Animated Photographs

OF THE

WEST OF IRELAND,

DEPICTING THE LIFE, SCENERY AND INDUSTRIES OF COUNTIES CLARE, GALWAY AND MAYO.



Photographed and Published by

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Suggestions for the improvement and extension of this first series of Animated Photographs of the people and scenery of the West of Ireland, and for its utilisation in the interests of progress, are cordially invited.

In subsequent tours it is hoped that similar pictures may be taken in other counties.

I have to acknowledge, with gratitude, the kind assistance and advice freely given by persons in all parts of the country traversed in search of interesting subjects.

ROBT. W. PAUL.

London, August, 1908.

THE FALLS OF DOONAS.

OF the many picturesque falls in Western Ireland, few can exceed the beauty of these rapids on the River Shannon at Castleconnell, which yield a most interesting series of views, including a general panorama of the falls and their surroundings, showing the great breadth of the river at this point.

Other views show small rugged islands, and the beautiful play of the water as it

breaks over them, and rushes down towards the sea.

CODE WORD-Down. LENGTH- feet; metre

SALMON FISHING.

THE most notable salmon fisheries in Ireland are those of Galway, where hundreds of salmon may be seen at one time, and those of the River Shannon, the longest river in the country.

At Galway the fishermen are seen lining the banks of the River Corrib, where the salmon are, at certain times of the year, almost continuously endeavouring to

jump the weir, which is in itself a fine sight.

A salmon ladder is provided so that in times of drought they may more easily

mount on their return from the sea.

At Castleconnell, on the Shannon, the champion fly-caster, John Enright, whose record of 56 yards remains unbroken, may be seen giving an exhibition of his skill. The actual hooking, playing, and landing of a big fish, which almost succeeds in dragging the boat and its occupants over the rapids, is one of the most exciting sporting incidents that could be witnessed.

CODE WORD-Catch. LENGTH- feet; metres.

THE TURF INDUSTRY.

Turf being the fuel necessary for every household, the family which possesses a bog of its own is fortunate.

The operations of cutting, stacking, drying and carting the turf take place each summer.

Transit by water is usually taken advantage of where possible, and on the River Shannon quaint "turf-cots," of prehistoric design, are employed for the purpose, while the islands round the coast are supplied by men who periodically "row turf" in their canvas canoes.

In the villages the fuel is frequently carried in creels, on the back of a woman or a donkey.

CODE WORD--Turf. LENGTH- feet; metres.

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VILLAGE LIFE.

A GOOD idea of life in the villages is afforded by a collection of representative scenes secured in various parts of the West of Ireland. Commencing with a panoramic view of Carraroe, on the coast of Galway Bay, with a varied assortment of typical modes of transit, we have market scenes, with a herd of pigs on their way to the sale, and a glimpse of the constabulary at their barracks. On Sunday we see farmers and their families on the road to mass in their "common cars," while others are riding horses, which they share with their wives.

Evening closing in, a reel is danced by the villagers, and the day finishes with an oration delivered by a descendant of the former Kings of Achill, who

gives a lively exposition of his views on questions of the hour.

CODE WORD-Folk. LENGTHmetres.

QUARRYING AND MINING.

THE mineral wealth of Ireland is not very great, and the series of pictures described below fairly indicate the scale on which it is exploited, and are as

instructive as they are entertaining.

The Green Marble Quarries of Recess are famous throughout the world; Their Majesties the King and Queen spent a considerable time in inspecting them on their last visit. The output, though not large, is extremely valuable, and is chiefly used for ornamental purposes. One sees the open quarry in full work, the machine which cuts out solid blocks from the bed of stone, the horse-gin by which they are hoisted out, and finally a panorama, properly tinted, showing the wonderful graining of some enormous blocks of the polished stone.

The Lead Mines recently started at Maam are curious, being in a mountain which has been cut through vertically by the present workings; in the cutting the men are seen drilling, blasting and carrying away the ore, and other views show the switchback railway traversed by the trucks taking the ore to the crushing mills at the foot of the mountain, and, finally, a specimen of the glittering

metallic ore is presented for inspection.

CODE WORD-Lead. LENGTHmetres.

SEA CAVE AND CLIFF.

ON the Western coast are several caves into which the sea washes; the example chosen for this collection is that at Kilkee, which was photographed from a small boat rowed towards the entrance, giving a gradually enlarging view of the ocean through the mouth of the cave.

The cinematograph also shows the cliffs of Moher, which are over 500 feet high, and quite perpendicular. To give an idea of their enormous height a vertical panoramic view is first shown, commencing with the castle at the top, and finishing on the waves below; this is followed by a vista of the cliffs adjacent.

