

## *Appendix.*

### APPENDIX.

---

#### DOEGEN RECORDS SCHEME.

##### *Munster Area.*

##### REPORT TO THE COUNCIL OF THE ROYAL IRISH ACADEMY.

In the year 1926 the Ministry of Education decided to secure the services of Dr. Wilhelm Doegen, Director of the Lautabteilung, Preussische Staatsbibliothek, Berlin, for the purpose of taking phonetic records of Irish speech from the districts where Irish is still spoken as a living language. As the scheme involved the co-operation of experts, the Secretary of the Ministry wrote to the Council of the Royal Irish Academy suggesting that the Council should undertake the work, and stating that a sum of £500 would be placed on the Estimates to cover the expenses of the scheme. The Council referred the matter to the Irish Studies Committee, which accepted the task of securing suitable speakers and arranging for training them as far as necessary.

It was decided to confine the work for the purposes of Dr. Doegen's first visit to the dialects of Munster Irish, as the amount provided was not sufficient to include a representative set of records from more than one province. This limitation was accepted by the Department of Education and also by Dr. Doegen, with whom the Hon. Secretary of the Committee, Dr. E. J. Gwynn, had been corresponding since the inception of the scheme. It was arranged that Dr. Doegen should come to Cork in July, 1927, but all kinds of difficulties intervened, which need not be enumerated here, as the Committee were not responsible for any of them. These were eventually overcome; the sum of £500 was placed on the Estimates for 1927-28 as a grant-in-aid, and it was agreed that Dr. Doegen should begin work in Cork on the 3rd of September, 1928. Meanwhile the Committee had appointed a Sub-Committee, consisting of Dr. Bergin, Dr. O'Rahilly, and

## Appendix

the present Hon. Secretary (Dr. Gwynn having resigned in the interval), to make all detailed arrangements for the scheme. The Sub-Committee met frequently, but no important decisions were made without first securing the approval of the whole Committee.

For various reasons it was deemed advisable not to include Clare among the areas to be dealt with. This county can be more conveniently included in the Connaught scheme, which is to be carried out in the summer of 1929 by the Academy in conjunction with the Celtic Faculty of University College, Galway. It was decided to divide Munster into two areas, one consisting of Waterford, Tipperary, East-Mid and South Cork, the other of West Cork and Kerry. The speakers from the first area were to be brought to Cork city, the others to Killarney. This division was necessary, as several of the best speakers from the western districts would have been unwilling to undertake the long journey to Cork.

From the standpoint of comparative phonetics it was deemed of importance that all the selected speakers should recite one common text in order to illustrate differences in inflection and idiom between the various districts. It was decided that two records should be taken from each speaker, one of which should consist of the common text, and the other of songs, stories, local anecdotes or phonetic words. After consultation with Dr. Doegen, the parable of the Prodigal Son, as told in Luke xv. 11-32, was selected. This parable, apart from the simplicity of the language and the story, has the further advantage of taking three minutes to recite at average speed—precisely the amount of time allotted for each record. In order to provide speakers and trainers with a ground text, the version by Canon O'Leary was printed separately (by the kind permission of his literary executors) and forwarded to all workers on the scheme, together with a leaflet of instructions (appended to this report). In the latter teachers were warned against following O'Leary's text slavishly, and instructed to alter any unfamiliar words or idioms beforehand, as well as to encourage the rejection of unusual inflections or words by the speakers themselves.

The task of securing suitable and representative speakers from all parts of the Munster *Gaeltacht* was formidable,

## Appendix

particularly as the members of the Sub-Committee were retained in Dublin by their own work. Were it not for the generous help of all the gentlemen subsequently mentioned, the Sub-Committee would have found it impossible to make a representative selection. Dr. Doegen had emphasized the importance of securing for the work speakers with clear articulation, strong voices, and, above all, well-preserved teeth. The latter qualification involved not a little difficulty; the best native speakers are, of course, advanced in years, and most of them have defective teeth. The condition, accordingly, meant the rejection of some excellent speakers, but as far as possible it was rigidly observed. To avoid the contingency of a particular speaker being unable to come, a substitute from the same area was also secured where possible; as a result, only one speaker from a particular area disappointed at the last moment.

