THE IRISH CENTRE

51/52 Camden Square, London, N.W.1.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1st January - 31st December, 1968.

INTRODUCTION:

Once again the Welfare report records an increase in the number of persons interviewed at the office during the year under review. The total number 2010, compared with 1568 in 1967, an overall increase of 27%.

TOTAL NUMBER OF PERSONS INTERVIEWED:

Total number	of perso	ons int	erview	ed:		
IRISH	NEW EMIGRA	NTS	OTHE	75	TOTAL	
Male	911 (715)	611	(443)	1522	(1158)
Female	290 (199)	95	(137)	385	(336)
Families	19	(10)	18	(10)	37	(20)
Total	1220 (92美)	724	(590)	1944	(1514)
Other Nationa	alities.			5.5		
	Male	48	Fema	le 18	66	(54)
		GRAI	ND TOT	AL	2010	(1568)

N.B. The figures in parentheses represent the 1967 totals.

"Others": these are the enquiries made by persons who returned to Ireland and have now come to Britain for the second time or persons who are permanently living in Britain.

The increase in numbers again testifies to the urgent need for more effective preventative and / or preparatory policies in Ireland aimed at the potential emigrant. Too often, the Welfare office finds itself dealing with newly-arrived emigrants who have come to Britain totally unprepared and ill-equipped for the task of finding themselves either jobs or accommodation.

With a minimum of foresight on the part of the emigrant, many of the cases dealt with by the Welfare office need not have arisen in the first place. For this reason, it is necessary to stress the following guidelines once more. Where followed, much needless hardship and distress can be avoided: Emigrants should make adequate financial provision for the job seeking period that follows arrival in Britain.

Always among those who emigrate, there are some who would have been better advised not to come in the first place. These include:

- a. those suffering from such mental and physical disabilities that neither employment nor accommodation can be easily obtained
- b. those approaching pensionable age
- c. families, who face great difficulties if seeking accommodation due to the housing shortage in existence
- d. those under 18 years of age are paid juvenile rates which they may not realise are insufficient when related to the cost of living in London.

IRISH APPLICANTS CLASSIFIED BY AGE GROUPS. (EXCLUDING FAMILIES).

Sex	0-17	18-20	21-25	26-35	36-45	over 45	grand total.
Male	108	537	429	232	115	1.01	1522
Female	27	129	125	47	27	30	385
Total	137	666	554	279	142	131	1907
total '	57 (12	4) (514) (425)	(224)	(109)	(98)	(1494)

TRENDS - INCREASES AND DECREASES:

WOMEN.

1.

2.

Even though there was an overall increase in numbers, there was a variation in the percentage pattern of certain age groups. Most notable perhaps, was the heartening decrease in the number of girls under the age of 18 (27 or 7% of total) arriving at the Centre compared with the previous year (34 or 10% of total).

The main increase was in the 18-25 age group. In 1966 the percentage of women in this age group was 56%: in 1967 it rose to 62% and in 1968 it rose further to 66%. 73% of all the women were under 25 years of age.

MEN

Although the number of men increased from 1158 to 1522, the percentage in the various age groups remained quite constant. 71% were under 25 years of age. Those under 18 made up 7% of the total. The number of young men under 18 leaving Ireland and their home environment is still too high. The casual way in which they arrive at the Centre is a matter of concern. Most of them arrive without money, with no idea of where to stay or what type of employment they could work at irresponsible and unnecessary emigration. The overall increase is most pronounced in the 18-25 age group (966 in 1968 compared with 734 in 1967), but it must be pointed out that this age group embraces the groupings most likely to emigrate whatever the conditions.

There is a continued cause for disquiet however, in the figures for the 45 and over age groups which persistently rise. As more than half of these are married, it has to be assumed that their emigration has to some extent disrupted family life for their dependants, apart from themselves. The number of unmarried men who have not established roots in either England or Ireland is also growing. This age group makes up 6% - 7% of the total.

