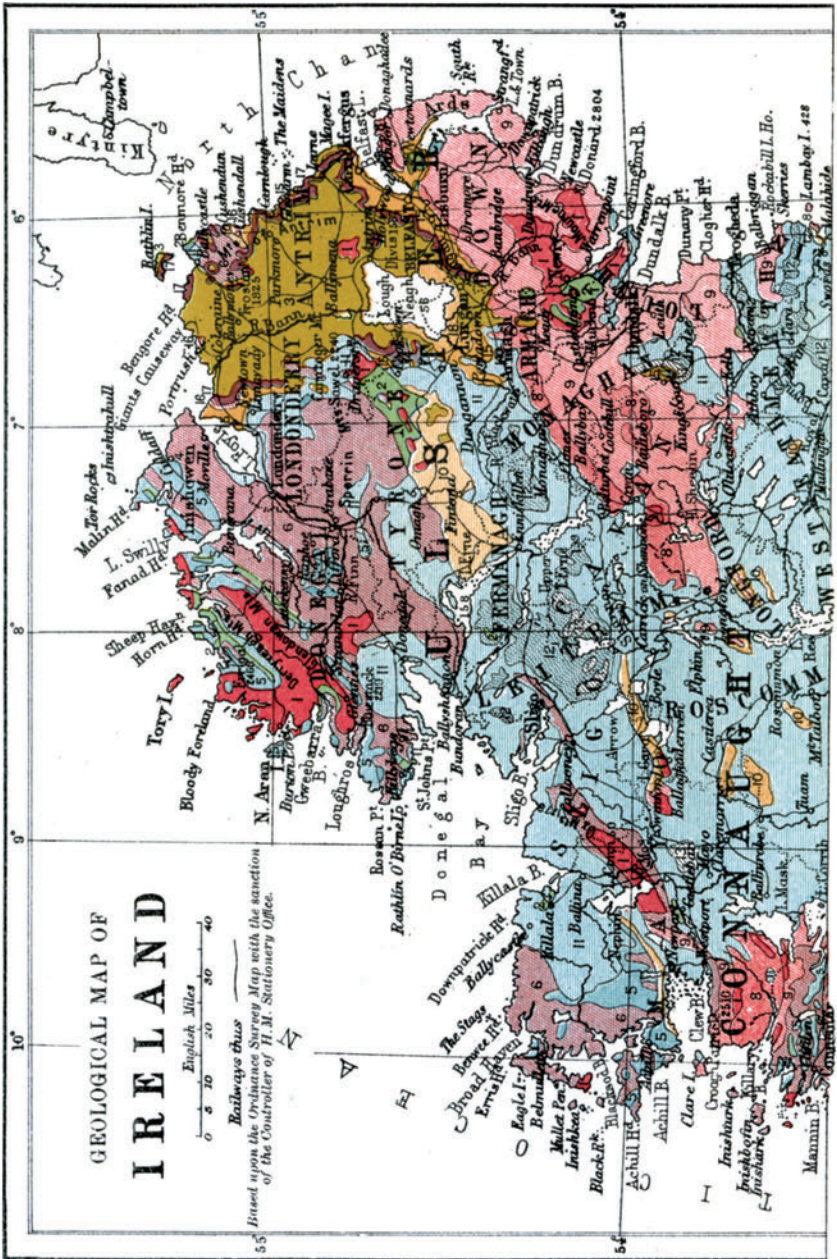


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EDITOR'S NOTE

THE aim of this series is to offer, in a readable form, an account of the physical features of Ireland, and of the economic and social activities of its people. It deals therefore with matters of fact rather than with matters of opinion; and, for this reason, it has happily been found possible to avoid political controversy. Ireland deserves to be known for her varied scenery, her wealth of archæological and antiquarian lore, her noble educational traditions, and her literary and artistic achievements. The progress and status of Ireland as an agricultural country are recognised and acknowledged, but her industrial potentialities have, until recently, been inadequately studied. The causes of the arrested development of her industries have been frequently dealt with. Her industrial resources, however, demand closer attention than they have hitherto received; their economic significance has been enhanced by modern applications of scientific discovery and by world-wide economic changes. It is hoped that these pages may contribute to the growing movement in the direction of industrial reconstruction.

It is unusual to enlist the services of many writers in a work of modest dimensions, but it was felt that the more condensed an account, the more necessary was it

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to secure authoritative treatment. It is hoped that the names of the contributors will afford a sufficient guarantee that the desired end has been achieved. The editorial task of co-ordinating the work of these contributors has been made light and agreeable by their friendly co-operation.

The scope of the volumes and the mode of treatment adopted in them suggest their suitability for use in the higher forms of secondary schools. A notable reform is in course of accomplishment in the teaching of geography. The list of place-names is making room for the more rational study of a country in relation to those who dwell in it, and of these dwellers in relation to their environment.

G. F.

DUBLIN, *January* 1922

POSTSCRIPT.

The traditional spelling *Connaught* has been retained in this volume for convenience, although it no longer expresses the true pronunciation of the name of the Province. As is explained on page 1, the *gh* should not be silent (as in the word *naught*): it represents a guttural like the *ch* in *loch*. The Irish spelling is *Connacht*, or preferably the plural form *Connachta*, that is *Conn-achta*, “the peoples descended from Conn.” This division of the syllables should be noted in pronunciation.

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