It was decided, having regard to the amount of money placed at the Committee's disposal, to secure thirty speakers drawn from all the Irish-speaking parts of Munster (except Clare), two records to be taken from each speaker. When the actual tests were made, however, this proportion was varied in a few cases, according to the quality of the speakers. In all, twenty-nine speakers were recorded, and fifty-nine records taken.

The problem of giving adequate representation to the various districts was not easily solved. Even in comparatively wide Irish-speaking areas (*e.g.* the Dingle peninsula) there are a number of dialectic differences between various parishes, and in order to secure a complete record, speakers should have been taken from each of them. As this was impossible owing to insufficiency of funds, the Sub-Committee contented itself with the more important differences in dialect. Special efforts were made to secure speakers from districts where Irish is nearly extinct. While some areas are more strongly represented than others (owing to the impossibility of securing suitable speakers from the latter), a study of the addresses of the various speakers in the subjoined list will show that the team chosen was as representative as could be expected under the circumstances.

Dr. Doegen and his assistant, Herr Tempel, arrived in

## *Appendix*

Cork on the evening of Saturday, September 1st. The authorities of University College, Cork, generously placed at our disposal three excellent rooms in the new Arts Building for the taking of records. On Monday morning the work of recording commenced and concluded on Friday evening. On Saturday, September 8th, we travelled to Killarney, and on Monday morning the work commenced for the speakers from West Cork and Kerry, in rooms attached to the Mercy Convent. For the permission to use these we are indebted to the kindness of the Rev. Mother and community of the Convent. The work was concluded on Friday, 14th. In all fourteen speakers were recorded in Cork and fifteen in Killarney.

The speakers, with a few exceptions, were brought to the centre by motor. This method of transport, while more expensive, was more certain than trains, which would have involved much confusion and probably many absentees. Each car brought three or more speakers, so that there might be no delay in the work of recording; and, when necessary, one or more speakers were kept overnight in order that work might be begun early on the following morning. Every speaker received a fee of £1 for each record taken from him, the cost of motors and board and lodging being also defrayed out of the appropriation.

Before proceeding to the recording room, each speaker was tested by the experts, and a selection made from his repertory of songs or stories. Before the final record was taken, a test of his voice was made on the machine, and repeated if necessary until the experts were satisfied. When the record had been taken, a detailed questionnaire (supplied by Dr. Doegen), containing information as to his age, travels, parentage, etc., which will be very valuable for future reference, was filled up in duplicate from his statements by one of the experts. One copy was given to Dr. Doegen, the other retained by the Sub-Committee.

A detailed list of the records taken from each speaker will be found in the list appended (which has been compiled from the questionnaires). It will be noted that the parable of the Prodigal Son has not been recorded from all. The experts decided to omit it in a number of cases where the speakers were obviously unfamiliar with the story and told it in an unnatural manner. The majority had either learned it by

## Appendix

heart and recited it as a lesson, or had made a long folk-tale out of it, which would have been useless for purposes of comparison. In these cases it seemed better to the experts to reject the proposed common text in favour of something with which the speaker was quite familiar.

Four of the wax matrices (Nos. L.A. 1048, 1049, 1055, 1076) were unfortunately broken in transit from Ireland to Germany, one of them (1049) being a duplicate. A set of the remaining fifty-five records was received in March. In general the results have been satisfactory, some records being excellent, others reflecting only too accurately the nervousness of the speaker. There is no doubt that they reproduce the living speech much more naturally and clearly than any records which have yet been taken. Their chief value is, of course, for the study of comparative phonetics, as they illustrate the differences in pronunciation between the various districts. Dr. Bergin and Dr. O'Rahilly are at present engaged on making phonetic transcripts of the texts. According as these are completed, the records will be put on sale to the public by arrangement between the Ministry of Education and the Berlin *Lautbibliothek*.