Table showing applicants classified by age group, whether married or single, new emigrant or others.

	0-17	18-20	21-25	26-35	36-45	over 45	Total	Grand Total.
	SM	S M	5 M (S M	SM	S M	SM	
New Emigrant	61 1	302 4	197 33	112 38	53 25	41 39	771 140	911
Others	41 -	229 2	178 21	57 25	22 15	5 16	532 79	611
Grand Total	107 1 108	531 6 537	375 54 429	169 63 232	75 40 115	44 55 101	1303 219 1522	1522
1967 Grand total	(90)	(404)	(330)	(173)	(84)	(77)	(1158)	(1158)

			1	F
1.1	1	٦	L_	-

F	E	M	A	L	E

.

manuty	0-17	18-20	21-25	26-35	36-45	45 Total	Grand
	S M	S M	SM	SM	SM	S M S M	
New Emigrants	16 1	86 13	75 20	19 15	11 12	6 16 213 77	290
Others	82	20 10	22 8	94	22	- 8 61 34	95
Grand Total	24 3 27	106 23 129	97 28 125	28 19 47	<u>13 14</u> 27	6 24 274 111 30 385	385
1967 Grand Total	(34)	(110)	(95)	(51)	(25)	(21) (336)	(336).

OTHER NATIONALITIES:

It is not always realised that the Centre, though primarily concerned with the problems of the Irish emigrant, caters for other nationalities as well.

For example, during the year 1966 applicants from countries other than Ireland were interviewed. The break-down was as follows:

Male: America 1: Australia 1: England 28: France 1: Italy 1: New Zealand 1: Nigeria 1: Scotland 12: Wales 1: West India 1.

Female: England 12: Scotland 3: Wales 3.

Among the males interviewed, seven suffered from pyschiatric disorders, seven were under 18 years of age, and there was a number of ex-offenders.

The figures for females were: pyschiatric disorders (7); under 18 (3) and one unmarried mother.

FAMILIES

One of the biggest problems dealt with by the Centre concerns the number of families seeking assistance. In nearly all cases, their dilemma is one of lack of accommodation and/or finance.

It must be pointed out that in meeting this difficulty the Centre has to rely largely on the goodwill and assistance of an already overburdened local authority which is fully committed to coping with its own immediate problems in this area.

In nearly all cases young children are involved and many show the ill effects inevitably and unfortunately associated with the homeless. Owing to the facilities available - mainly hostel-type accommodation, the family must, of necessity face the immediate prospect of separation.

As to the figures, thirty-seven families sought assistance at the Centre during the year, 17 more than in the previous year when a decrease occurred.

SEX	ILLITERATE	NATIONAL	PRIMARY	TECH.	GROUP	INTER	LEAVING	UNI	TOTAL .
MALE FEMALE	10 3	699 225	349 50	100 25	58 30	95 20	160 26	51 6	1522 385
Total	13	924	399	125	88	115	186	57	1907
1967 total	(7)	(808)	(315)	(41)	(40)	(83)	(186)	(14)	(1494)

APPLICANTS CLASSIFIED BY EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND.

STATISTICAL TABLE

showing new emigrants and others classified according to welfare service provided.

