



OFFICIAL
SOUVENIR

IRISH
INTERNATIONAL
EXHIBITION,

DUBLIN, 1907

PRINTED & PUBLISHED BY
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IRISH INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION,

1907.

 HIS Exhibition, which was opened in Dublin on Saturday, 4th May, by their Excellencies the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland and the Countess of Aberdeen, in State, in addition to the many kind words spoken by His Excellency, was speeded on what is to be hoped a most successful career by the following gracious message from His Majesty The King :—

“TELEGRAM.

“Given in at Paris.

“Lord Lieutenant,

“Viceregal Lodge, Dublin.

“Trust that the Exhibition you are to open to-day may
“prove a success, and demonstrate International progress made
“by Ireland.

“EDWARD R.”

This happy inauguration was but a culminating point in the immense interest which had been aroused throughout the United Kingdom, the United States, all the British Colonies, the European countries, and even in far Japan.

The principal features of the Exhibition are strikingly effective in character. There are two Main Entrances, one of which is at Ballsbridge—a fashionable suburb about two miles from the centre of the

City, easily reached by the tram routes from any part of same—and consists of a magnificent façade and flight of steps leading into the Vestibule or Entrance Hall, which is embellished with views of Irish scenery; the other entrance is of similar design, but less imposing dimensions, and is on the Morehampton Road, Donnybrook, close to the site of the ancient and well-known Fair Green.

The Grand Central Palace, with its towering dome, occupies the centre of the Park, and is built in the style of architecture known as the Italian Renaissance, recalling, in its salient features, many characteristics of the Florentine School. Radiating from it are four immense rectangular wings, named after the four Provinces of Ireland—Leinster, Ulster, Munster, and Connaught—devoted to exhibits of manufactured products, in which Irish firms make more than a creditable display. In the centre under the dome are a band-stand and a great circular promenade, capable of accommodating several thousand persons when weather conditions in the open prove unfavourable. The floor space is equal to $2\frac{1}{4}$ acres.

The Palace of Industries, with its beautiful façade and colonnade, has a floor area of 72,000 square feet, and, like the Grand Central Palace, is largely occupied by manufacturers, but Italian and Japanese exhibitors have important sections in this building, containing a collection of exhibits of a most artistic and attractive description, and New Zealand occupies the central section with a splendid representation of the products of that Colony.

The Palace of Mechanical Arts is a huge building of 900 feet in length, and 100 feet in width, or 90,000 feet superficial, divided into four sections, viz.:—Transportation, Engineering, Machinery in Motion, and Generating Plant for power and lighting of the Exhibition. This is, to many visitors, one of the most interesting departments of the Exhibition. The great Railway and Steamship Companies are making a superb display, while the up-to-date installation of Electrical Generating Plant and Appliances, and various manufacturing processes at work command the greatest attention.

The Palace of Fine Arts is a building of great beauty, which accommodates, in its area of 33,000 square feet, a number of sections, viz.: the Irish Art Collection, brought together by the labours of the Dublin Committee; the British and Foreign Collection of Pictures, Statuary and Tapestries, organised by the London Committee of distinguished Art Connoisseurs, who have so generously given their services for the purpose, and which, in extent and importance, surpasses anything hitherto accomplished outside of London; the Irish Historical Collection of objects of interest, which is the result of the successful efforts of an active local Committee; the Napoleonic Section containing relics of the Great Napoleon and the many Irish soldiers who served in his Army; and a Photographic Section, under the auspices of the Photographic Society of Ireland.

There are other and important buildings, including the group specially devoted to Irish Home and Cottage Industries; the Canadian Pavilion, erected by the Canadian Government on a magnificent scale, in which the products of the Dominion are so arranged as to constitute one of the greatest attractions of the Exhibition; the French Pavilion,

erected under the sanction of the French Government, for the exhibition of purely French products, and representing a delightful example of what can be done by these past masters in the art of Exposition of Arts and Manufactures; a very fine Hall for the display of the numerous industries connected with Gas, an Irish Dairy, Working Bakeries, and many handsome Kiosks for various purposes.

The Dining Rooms, Restaurants, and Tea Rooms are numerous, most spacious, and luxuriously appointed. The well-known London caterers, Messrs. J. Lyons & Co., Ltd., manage these for the Exhibition, and popular prices are the rule. In the splendid "Palace" Restaurant the service is equal in all respects to that of the best London Hotels and Restaurants.

There is a Concert Hall of noble proportions, to seat two thousand persons, besides the Orchestra, and which contains a new specially-built organ, by Norman & Beard, of Leicester; and a Programme of Musical Arrangements of exceptional merit and attractiveness has been arranged.

A very large sum of money has been spent in altering the levels of the Park and laying out the grounds on a plan which combines beauty and charming variety. An extensive lake, with picturesque bridges and islands, has been constructed, and a Water Chute, Rivers of Ireland, Switchback Railway, Helter Skelter Lighthouse, Shooting Galleries, and Somali Village are some of the numerous Side-Shows which afford amusement to visitors. There will be continuous Band Performances daily, both in the open and under cover, during the entire season, for which the best-known and most popular Military and Orchestral Bands have been engaged.

The construction of the Buildings, Grounds and Lake was carried out by Messrs. Humphreys Ltd., of Dublin and London, the Official Contractors to the Executive.





THE MAIN ENTRANCE, BALLSBRIDGE.



THE MAIN AVENUE LOOKING TOWARDS THE GRAND CENTRAL PALACE.
THE CANADIAN PAVILION ON LEFT.



STATE CEREMONY.—HIS EXCELLENCY THE LORD LIEUTENANT OF IRELAND OPENS THE EXHIBITION, MAY 4th, 1907.



ON THE WAY TO THE GRAND CENTRAL PALACE FROM THE ENTRANCE HALL.



INTERIOR GRAND CENTRAL PALACE.



THE PALACE OF INDUSTRIES.



THEIR MAJESTIES KING EDWARD VII. AND QUEEN ALEXANDRA VISIT THE EXHIBITION, JULY 10th, 1907.



AN AFTERNOON ON THE TERRACE.



A ROOM IN THE PALACE OF FINE ARTS.



THE ITALIAN TERRACE AND PALACE OF FINE ARTS.



THE HOME INDUSTRIES SECTION,—VIEW ACROSS THE LAKE.



THE PALACE OF MECHANICAL ARTS.



THE OUT-DOOR BANDSTAND.



V I E W I N T H E C A N A D I A N P A V I L I O N .



THE WATER CHUTE.



NEW ZEALAND SECTION—PALACE OF INDUSTRIES.



THE BAND STAND AND MAIN AVENUE BY NIGHT.
(By kind permission of the Alliance and Dublin Consumers' Gas Company.)

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1907.



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