IRELAND FOREVER The immigration figures of arrivals at the port of New York during the first Ave months of 1903 indicate that for the entire year there will be an increase of 20 per cent in the number of Irish immigrants compared with a year ago. The present business conditions in Ireland are unusually satisfactory. Irish harvests have been good of recent Jears, the land-purchase project is likely to be adopted, as Secretary Wyndham has surrendered the provision fixing by official action a minimum price at which the Irish peasant must buy, and has left the purchase price free to the terms of the market. The upper price is fixed by the rent. This concession frees the measure from the only Irlah objection made to it, so the new Irish land bill is safe. In spite of this fact and the fact that new capital is being invested in railroad and industrial enterprises, the drain of emigration from Ireland to America continues unchecked and is now increasing, though its total remains small compared with that of the period between 1846 and 1881. The Irish immigration began in 1821,

about the time that the Erle Canal

was in progress of construction. This great waterway was begun in 1817 and was finished in 1825. The multiplication of canals all over the country was followed by the webbing of the country with railroads between 1835 and 1845, and by this development of the great land and water transportation of the United States the Irish immigration was stimulated to an enormous growth. From 1821 to 1881 Irish immigration to this country aggregated 3,481,074, or an average of nearly 700,000 for each decade. For the year ending with June, 1902, the total Irlah immigration was 29,138, and an increase in it this year would make it about 35,000. The news that Irish immigration is increasing is welcome as an offset to the present vast immigration of Russians, Hungarians, Italians and other natives of Southern Europe. We know by experience that the able-bodied Irishman is a most desirable immigrant, and readily assimilates with our civilization and institutlons. The London Times once said that the first generation of Irish immigrants were somewhat disposed to be turbulent, because oppression at home had educated them to be "always agin the government"; the second generation took to local political leadership in the wards of large cities and towns, while the third generation eschewed politics and became devoted to mercantile life. The Irishman is a welcome immigrant as a peerless industrial force; he is helr, as a rule, to the Anest physique in Europe; he is a man of splendid energy and strength; he is a mercurial creature, full of vivacity and good humor. The story is told of the Irish section boss on the Union Pacific, who, seeing thirty Italians staggering along with a great timber which a dozen Irishmen could have handled with ease, said in derision: "It breaks my good Roman Catholic heart to think they makes popes out of fellows like thim.".