NEW EMIGRANTS

MALE

	0-17	18-20	21-25	26-35	36-45	over 45	total			
Total persons	67	306	230	150	78	80	911			
ACCOMMODATION EMPLOYMENT FINANCE REPATRIATION MEDICAL ORPHANS	49 28 35 6 -	305 120 158 12 - 5	220 151 136 7 1 3	132 68 84 6 1	42 34 39 1 -	66 24 30 - 1	814 425 482 32 3 9	M A	LE	
EX-OFFENDERS MARRIAGE PROBLEMS	-	3	8	8	1	-	20	GRAND TOTAL	196 % 1522	196 87 1158
PSYCHIATRIC GENERAL WELFARE	2 47	2 174	8 151	19 99	18 43	7 43	56 557	ACCOMMODATION EMPLOYMENT FINANCE	1293 824 796	855 577 429
	0	THERS		MALE				REPATRIATION MEDICAL	45 8	41
	0-17	18-20	21-25	26-35	36-45	over 45	Total	ORPHANS EX-OFFENDERS	25 67	22 46
Total persons	41	231	199	82	37	21	611	MARRIAGE		
ACCOMMODATION EMPLOYMENT FINANCE REPATRIATION MEDICAL	38 22 30 2	201 189 110 10 2	150 115 98 1	42 30 25 -	29 30 32	19 13 19 -	479 399 314 13 5	PROBLEMS PSYCHIATRIC GENERAL WELFARE	6 133 795	26 67 521
ORPHANS EX-OFFENDERS MARRIAGE PROBLEMS	5	-	10 25	1 15 2	- 5 2	2	16 47 4		e column both new s and othe	ers.
PSYCHIATRIC GENERAL WELFARE	6 28	9 130	8 96	30 49	2 2 20	2 15	77 238			

N.B. General Welfare, includes applicants socially and materially inadequate, or helped by Statuatory Bodies, etc.

STATISTICAL TABLE

- showing new emigrants and others classified according to welfare service provided.

NEW EMIGRANTS FEMALE

0-17 18-20 21-25 26-35 36-45 Over 45	Total			
Total persons 17 99 95 34 23 22	290			
ACCOMMODATION 17 78 65 29 19 16	224			
EMPLOYMENT 13 55 31 12 4 6	121			
FINANCE 9 33 31 11 5 6	95			
REPATRIATION 6 4 7 4 1 1	23			
UNMARRIED MOTHERS 1 11 24 8 4 -	48			
MEDICAL – – – – – – –	1 - 6	RAND TOTAL	1968	1967
ORPHANS - 2	2 6	TAND TOTAL	385	336
MARRIAGE		ACCOMMODATION	301	278
PROBLEMS - 1 6 3 - 1	1 11 1-	MPLOYMENT	200	186
EX-OFFENDERS 1 1 -	1 4	PINANCE	119	98
PSYCHIATRIC 1 3 4 8 7 5	20 1	REPATRIATION	24	28
GENERAL	-	INMARRIED	24	20
WELFARE 12 52 58 20 14 17	1112 1	IOTHERS	63	38
	1 F	IEDICAL	-	7
OTHERS FEMALE	1	RPHANS	2	3
	M	ARRIAGE		
0-17 18-20 21-25 26-35 36-45 over	r Total	ROBLEMS	11	22
45	F	X-OFFENDERS	2	6
Total persons 10 30 30 13 4 8	95 p	SYCHIATRIC	30	32
ACCOMMODATION 10 23 23 10 3 5	74 G	ENERAL WELFARE	233	138
EMPLOYMENT 10 23 20 17 4 5	79			
FINANCE 4 15 - 3 1 1	24			
REPATRIATION 1	lN	.B. The above	column	
UNMARRIED MOTHERS - 5 9 1	15	includes t	oth ner	W
MEDICAL	-			
ORPHANS	+-	emigrants	and oth	ners.
MARRIAGE				in a ta
PROBLEMS				
EX-OFFENDERS				
PSYCHIATRIC 2	2			
GENERAL WELFARE 10 18 13 9 4 6	1			

issuicting, this cost is cost in

N.B. General Welfare, include applicants socially and materially inadequate - or helped by Statuatory Bodies, etc.

WELFARE:

Apart from the more complicated welfare problems dealt with, the two main recurring problems facing the Welfare office concern accommodation and employment.

Accommodation: 85% of the total male - 77% of the total female. Financial Assistance: 60% of the total male - 30% of the total female.

Employment:

The circumstances under which the Branch office of The Marian Employment Agency handles the employment problem continue to be difficult in view of the continuing scarcity of job opportunities. This applies particularly to openings for the unskilled and semi-skilled in factories and the building trade.

The figures show that 60% of the total male and 51% of the females were seeking employment.

