

**INDUSTRIAL DUBLIN SINCE
1698 & THE SILK INDUSTRY
IN DUBLIN; TWO ESSAYS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649171040

Industrial Dublin since 1698 & The silk industry in Dublin; two essays by J. J. Webb

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

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J. J. WEBB

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INDUSTRY IN DUBLIN
TWO ESSAYS BY J. J. WEBB, M.A., LL.B.

MAUNSEL & COMPANY, LTD.
DUBLIN AND LONDON

1913

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PREFACE

ONE would like to bespeak for this little book a special welcome from the Irish public, and especially at the present time. It is an essay in Irish economic history: in itself of great interest, telling a tale fascinating and full of suggestion, bringing lights from the past, of value to us now, upon some of the factors of Irish industrial development, including the factor of labour. In itself the essay is all this. But it is more for what it represents that one hopes it will be welcomed. It represents an endeavour, a very modest but a systematic endeavour, to promote in Ireland a living interest in the study of political and social science. Who does not feel to-day, with the horizon that is opening around us, that that is the subject perhaps of all others the most important to have systematically studied in Ireland now? This work is a "Coyne Scholarship" essay. It is the first of the Coyne Scholarship essays to be published; others have been written by the scholarship holders during the last nine years, but this is the first which has been thought suitable for publi-

cation. It may be the beginning of a series. One does not claim for it more than the merits of a good post-graduate thesis, which is the fruit of an original inquiry. But it is just because it is such a piece of original study, which an Irish student has been stimulated to pursue, that it has a special interest. If it meets with an encouraging reception we may hope to see it followed by other monographs like it—monographs on subjects of economic history or of political or social science—the work of young Irishmen who have been enabled to bring to their investigations minds trained in scientific method.

It may be well to mention what the Coyne Scholarship is. It is a post-graduate scholarship of the National University founded in memory of the late Mr. William P. Coyne, LL.D., who was the first Head of the Statistics and Intelligence Branch of the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, and who had been a Fellow and Professor of the Royal University. Mr. Coyne's death in 1904, closing at a comparatively early age a life of high promise for his country, moved his friends to raise this appropriate memorial to him. Particulars of the scholarship are given on the fly-leaf. One of its conditions is that the holder

for the time being, having won the scholarship with an essay on a prescribed subject, must pursue an investigation for at least a year on the line of study chosen and put in a second essay on the results before he is entitled to the full amount of the scholarship. The scholarship fund is administered under a deed of trust, the present trustees being the Right Hon. W. F. Bailey, C.B.; Very Rev. Wm. Delany, S.J., LL.D.; Sir Joseph M'Grath, LL.D.; Professor Grenville A. J. Cole, F.G.S.; Mr. T. P. Gill; Professor Thomas Carroll, M.R.I.A.; and Mr. J. D. Daly.

The subject prescribed for the essay in 1911 was "The History of Industry and Employment since 1698 in any one of the following Cities:—Dublin, Cork, Galway." Mr. Webb, who won the scholarship, dealt with industry in Dublin, and selected for his subject of investigation and his second essay the Silk Industry in Dublin. The trustees, believing that these two essays, with their evidence of careful original research, were worthy of publication, decided to give such help towards this end as was open to them. The scholarship funds did not enable them to do much in this way, but they brought the matter before the Royal Dublin Society, whose encouragement

of the silk and other Dublin industries in the early days are dealt with in the essays. The Council of the Society were so good as to make a special grant of twenty pounds towards the expenses involved, and this generous assistance, for which the trustees desire to express their recognition, has greatly facilitated publication.

The author is, of course, alone responsible for any views expressed in the book:

T. P. G.

DUBLIN, *October 1913.*