It only remains for the members of the Sub-Committee to acknowledge gratefully the valuable assistance which they received from several helpers throughout Munster. Among those who were responsible for training speakers were: Rev. Donncha Ó Donaváin, c.c., Cape Clear Island; An Fear Mór and Art Mac Gréagóir, Ring College; Patrick Delaney, n.t., Croagh, Ard-Finnan, Cahir; "Gruagach an Tobair" (Pádraig Ó Sé), n.t., Glengariffe; Míhal Ó Conchúir, n.t., Lispole, Dingle; Seán Ó Luinse, n.t., Brandon, Castlegregory; Seán Ó Dúda, n.t., Carrick, Ballydavid, Dingle. The Sub-Committee are under a special debt of gratitude to Professor Tadhg Ó Donncha ("Tórna"), of University College, Cork, who organised the teams of speakers from Waterford, Tipperary, and East Cork, and placed all his time and his wide knowledge of the Irish of these districts at the disposal of the Sub-Committee during the taking of records in Cork. Dr. Proinnsias Ó Súilleaváin performed equally valuable services in regard to the West Cork and Kerry areas. To the assistance of these two gentlemen the success of the work

## Appendix

is in great part due. In addition, valuable information about suitable speakers and teachers was obtained from "An Seabhach," Mr. T. O'Connell, Waterford, and Mr. J. H. Delargy, M.A.

D. A. BINCHY, *Hon. Secretary.*

### LIST OF SPEAKERS AND RECORDS TAKEN.

#### *In Cork.*

#### 3. ix. '28.

Labhrás Ó Cadhla (39), Ballinamult, Co. Waterford :

L.A. 1031. Tailiúir an Chruí Mhuair (Song).

1032. Sliabh na mBan (Song).

Amhlaoibh Ó Luinse (55), Coolea, Co. Cork :

L.A. 1033. An Mac Sgaipihach.

1034. (1) Seán Gadaí; (2) Easgaine Liam na Buile;  
(3) Numerals.

Dónal Ó Céileachair (57), Coolea, Co. Cork :

L.A. 1035. An Mac Sgaipihach. (3) *Uiníneola*

1036. (1) An Feirmeóir agus an Buachail; (2) An  
Feirmeóir agus an Bacach. (3) *Leithe na  
Seachtáise*

Diarmaid 'ac Coitir (48), Derrynasagart, Ballinageary, Co. Cork :

L.A. 1037. An Mac Sgaipihach.

1038. An Triúr Iasgairí.

#### 4. ix. '28.

Conchúr Ó Síocháin (61), Clear Island, Co. Cork :

L.A. 1039. An Mac Sgaipihach.

1040. (1) Ládáil Luinge de Chataibh; (2) Bean an  
Leasa (Song).

Pádraig Ó Cruallaoich (68), Ballyvourney, Co. Cork :

L.A. 1041. An Mac Sgaipihach (in original verse).

1042. Muintir Iarlaihe (unfinished).

## Appendix

Séamas Breanhach (40), Knockadoon, Ballymacoda, Co. Cork :

L.A. 1043. (1) Pósa an Phaoraig (Song); (2) Pósa, first stanza (spoken).

1044. (1) An Mac Sgaipihach; (2) Numerals.

5. ix. '28.

Míhál Ó Cionnaola (40), Ring, Co. Waterford :

L.A. 1045. (1) An Mac Sgaipihach; (2) Numerals.

1046. Mallacht na Saor Chloch.

Seán Ó Droma (24), Ring, Co. Waterford :

L.A. 1047. Róisín Dubh (Song).

1049. Do.

1048. Bríd Gheal Bhán (Song).

Míhál Traoin (59), Ring, Co. Waterford :

L.A. 1050. (1) An Mac Sgaipihach; (2) Numerals.