Many of the applicants need careful and understanding placement because of personal deficincies and this is a time consuming process. Realistic information and assistance on career guidance could prevent many young people from emigrating and consequently if the need to emigrate arises they could seek a higher and more secure position - one appropriate to their abilities and to their potential contribution.

Ex-Offenders:

From the number of ex-offenders who have visited the Centre on more than one occasion, it seems that many run afoul of the law in spite of assistance. This can be attributed to a variety of factors, among them loneliness, boredom, bad environment, financial hardship and even hunger. Then of course, account has to be taken of a number of recidivists - habitual offenders.

What is perhaps most significant about the overall increase in these figures for exoffenders is the proportion under the age of 25 (51 out of a total of 67). In this context especially, but with regard to young emigrants generally, it is satisfying to record the investigations being made by the emigrant chaplains with a view to the possible establishment of a rehabilitation and preventitive service.

Psychiatric.

Psychiatric disorders tend to cover mainly a variety of personnality disorders: schizophrenics, acute depressives, educationally subnormal, maladjusted and inadequate personalities. Some of these persons have to be repatriated, and all need support and advice of one kind or another.

The number of males aged 25 and over displaying psychiatric symptoms increased from 62 to 114. The number of females seemed fairly constant about 30.

Among the under 25 age group, there is evidence of a new but, as yet, not widespread trend - the problem of drug addiction. Though disquietening, this must be seen as a more generalised symptom of to-day's youth, rather than as a specific emigrant problem. - (19 youths under 21 compared with 5 in 1967).

Conclusion.

Again and again the Welfare office wastes valuable time with unnecessary enquiries. Indeed it is depressingly obvious that a large proportion of emigrants dealt with have made little preparation, if any, apart from booking their ticket, for earning a livelihood in Britain. In addition, it is apparent that many of the problems handled by the Welfare office arising out of the social disruption caused by enigration and the attendant psychiatric disorders need never have become so acute had the appropriate preventitive measures been taken at source. 8

Finally, it must again be stressed that among those who emigrate some seem to suffer from a combination of too much wishful thinking and too little common sense. Those who have responsibly decided to emigrate should, if they have properly prepared for this big and important step, reach worthy positions in Britain. Those who come on the offchance of an easier life, or because they do not fit in at home, or merely because they are dissatisfied in their own country, should think again before leaving their familiar surroundings.

During the Summer, there was a Social Studies student from Trinity College, Dublin, doing field work for eight weeks. This has now become an annual arrangement with the various Universities in Ireland, and it is important that this trend should be encouraged in every way. Clerical students from colleges in Ireland and Rome also spent some weeks working with the Welfare office and this is also a very good sign.

The Irish Centre held two open evenings for members of the Camden Borough Council, whose continuing interest in our work is a source of gratification.

We acknowledge with thanks the assistance received from the National and Provincial Press in Ireland, radio-telefis Eireann, and the English Press in focusing attention on the role of the Centre and the problems of emigration.

We wish to express our appreciation and thanks to priests in various parishes both in Britain and Ireland, to the Irish Emigrant Chaplaincy, to those chaplains who retunned to Ireland, to the Irish Embassy, to the Marian Employment Agency, to the Welfare Services of the London Borough of Camden, to the Ministry of Social Security and the Ministry of Labour, the Crusade of Rescue and to the Legion of Mary.

Lastly our sincere thanks to the Chaplains at the Irish Centre, Rev. P. Hackett, O.M.I., Rev. P. Sheridan, O.M.I., and Rev. C. Malone, O.M.I., who deal with the constant flow of welfare problems which arise outside office hours.

> Miona Hanly, Sister Anne Marie. Welfare Office, The Irish Centre.

STATISTICAL TABLE

showing applicant emigrating classified by county of origin, age, and whether married or single.