> CODE WORD-Moher. LENGTHfeet;

A STUD FARM.

AT Mr. George Edwardes' farm at Ballykisteen are some of the most celebrated racehorses and hunters, and a large group of brood-mares, with their foals, forms a most interesting sight; there are also some splendid yearlings, who are attended by their respective grooms.

The well-known stallions Vitez, Wavelet's Pride and Uncle Mac, are succeeded in the pictures by that famous racer Santoi, the winner of the Ascot Gold Cup in 1901.

A view of the horses jumping at the Dublin Show completes this series.

CODE WORD-Stud. LENGTH-

feet;

THE LARTIGUE MONO-RAILWAY.

THIS curious railway between Listowel and Ballybunion, although built more than twenty years ago, is still the only railway of its kind in the country.

The track consists of a single rail mounted on trestles, which are held together by two longtitudinal rails placed near the ground. The engine and carriages run astride the upper rail. As there is only one track on the railway, shunting is performed by swivelling a portion of the track from side to side, and the engine is turned round by means of a curious turntable.

At holiday times the quaint carriages are supplemented by trucks, on which a

crowd of passengers may be seen seated.

CODE WORD- Mono.

LENGTH-

feet;

metres.

COTTAGE INDUSTRIES.

THE women of the West wash, card and spin the wool, which is afterwards taken to a hand-loom weaver to be made into rough home-spun cloth of great durability. Knitting by a hand-operated machine is fairly common, being taught in the schools, and some of the girls work with marvellous speed.

Basket, or lobster-pot making is a winter occupation for the men; the twigs or "rods" are sometimes grown at the rear of the house, and cut as required. To form the foundation of the basket, the rods are stuck into the ground in a circle, and the sides woven on them. In the nearest market town the baskets are disposed of by the maker or his wife.

Lace-making is usually taught in convent schools and carried on at home by the girls; the process is interesting, and some fine and intricate designs are

shown in great detail.

In the more remote districts the milk is churned into Butter and worked at home

in small quantities, the cow being kept in the kitchen in many instances.

All these processes are faithfully depicted in this varied set of views, several hundred miles having been travelled in order to secure the most attractive and characteristic pictures of each kind.

CODE WORD-Work. LENGTH-

feet;

metres.

THE SEVEN CHURCHES.

THESE interesting remains of primitive Celtic monasteries at Clonmacnois date

back to the sixth century.

In a confined space are two characteristic round towers, the Cathedral, several smaller temples, and the Great Cross, richly sculptured with illustrations of the Crucifixion and of processional scenes.

CODE WORD-Cross.

LENGTH-

feet;

metres.

YOUNG IRELAND.

NO account of a district is complete which omits the rising generation, and this set of homely and natural scenes gives one an insight into the life of the

West of Ireland youngster.

The infant son of a Claddagh fisherman is getting a bath in front of the cottage, while other youngsters up to ten years of age are busy with work and play; a small group are playing cards, others getting some fun from a ball game. The view changes to the children coming from school, hundreds of whom run gladly towards the spectator in a rough-and-tumble race.

A donkey-race, with Irish boys as jockeys, is also a scene full of boisterous

fun.

Another aspect is presented by a large industrial school kept by the Christian Brothers at Salthill. These monks have workshops for various trades where boys of 8 to 15 years of age learn knitting, bootmaking, tailoring, carpentering, wheelwright's work, painting and glazing. It is a wonderful sight to see all these operations (taken out into the grounds for the purpose) shown, first by a panorama of a great circle of industry, and then by a view of the whole school at work simultaneously.

CODE WORD-Youth. LENGTH- feet; metres.

KILLARNEY LAKES.

THE film includes a pretty scene at Dinish Island, the "Meeting of the Waters," with boats passing under the rustic bridge; a general view of the lakes from a high position above the Torc Cascade, described in the guide-books as the finest in Ireland; a lively picture of boats shooting the rapids, in which an exciting collision is seen; and concludes with a grand panorama of the Lower Lake and surrounding mountains, with moonlight effect.

CODE WORD-Lake. LENGTH- feet; metres.

HILLS & FALLS of KILLARNEY.

THE "Gap" or Pass of Dunloe commences at Kate Kearney's cottage, where animation is introduced by the tourists mounting ponies for the journey; subsequently a grand view of the mountain pass is presented. The Torc Cascade, rushing over precipitous rocks, surrounded by lovely scenery, is well rendered in two aspects.

CODE WORD-Pass. LENGTH- feet; metres.

WORK ON ACHILL ISLAND.

LME, for whitening the outside of cottages and for fertilising the fields, is produced by burning limestone with turf in a roughly-built kiln; seaweed is gathered and burnt to form kelp for use as manure. Women assist in field work, and during the summer months, the cows are milked in the open.

