

OPENING OF DUNGARVAN TANNERY

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"And that support, in my opinion, is likely to be forthcoming in ever-increasing measure in the future," declared Mr. Lemass.

MODERN EQUIPMENT

The tannery—the second in County Waterford—employs over 100 men and is equipped with the most modern type of machinery, costing £13,000.

It deals with various types of skins, ranging from African calf hides to Irish sheep skins, all of which are finished for the various Free State boot and shoe firms. Irish sheep and calf skins are extensively used for glove leather. The products of the factory are mainly used for uppers of boots, shoes and slippers.

Town

En Fete

Mr. Lemass was met at the boundary of the town by Rev. T. Walsh, C.C., Chairman of the Dungarvan Industrial Development Association, and members of the Urban Council.

Escorted by a bodyguard of Garda, at the head of which marched the Waterford Brass and Reed Band, the Minister was led through streets festooned with bunting and scrolls bearing inscriptions of "Welcome to the factory."

The Garda escort was led by Chief Supt. E. Duffy and Supt. M. Walsh. Workers formed a guard of honour in the vicinity of the factory.

ADDRESSES OF WELCOME

On his arrival the Minister was met by the Chairman of the Company, Mr. Kennedy O'Brien, and presented with

Addresses of Welcome from the Urban Council, the local Industrial Development Association, the workers employed in the factory and the Padraig Pearse and Cathal Brugha Fianna Fail Cumainsi.

Having thanked the various bodies, especially the workers, for their addresses, he said that if the establishment of the factory at Dungarvan would help to restore prosperity to the town and provide new opportunities of employment for their young men, any little assistance which he, in his official capacity, might have given towards its foundation would have been more than repaid.

He congratulated the directors on the success which had attended their efforts and expressed the hope that this success would be continued in the future.

He then performed the opening ceremony with a gold key presented by Mr. Kennedy O'Brien.

The factory was blessed by Most Rev. Dr. Kinane, Bishop of Waterford and Lismore, who was assisted by Very Rev. Canon O'Brien, P.P.

SALES EXCEED EXPECTATIONS

Proposing the toast of "Prosperity to Ireland," at a lunch given to the Minister in Egan's Hotel, Mr. Kennedy O'Brien said that the establishment of the factory was due mainly to the efforts of the Dungarvan Industrial Development Association, and

especially to the work of its Chairman, Rev. Father Walsh, and Committee members, including Dr. Michael Casey and Mr. Moloney.

The industry was a highly technical one, and the Free State provided a very large market for its products.

The first and most difficult period of the company's history had now passed. Employment was given to over 100 male workers, to whom good wages were paid.

PRESENTATION TO MINISTER

The sales of the company in recent months were higher than even the most optimistic of them had expected when it started, and they were still increasing.

The establishment of the industry had been brought about as a result of the industrial policy of the Government, which aimed at making the country self-sufficient and, by creating industries for the manufacture of the country's requirements, giving much-needed employment.

He presented the Minister with a pair of slippers manufactured from native Irish sheepskin, tanned in the Dungarvan factory, as a memento of the work done in the establishment and the development of Irish industries by him.

A PURELY LOCAL ENTERPRISE

Mr. Lemass, replying, said that the new industry offered considerable prospects of development in the future.

If, he went on, there was one reason more than another why he was particularly pleased to be associated with that enterprise it was because, in the best and truest sense, it was a local enterprise.

It was perfectly true to say that the factory would not have been established but for the efforts of the local industrial development committee.

No doubt, at some stage, a tannery for the purpose of producing the classes of leather now being produced at Dungarvan would have been set up in the Free State, but Dungarvan might not have had it but for the local

(Continued on Page 11.)

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