1051. (1) An Garsún Bán; (2) Bean an Chárhaig;  
(3) An Bhean Phósta; (4) Bean an Dohil.

Tomás Ó Coreráin (82), Bohodoon, Co. Waterford :

L.A. 1052. An Mac Sgaipihach (Part I).

1053. (1) Do. (Part II); (2) Thánaíos 'on  
bhaile seo aréir (Song).

6. ix. '28.

Séamas Ó Liaháin (52), Croagh, Cahir, Co. Tipperary :

L.A. 1055. An Mac Sgaipihach.

1056. (1) Fear Bocht i dteah ósta; (2) Gleann Gabhla  
's Gleann Bríde.

Diarmaid Ó Luineaháin (73), Clondrohid, Co. Cork :

L.A. 1057. (1) Asal Charraig-a'-Phúca; (2) Ar bun Ros  
na Cuille.

1058. (1) Is fada dham ar buaireamh (Song);  
(2) Ceó draíochta (Song).

Pádraig de Breit (73), Island, Co. Waterford :

L.A. 1059. Pilib a'Chleite.

1060. Cearúl Ó Dála (unfinished).

## *Appendix*

### *In Killarney.*

10. ix. '28.

Séamas Ó Conchúir (79), Árd-an-Aonaig, Killarney:

L.A. 1061. (1) An Capall 'sa bhFéh; (2) Lord's Prayer and Ave Maria.

Aindreas Ó Gealbháin (71), Sneem, Co. Kerry:

L.A. 1062. An Mac Sgaipihach.

1063. (1) Sgéal na Casóige; (2) An Cailín Deas Rua; (3) Lord's Prayer and Ave Maria.

Tomás Breanhach (88), Coom, Cordal, Castleisland:

L.A. 1064. (1) Còirle Ilig í Chéirín; (2) Eachtra an Sgoláire; (3) Eachtra na Mná Móire thar lear.

Tomás Ó Cahaláin (66), Fybagh, Castlemaine, Co. Kerry:

L.A. 1065. An Mac Sgaipihach.

1066. Liam do Búre (unfinished).

11. ix. '28.

Pádraig Ó Cealla (60), Ballinskelligs, Co. Kerry:

L.A. 1067. A Dhoncha, is léan lium (Song).

1068. (1) Ar maidin Déardaoín; (2) Fáilte Thomáis Ruaig ruime Dhónal Ó Chonaill; (3) Maidin aoibhinn uaibhreach (Songs).

1072. (1) Na bearta mar a thárlaig; (2) Bean Dubh an Ghleanna (Songs).

Seán Ó Conaill (75), Ballinskelligs, Co. Kerry:

L.A. 1069. Síoman na mBróg (I).

1070. (1) Do. (II); (2) Ave Maria.

1071. (1) Sagart Ghleanna-behe; (2) Quatrain by Tomás Rua Ó Súileabháin.

12. ix. '28.

Tadhg Ó Sé (47), Caherdaniel, Co. Kerry:

L.A. 1073. Dáh do Barra ag lorg Déirce.

1074. Ríocht na bhFear gCalma (Folktale, Beginning).

## Appendix

Pádraig Ó Sé (55), Ardgroom, Béarra, Co. Cork :

L.A. 1075. An Mac Sgaipihach.

1076. (1) and (3) Songs by Diarmuid Ó Sé na Bolgaí; (2) Tránhóinín déanach (Song).

Míhál Ó Laere (62), Ballydonegan, Béarra, Co. Cork :

L.A. 1077. An Mac Sgaipihach.

1078. (1) An Tabharhas a thug Feóras go Baoi;  
(2) Easgaine Mhuirinn na nAmhrán;  
(3) Mo dhíh agus mo léan (Song).