			M	ALE												
COUNTY	0-	-17	18	-20	21	L-25	26	-35	36	5-45	10	ver 45	Total		6	1 1.
	S	M	S	М	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	М	1968	1967	196 6 .	
ANTRIM	-	-	1 18	-	10	4	6	3	11	2	1'	2	47	39	40	
ARMAGH	I	-	3	- 1	-	-	-	-		-	-	1- 1	3	10	8	
CARLOW	3	-	3		7	-	5	-	- 7	1	1-	-	19	9	14	•
CAVAN	-	-	8	-	8	-	-	1	37	1	2	4	27	17	21	
CLARE	2	-	21	1	13	-	5	2	3	1	-	2	50	28	33	i.
CORK	18		41	-	25	6	13	6	6	4	32	2	124 48	199 25	173 23	
DERRY	3	-	16	1	10	5	6	1	1	1	2	2	29	25 14	26	
DONEGAL	1	-	3	-	9	-	4	-	1		1	12.13	6	9	15	1:
DOWN DUBLIN	1 30	1	1185	3	109	24	30	17	9	- 5	8	112	433	9 342	517	•
FERMANAGH	<u> </u>		4	21	109	24	150	- 1	3	2	1	112	4)	11	8	2
GALWAY	18	-	28	_	19	2	7	1	4	21	1	2	80	67	60	
KERRY	10	21	10	_]	12	2	8	1	8	4	2	. 5	52	46	57	
KILDARE	6		17		10	-	4	2	1	-	11	1	41	16	28	
KILKENNY	2		12		12	1	2	-	11	1	-	12	31	25	23	
LAOIS		-	3	-	2	-	4	2	11	- 2	-	14	12	17	1 11	6
LEITRIM	1	-	i	-	7	_	5	-	-	_	2	12.1	16	10	18	
LIMERICK	4	-	29	-	13	6	14	9	5	1	2	2	85	64	98	
LONGFORD	1	-	4	-	1	-	1-	1	2	1	-		10	13	24	
LOUTH	4	-	11	-	6	-	2	-	-	4	11	-	28	17	16	1.
MAYO	1	-	7	-	12	-	9	1	2	1	4	5	42	32	48	
MEATH	-	- 1	17	-	11	-	5	-	2	-	-	-	35	21	17	
MONAGHAN	1	-	8	-	1	-	2	2	11	1	-	-	16	5	8	
OFFALY		-	8	-	4.	-	7	-	-	1	-	2	22	21	15	
ROSCOMMON	2	-	4	-	10	-	11	-	io	-	11		28	12	13	1
SLIGO ·	2	-	4	-	5	2	3	1	13	-	5	- 1	25	28	18	:
TIPPERARY	4	-	16	-	14	2	9	7	4	4	2	5	67	63	96	
TYRONE		- 1	6	-	4	-	2		2		2	.3	19	11	18	
WATERFORD	-	-	6	-	5	1	9	5	1	2	2	2	33	25	31	
WESTMEATH	1	- 1	14		18	-	2	-	-	2	1-	2	39	9	21	
WEXFORD	-	- 1	15	l	12	1	3	2	11	1	11		37	18	26	
WICKLOW	1 1	-	10	1	2	-	2	-	1-	1	1	1 ³	21	12	20	
Total	107	1	531	6	375	54 1	.69	63	75	40	46	55	1522	1158	475	
	10	8	53	7	42	9	232	2	115	5	10	1			-,	

9

STATISTICAL TABLE - showing applicant emigrating classified by County of origin, age, and married or un-married.

