

**FIFTY YEARS OF RAILWAY
LIFE IN ENGLAND,
SCOTLAND AND IRELAND**

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Fifty years of railway life in England, Scotland and Ireland by Joseph Tatlow

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JOSEPH TATLOW

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FIFTY YEARS OF RAILWAY LIFE.

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Fifty Years of Railway Life in England, Scotland and Ireland

By

Joseph Tatlow

Director Midland Great Western Railway of Ireland and
Dublin and Kingstown Railway; a Member of Dominions
Royal Commission, 1912-1917; late Manager Midland Great
Western Railway, etc.

London

THE RAILWAY GAZETTE

Queen Anne's Chambers, Westminster, S.W. 1

1920

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FIFTY YEARS OF RAILWAY LIFE

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTORY

North-West Donegal. A fine afternoon in September. The mountain ranges were bathed in sunshine and the scarred and seamy face of stern old Errigal seemed almost to smile. A gentle breeze stirred the air and the surface of the lakes lay shimmering in the soft autumnal light. The blue sky, flecked with white cloudlets, the purple of the heather, the dark hues of the bogs, the varied greens of bracken, ferns and grass, the gold of ripening grain, and the grey of the mountain boulders, together formed a harmony of colour which charmed the eye and soothed the mind.

I had been travelling most of the day by railway through this delightful country, not by an express that rushed you through the scenery with breathless haste, but by an easy-going mixed train which called at every station. Sometimes its speed reached twenty-five miles an hour, but never more, and because of numerous curves and gradients—for it was a narrow gauge and more or less a surface line—the rate of progress was much less during the greater part of the journey.

The work of the day was over. My companion and I had dined at the Gweedore Hotel, where we were staying for the night. With the setting