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SIR HORACE PLUNKETT was an Irish institution, with broad English and American exposures. The subtitle of this biography was jotted down by Sir Horace for an autobiography that was never written. The chapter headings too were his, says the author, who is Secretary of the Plunkett-created Horace Plunkett Foundation. This authentic account is based largely on his diary and files.

He was Irish by birth and deepest loyalty; part English by ancestral background and political participation; part American by lifelong business interests here and 10 early years of ranching in Wyoming.

From early manhood until his death in the early 1930's, Sir Horace was occupied with a wide range of private business enterprises, mostly in Ireland and England, with governmental responsibilities and personal contact; but throughout this time a core activity of his revolved around the establishment and expansion of agricultural cooperatives. Always he promoted cooperatives among Irish farmers, especially among those becoming new landowners through land reform, and later among farmers throughout the English-speaking world. He ranks with Grudtvig of Denmark and Raiffeisen of Germany as a pioneer in this field.

He was anxious that a correct relationship exist between private enterprise and the government; that voluntary and statutory action be kept in constructive balance; and that self-help and state-aid be truly complementary. The proper role of the government, as he saw it, was to stimulate the self-help efforts of its citizens.

He had a deep interest in problems of government. For a third of a century he was equally at home in the top political circles of London, Washington, and Dublin.

Sir Horace worked under conditions that would have crushed many another man—uncertain health and heavy personal responsibilities. Tuberculosis caused several deaths in his family and

for this reason he came to the high plains in America. With a knack for business affairs, he readily agreed to look after the involved interests of his deceased father, Lord Dunsany, and many others.

In his cooperative work he hit upon the slogan "Better farming, Better business, Better living." When he called on Theodore Roosevelt for ideas for his newly organized Irish Department of Agriculture, our president became tremendously interested in his three "betters," and promptly announced them to rural America. Upon leaving office, Theodore Roosevelt, in a letter to the British Ambassador, said that the idea back of the American Country Life Commission, 1908, had come directly from Plunkett. As his diary shows, Sir Horace for many years worked for the establishment in the U. S. Department of Agriculture of a "Bureau of Social Economics," in which sociologists through surveys and research could help farm people improve their living conditions.

In the meantime the Irish situation remained unsettled. After World War I, Sir Horace finally gave his support to the Home Rule group, but he was never very partisan. When civil war broke out in Ireland after the Dominion Status Bill had been passed by a bare majority in Parliament, many cooperative creameries in Ireland were burned, some of his friends were killed, and his loved home at Kilteragh—a favorite meeting place for Irish political leaders and artists—was bombed and then burned.

In old age he continued to branch out into new fields while maintaining a deep interest in his lifelong activities. He went to South Africa, and was interested in organizing agricultural cooperatives there. He actually co-piloted airplanes in his 75th year, and urged Irish leaders to develop in Ireland a great air field to serve as the European terminus for scheduled trans-Atlantic flights, which he was confidently expecting.

Arthur F. Raper