FEMALE

ANTELIM 4 1 4 - 1 - 2 - - 13 19 8 AMMAGH - - - - - - - - - 1 - - 13 19 8 AMMAGH - - - - - - - - - 1 - - 1 - - 1 - - 1 - - 1 - - 1 - - - - 1 - - 1 - - 1 - - 1 1 - 1 - - - - - 1 - - 1 - 1 1 - 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	COUNTY	0-17	18-20	21-25	26-35	36-45	Oygr 1	TOTAL		
ANMAGH 4 1 4 - - - - - - - - 1 - - 1 6 8 CARLOW 1 - - - - - - - - 1 6 3 2 CAVAN 1 - - - - - - - - 1 6 3 2 CLARE - 1 - 1 1 - 2 - - - 1 1 - - 1 1 - - 1 1 - - 1 1 - - 1 1 1 0 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1<		S M	S M	S M	S M	S M	S M	1968		
WESTREATH $ 7$ 3 2 WEXFORD $ 1$ $ 7$ 3 2 WICKLOW 2 $ 1$ 2 $ 1$ $ 7$ 2 1	ANTRIM AHMAGH CARLOW CAVAN CLARE CORK DERRY DONEGAL DOWN DU BLIN FTERMANAGH GALWAY KERNY KILDARE KILKENNY LAOIS LEITRIM LIMERICK LONGFORD LOUTH MAYO MEATH MONAGHAN OFFALY ROSCOMMON SLIGO TIPPERARY TYRONE WATERFORL	S M 4 1 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 5 2 2 - 1 - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -	S M 4 - 4 - 4 - 1 - 10 5 31 2 1 - 31 2 1 - 5 - - - 4 - 2 - - - 4 - 2 - - - 4 - 2 - -	S M 4 - - - 1 - 30 - 32 11 33 - - - 33 - - - 1 - 33 - - - 1 - 33 - - - 1 - 33 - - -	S M 1 - - - - - 4 2 1 - - - 10 8 - 1 10 8 - 1 2 1 - - 1 - - 1 - - 1 - - - 1 1 - - - - 1 1 - - - -	S M - 2 1 - 1 - 1 -	S M 	1968 13 1 6 4 4 4 4 16 10 3 121 3 25 7 15 6 3 1 1 20 3 1 10 3 2 10 4 6	$ \begin{array}{c} 1967\\ 19\\ 6\\ 3\\ 5\\ 4\\ 12\\ 4\\ 91\\ 1\\ 20\\ 19\\ 6\\ 5\\ 4\\ 25\\ 3\\ 5\\ 12\\ 4\\ 3\\ 21\\ 2\\ 12\\ 3\\ 4\\ 3\\ 4\\ 3\\ 2\\ 12\\ 3\\ 4\\ 3\\ 2\\ 12\\ 3\\ 4\\ 3\\ 2\\ 12\\ 3\\ 4\\ 3\\ 2\\ 12\\ 3\\ 4\\ 3\\ 2\\ 12\\ 3\\ 4\\ 3\\ 2\\ 12\\ 3\\ 4\\ 3\\ 4\\ 3\\ 2\\ 12\\ 3\\ 4\\ 3\\ 2\\ 2\\ 3\\ 4\\ 3\\ 2\\ 2\\ 3\\ 4\\ 3\\ 3\\ 4\\ 3\\ 4\\ 4\\ 3\\ 4\\ 3\\ 4\\ 3\\ 4\\ 3\\ 4\\ 3\\ 4\\ 3\\ 4\\ 3\\ 4\\ 3\\ 4\\ 3\\ 4\\ 3\\ 4\\ 3\\ 4\\ 4\\ 3\\ 4\\ 3\\ 4\\ 3\\ 4\\ 3\\ 4\\ 3\\ 4\\ 3\\ 4\\ 3\\ 4\\ 3\\ 4\\ 3\\ 4\\ 3\\ 4\\ 3\\ 4\\ 3\\ 4\\ 3\\ 4\\ 3\\ 4\\ 3\\ 4\\ 3\\ 4\\ 4\\ 3\\ 4$	8 2 7 10 47 3 9 2 104 - 23 18 3 2 5 27 6 2 12 7 2 4 2 12 7 2 4 2 8 19 3 11
TOTAL 24 3 106 23 100 28 28 19 15 12 6 24 27 129 128 47 27 30 385 336 364	WEXFORD		1 2	- 1 100 28	1 - 28 19	15 12	6 24	7	2	1