The Civil Service is represented by a rural postman, whose equipment would hardly be recognised by a smartly dressed city official; but, on the other hand,

the coastguard has all Jack's usual smartness of dress and action.

The village smith, assisted by his wife as striker, concludes this series of charming character sketches.

CODE WORD-Rural. LENGTH- feet; metres.

BLACK ROCK LIGHTHOUSE.

ONE of the most inaccessible lighthouses in the Kingdom is that on Black Rock (county Mayo), which throws a red beam over the dangerous rocks surrounding. Landing, which is sometimes impracticable for three months at a time, is performed by the aid of a derrick, which hauls up the visitor some hundred feet at a time, and, holding him suspended, swings him on to one of the few flat portions of the rock. The relief men are seen sending up provisions on the sling, and themselves clinging to the same rope. Masons are at work on the rock, cutting a flight of narrow steps out of its rugged surface. The lantern is shown while the keepers are busy cleaning the glasses, and a coloured scene shows the effect of the light at night on one of the rocks adjacent. Finally, a keeper is seen leaving, on the sling, for his well-earned spell ashore.

CODE WORD-Flash. LENGTH- feet; metres

LOBSTER CATCHING.

THIS work is usually carried on by two fishermen working in partnership and owning a corracle, and the necessary lobster pots and lines. Having carried their portable boat to the water's edge, they set out at a suitable state of the tide, and examine the pots which they have set overnight. Hauling the pots into the boat, they remove the lobsters, and set the pots with fresh bait. In a rough sea this work requires considerable experience, owing to the instability of the frail boat.

The lobsters having been thrown into the bottom of the boat are taken to the landing stage, where they are put temporarily into wicker receivers, ready

for sending to the market.

CODE WORD-Shell. LENGTH- feet; metres.

ACHILL'S ROCKY SHORES.

THE Minawn cliffs at Achill Island are not only impressive in their rugged grandeur, but, by the action of the sea they have been cut away, leaving pillars and arches standing to form what are known as the "Cathedral Rocks." After a westerly gale great seas break over the cliffs and through their interstices.

Additional beauty is given to the pictures by a view of successive breakers on the Keel Strand, and a further scene, showing fishermen landing on the rocks at

Dooega in a rough sea, gives a human interest to the whole.

CODE WORD-Keel.

LENGTH

metres.

DEEP-SEA FISHERMEN.

THE fishermen of Galway, who still inhabit their ancient village, called the

Claddagh, are an interesting class.

It is a picturesque sight to see them overhauling and mending their nets, making ready their boats, and setting sail in the morning. On their return in the afternoon the fish is taken to the market, where it is purchased by the fishwives, who subsequently retail it.

In the remoter country districts salted fish is carried in creels on a donkey,

and hawked by the fishermen.

CODE WORD-Hook.

LENGTH-

feet;

metres.

WHALING, AFLOAT AND ASHORE.

IN the spring of 1908 the first Whaling Station was established in Ireland at Iniskea. The catching of the whales is done by Norwegians, but a large

amount of Irish labour is employed in the station ashore.

A trip on a Whaling Ship is an exciting experience; the fortunate spectator sees the whale "blowing" in the distance; after a stern chase, during which the whale may escape a few times, the ship is eventually manœuvred to the spot where the whale next rises. The captain, having previously prepared the harpoon and fitted it to the gun, makes ready to fire, at the same time motioning instructions to the helmsman; finally, the critical moment arrives and the harpoon is fired. The whale, having been stuck, rushes off, dragging the hawser after it; in the present instance a second shot was necessary to kill the whale, which, after violently blowing and threshing the water with his tail, sinks and is hauled alongside the ship, which finally steams off to the station with the whale lashed alongside.

On arrival at the Station, whose buildings are seen as a panorama, the whale is hauled up on a slipway, and the "flincher" commences removing the blubber, which is hauled off in long strips by the aid of a steam winch. The jaws and whalebone are next removed from the whale, and it is then turned over in order to complete the removal of the blubber, which is cut up and raised to the boiling

pans by means of an elevator.

The valuable whalebone, having been scoured by labourers, is ready for shipment, and together with the barrels of sperm oil is loaded on the steamer waiting alongside.

One sees also incidental work, including the forging and repairing of harpoons; while crowds of gulls are foraging among the rocks in search of waste matter.

A humorous conclusion to the series is provided by a series of characteristic Norwegian Sports at the station, with a finale in which the Norwegian and Irish workmen perform their respective national dances on the slipway.

CODE WORD-Whale.

LENGTH-

feet;

metres.





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