Séamas Ó Sgolaí (60), Crosterry, Glengariffe, Co. Cork : *Reidh go Glengariffe*

L.A. 1079. An Buachail Aimsire agus an Cailín. *... (cant) ...*

1080. (1) Murcha agus Maonas; (2) Ag teacht ón Aifreann; (3) An Triúr Drihár.

Pádraig Ó Harachtáin (24), Adrigole, Béarra, Co. Cork :

L.A. 1081. Émhic an Bhradáin agus Ómhic an Bhradáin.

1082. (1) Sgeach an Óir; (2) Máire an Chúil Bhuí (Song).

13. ix. '28.

Pádraig Ó Ruairc (64), Cloghane, Castlegregory, Co. Kerry :

L.A. 1083. An Mac Sgaipihach.

1084. (1) Sgéal an Phúca; (2) Eón Rua agus an Sagart; (3) Na Trí Chôirle.

Míhál Mac Gearailt (36), Dunquin, Dingle, Co. Kerry :

L.A. 1085. Fiumn agus an Fear Gorm (Folktale, Beginning).

1086. (1) An Bheirt Iasgairihe agus Dónal Ó Conaill; (2) Cuigilt na Tine; (3) Na Coiscéimí (Rhetoric).

Seán Ó Hainifen (60), Lispole, Co. Kerry :

L.A. 1087. Amhailt Ésg.

1088. (1) An Lóchair Mhór (Song); (2) An Sglávaí agus an Táiliúir (Song).

# Appendix

Tomás Ó Dála (60), Dunquin, Dingle, Co. Kerry :

L.A. 1089. (1) Sgológ Liah an Earraig; (2) Buachail Aimsire í Bhriain; (3) Lord's Prayer and Ave Maria.

1090. (1) An Buachail Aimsire curha dhá bheaha; (2) Phonetic Words; (3) Numerals.

## SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURE.

Travelling Expenses of Messrs. Doegen and Tempel, and transport of machinery, waxes, &c., to and from Berlin	...	...	£69	16	3
Subsistence Allowance to Messrs. Doegen and Tempel	...	...	73	14	0
Manufacture of 55 matrices, at £2 10s. each	...	...	137	10	0
Packing of same, and transport to Dublin	...	...	1	6	0
Transport of selected speakers (by motor):					
Cork	...	...	£30	0	8
Killarney	...	...	24	11	0
				54	11 8
Board and Lodgings of speakers:					
Cork	...	...	£5	10	6
Killarney	...	...	4	14	6
				10	5 0
Fees to speakers, at £1 per record taken	...	...	59	0	0
Preparatory Expenses (bill for motors, &c., furnished by Professor O'Donoghue)	...	...	26	17	0
Hotel Expenses of Experts	...	...	27	10	5
Printing and Typing	...	...	3	12	6
Miscellaneous Expenses	...	...	7	1	0
Total	...	...	£471	3	10

## *Appendix*

### *[Leaflet of Instructions.]*

---

#### DOEGEN RECORDS SCHEME.

Each of the selected speakers will be expected—

- (a) to sing a few verses of a song, or to tell a short story, or a few local anecdotes, etc.;
- (b) to recite the parable of the Prodigal Son on the basis of the enclosed version by Canon O'Leary.

It is requested that the following points be most carefully noted by all concerned in the training of speakers.

(1) While it is desirable that speakers should articulate as distinctly as possible, they should be encouraged above all to speak quite naturally and in everyday tones.

(2) The enclosed text is meant to serve as a head-line for speakers. While the story should be closely followed, and under no circumstances abbreviated, anything in it which is foreign to the ordinary speech of the district should not be used. Teachers are accordingly requested to alter any unfamiliar words or idioms beforehand, substituting the local equivalents. Further, speakers should be encouraged, when reciting the parable, to reject all words, inflections, and idioms which are unfamiliar to them in favour of those in use locally.

(3) The text (revised as far as necessary) should be read out to the speakers several times, and it is most desirable that they should be submitted to a final test immediately before their departure.