

In addition, some of our materials have suffered a serious deterioration, through being, of necessity, left uncovered throughout the winter, a winter of furious rain and windstorms. They were materials which, in every case, should have been used up before work stopped for the winter. Owing to the epidemic this proved to be impossible.

Owing to the long drawn out winter, our men were unable to plant their potatoes, or to get ready the ground for them until unusually late in the spring. Instead, therefore, of starting work in March, as we had hoped, it was well into April before we were able to make any headway. This was followed by a strike amongst the younger and less thoughtful of the workmen, which threatened the work seriously for a time.

Our sand for building did not yield good results, and it was more than doubtful if any of sufficiently good quality could be obtained near at hand.

Things are mending now. The strike was settled on a friendly basis. We are obtaining excellent sand from five miles away.

Your hospital—yours by reason of the good help which you have been generous enough to send us—has, for the past six weeks, been growing and prospering. We have had nine masons at work. The ground floor windows are almost all in. We are making good progress with the casting of concrete blocks for lintels over doors and windows and of stairs for our external staircases. The excavation for our reservoir of drinking water is almost completed. The reservoir will be of concrete, to hold 15,000 gallons. The internal walls are some 6 feet in height upon an average. The main part of the scaffolding—a serious item in both cost and labour—has been put up. At present the building appears a forest of masts.

Your farm, and estate (of 15½ acres) have, on the other hand, made good progress throughout since last year.

We have now a substantial row of farm buildings, 60 feet in length, comprising cow stables to the newest sanitary designs, calf stall, mule stable, and isolation stall for invalids. Also a good cart and implement shed with loft overhead—the latter an untold boon for the keeping of stores. We have also a small movable fowlhouse in timber.

Drainage goes steadily forward. We have nearly another acre thoroughly drained and sown in grass. This proved a troublesome job, owing to the quantities of stones met with. These, however, have been made use of, none being wasted. The best went to the hospital, the less good to the farm buildings and necessary walls, and the smaller and entirely inferior to road-mending and the filling in of floors below concrete.

On the island we have planted three thousand larch. There is little timber in the district, although in old times it was covered with forest, as is shown by the stacks of "hog-deal" which we have dug out in draining and turf-cutting. Should these trees do well, they ought to prove a valuable asset to the hospital. Should they weather the winter successfully, we propose to plant some ten to fifteen thousand more.

We have also planted some hundreds of black-

thorns for which there is a sale as "shillelaghs," and 700 osiers, with a view to basket-making.

This has been a year of experiment, and also of considerable expense in stocking. It must be remembered that our aim is to be self-supporting in the future, in regard to food, as far as possible.

We have three cows in milk and one in calf, one yearling bullock and two heifer calves—all black Kerries; 4 pigs, 2 turkeys, 2 pure-bred prize strain White Wyandotte cocks, with 6 hens and 8 chickens, and 10 common or cross-bred hens, 1 hive of bees.

Although we were unable to manure our ground adequately in time for the year's crops, we had a very fair result in potatoes, sufficient to last us throughout the year, a fair amount of oats and rye, also of cabbage, mangolds and turnips, although by no means sufficient for the winter feeding of the cattle—and carrots, turnips, lettuce, and celery for our own use. Our hay crop was fair and well-saved. We bought a rick of hay and three tons of mangolds for winter feeding.

Turning from outgoings to incomings, we have made by sale of cattle £13 5s.; pigs, £28; butter, eggs, and vegetables, £11—£52 in all. In addition, we cured a few hundred of mackerel in the autumn fishing season, the greater part of which we sold in the spring. Our bees yielded 80 lb. of honey, which, after providing for ourselves, brought us in eighteen shillings. We made, too, some hundreds of pounds of plum jam, apple jelly, and marmalade, which have brought us a very fair return.

We are, of course, like the proverbial farmer, incapable of keeping an honest farm account. The whole working belongs to the hospital work, and all profits go to the hospital fund.

Since the beginning, we have paid in wages £1,494 6s.; in materials for building, stocking, blasting, feeding of stock and planting, £2,284 6s., making a total of £3,778 12s. In donations we have received £495 17s. 6d., and deeply grateful we are, not only for the financial help, but for the encouragement and the living interest which some of our friends give to and take in our small kosmos.

I am glad to be able to chronicle that, through the kindness and good-will of our neighbours, Ballincoona has become the centre of a young, but flourishing Co-operative Agricultural Society.

Yours sincerely,

ALBINA BRODRICK.

June, 1910.

#### GRAND PRIX, BRUSSELS EXHIBITION.

Messrs. Horrockses, Crewdson, and Co., Ltd., the well-known manufacturers of the celebrated Long-cloths, Twills, Sheetings, Flannelettes, etc., have been awarded the Grand Prix at the Brussels Exhibition. This award is the highest obtainable, and is another proof of the sterling value of these famous goods. Indeed, no award but the highest is good enough for "Horrockses." But in view of the world wide attention given to the Brussels Exhibition, and the world wide competition thereat, it is a feather in the cap even of Horrockses to gain a Grand Prix there.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)