows models of ships; Musgrave and Co., model stables, stable fittings, and other appliances; Marcus Ward and Co., educational and other publications. The Antrim Iron Ore Company sends specimens of their iron ore. Messrs. Workman, Clarke and Co., shipbuilders, show several cases filled with models of mail steamers, steam vessels, and other

craft which they have built. Mr. J. Rogers, Victoria-street, manufacturer, exhibits a wooden house roofed with a circular girder felt proof, illustrating how such buildings can be most cheaply, easily, and substantially erected. The building is a model (as near as possible) to the sheds that he has just completed for the Belfast Harbour Commissioners. It is 9 ft long x 8ft wide x 7ft 6in high, so that anyone can easily get inside and examine the work. A glass light run along the entire length of the roof, which adds to the appearance, as well as lighting up the interior of the house. The roof is covered with his improved roofing felt, and coated with patent varnish, which he prepares especially for the purpose. There are several rolls of felt exhibited, all of which are well adapted for the various uses for which they are manufactured; but as they are well known we need only mention their names:—Roofing felt, ship sheathing felts (black and brown), sarking felt and inodorous felt. The latter is not so well known in this country as abroad. It is used for inside purposes, and (as its name implies), has no smell. It prevents damp rising in the wall if placed between the wall and the paper. It preserves carpets when used underneath them, and rats, mice, or other vermin cannot, it is stated, live in the house in which it is used. The greases exhibited are for the most part new, and manufactured by the exhibitor. The waterwheel grease has the peculiar property of remaining on wheels working under water, while he also exhibits cart grease, cog grease, and anti-corrosive grease. Mr. Wm. Pinkerton, locomotive superintendent of the Larne and Ballymena Railway Company, exhibits an apparatus for enclosing point levers, of which he is the inventor. It is principally intended for outlying sidings and small stations on single lines worked under train staff system; consists of an iron box or cover for the point levers, with lock so arranged that the door can only be opened by the train staff of the section; a bar attached to the levers prevents the door being shut while the points are open, and, as the staff cannot be removed from the lock until the door is shut, it is impossible for the train to leave until the points are closed. The sidings being opened only for trains carrying staff, no signals are required, and thus a considerable saving is effected, both in the original cost of signals, connections, and extra levers, and also in lighting, maintenance, and wages. The arrangement is so simple that the duties of pointsman can be performed by any of the train officials. The linen and other textile branches of the North of Ireland are well represented by a number of firms whose goods are of excellent quality, and several of them most perfect specimens of their kind. We regret we cannot enter into descriptive details of some of the northern manufactures on view.

The Cork local and South of Ireland exhibits are most numerous; and it would take whole pages to do any justice to the exhibitors; the great majority of whom may be complimented for the goods and wares they display. In the articles of furniture, Messrs. Daly, Cash and Co., Lynch Brothers, Dee and Son, and some other local firms, are entitled to recognition for their fine displays of well-made furniture. Mr. Arthur Hill, oak cabinet, designed by him, and made by G. Wheeler; also Japanese folding screen by Mr. Hill. The Greenmount Industrial School sends interesting specimens of juvenile workmanship in furniture and carving, and other objects. Hegarty and Sons are represented by a good show of leather manufacture; John Perry and Sons by brass and ornamental metal work and ironware goods; Dunn Brothers, good specimens of leather manufacture; Messrs. Greer and Sons, a splendid assortment of Irish

manufactured paper; Alexander Grant and Co., fine specimens of cabinet work, upholstery, and carpet manufacture. The Munster Iron Works are strong in agricultural implements, spades, picks, &c.; Francis Guy, lithographic machine, photographic apparatus, and photographic works generally, a good display. Guy Brothers, of Academy-street, are strong in paper, book binding, lithographic printing, &c. Mr. Varian, representing one of the oldest brush manufactories in Ireland, shows good specimens of his art. Mr. B. Watson displays an ornamental wrought-iron entrance for a large size mansion, with other kindred wrought-iron ware. Robert Julian has a fine display of carriages, cars, and other vehicles equal to any imported. Ferrumite forms an interesting exhibit by Mr. George Adams, whose factory is the only private firm in Ireland entitled to manufacture under the patent. Ferrumite is a species of concrete possessing greater hardening qualities than the ordinary concrete, and is applicable to a great variety of uses. Of miscellaneous wares and goods there is a very great variety on the part of Cork exhibitors. We have only briefly noticed a few among the large number of Cork exhibitors; and several of those exhibitors, whom, perforce, we were obliged to omit, are well entitled to recognition.

Thompson Bros., Wexford, exhibit various models of cottages in concrete from cement of their own manufacture. The models sent in for the Villiers Stuart Prize for Labourer's Cottages number thirty, and are from all parts of Ireland.

Messrs. Cooper and Co., Drinagh, Co. Wexford, on Stand No. 1., Section A., show samples of their Portland Cement in sacks, and briquettes, used in testing at the works; paving slabs formed of their cement well merit attention. The local agents of Messrs. Francis and Son, Newport, Isle of Wight, display on Stand 9, the well-known "Vectis" brand of Portland Cement used in engineering works.

Limerick and other cities and towns in the South send also a number of exhibits, and there are some from Londonderry and other places in the North, as well as from Belfast and its vicinity.

In conclusion for the present, we can well commend a visit to the Cork Exhibition on the part of an our countrymen, and also visitors from the sister kingdom and abroad. The native manufactures displayed show what this country could accomplish under more favourable conditions. We cannot but think that the present exhibition will tend to material good if the spirit that has recently been awakened in our midst is kept alive. Let our native manufacturers turn out good articles, and put them into the public market as cheaply as their rivals in the sister kingdom, and, no doubt, Ireland will secure her share of patronage. Let there be, however, a generous rivalry on all sides, and all will go well. The past is past, and cannot be recalled, but the future is before us, big with hopes for the prosperity of our country, and the Exhibition at Cork is an earnest of what can be done with a little self-exertion. As we have in the beginning, so we do now bid God speed to the Cork effort, and hope that its closing will prove that the Southern Exhibition has been a great success, both financially and industrially.

[Taken from *Irish Builder*, Vol. XXV, 1883, p.134]