

# Employment Expectations of Rural School-Leavers

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*(Read before the Society in Belfast on 11th May 1970)*

This paper presents the major findings of a survey which was carried out during March 1969 among school leavers in the two secondary schools serving the Mourne area of Co Down. Before discussing the results in detail it will be helpful to give a brief outline of the economic background of the area.

## THE ECONOMIC BACKGROUND OF MOURNE

Mourne country is one of the best known and distinctive rural areas not only in Co Down but in the province as a whole. Kilkeel is its urban centre and the market town Newcastle is the gateway to the North and to the South the area is bound by Carlingford Lough and Warrenpoint which is scheduled to become the major port for the new city of Craigavon. The area is a clearly defined natural unit bounded by the sea and cut off from the interior by mountains which are virtually uninhabited. There is little agricultural land above the 600 ft contour. Between this and the sea, a distance of six to seven miles, lies a patchwork quilt of tidily kept farms and homesteads.

In the past the area relied heavily on agriculture, fishing and granite work. Frequently the Mourne man combined all three.<sup>1</sup> The agricultural area consists of 30,000 acres and there are a further 10,000 acres in rough grazings.<sup>2</sup> For seven months of the year approximately 30,000 sheep graze 32,000 acres of adjoining mountain. This represents a very intensive stocking density of approximately one sheep to the acre (Compare this with Western Donegal where the density is one sheep to six acres.) Apart from sheep, livestock farming is mainly beef cows and cattle rearing. Except on the better grasslands along the coast, dairying is not significant. The pig population has trebled since 1948 and has replaced poultry as the main subsidiary enterprise. One acre in four is devoted to tillage and the potato crop, which is the specialist crop of the area, occupies more than half of the cultivated acreage.

The structure of farming is small. In 1966 three quarters of the holdings were less than thirty acres. As a result of consolidation and the taking of conacre the acreage usually farmed is about forty acres. The total agricultural labour force has decreased by almost sixty per cent since 1948. The number of working owners has been almost halved.

Fishing, once a part-time industry and in many cases complementary to farming, is now fully commercial and thriving. The industry is centred

1 EVANS, E E, *Mourne Country*, Chapters 13, 16, 17

2 For purposes of the Agricultural Census the area is known as Kilkeel Rural Area 19, Economic and Statistics Division, Ministry of Agriculture, Northern Ireland

in Kilkeel and the fleet consists of approximately fifty boats ranging in length from forty feet to over seventy feet. It has been described "by men of experience as the most modern in the United Kingdom"<sup>3</sup>

Granite has always been an important industry in Mourne but like farming the structure of the industry has demanded heavy capital investment and amalgamation into bigger units. Nowadays the industry is concentrated in Annalong and here is housed some of the most advanced stone cutting and polishing machinery in Western Europe<sup>4</sup>. Half a dozen men dominate the industry and redundant stone workers travel daily to Belfast and indeed they are to be found all over Ireland and Britain utilising their skills on heavy construction work<sup>5</sup>.

Mourne forest comprises 750 acres and 650 acres have been planted. The remainder is unplanted and there have been no acquisitions recently. Only six men are employed permanently. In addition 300 acres of forestry is run by the Ministry for Belfast Water Commissioners. The forests at Postrevor and Newcastle (the latter fringes the area) provide permanent employment for 82 men and there are 125 men on Winter Relief Schemes. Forestry officers think highly of these men, many of whom have been unemployed for years. The results of a survey completed by the author in 1966 showed that farmers, who resided in the hill areas and consequently relied mainly on sheep were strongly opposed to any extension of afforestation. Some farmers expressed the view that the price offered for land by the "forestry people" was ridiculously low and that it was more profitable to keep sheep. Considering the present structure of subsidies this is true.

Unemployment is one of the distressing facts of life in the area. Kilkeel Administrative Area has the highest percentage of unemployed of any area in Northern Ireland<sup>6</sup>. In February 1970 one person in four was unemployed and there were three times as many men out of work compared with women.

The hard core of male unemployment is to be found in the declining traditional industries in the production sector. Agriculture relies mainly on self-employed labour. Nevertheless, two out of three insured agricultural labourers are unemployed. Construction is the biggest single employer but the industry has over a half unemployed.

In the manufacturing sector the making of cement blocks and other building materials attracts the most male labour. This small type of industry is common in Mourne and absorbs some of the redundant farm labourers and stone workers. Some manufacturers resent the fact that government building projects in the area do not use local materials with

3 HUGHES, P. H., "An Examination of the Northern Irish Sea Fishing Industry", *Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland*, Vol. XXI, Part II, pp. 174-201.

4 The author acknowledges information received from Mr. T. Walsh, Newcastle, who is at present doing postgraduate research on the Granite Industry of Mourne.

5 See also *Teachers Notes Today and Yesterday* (BBC Radio, Spring 1970, 6th March, "Quarryman").

6 Ministry of Health and Social Services, Abstract 2, 9th February 1970.

the exception of sand The roads are inadequate to carry the larger lorries which would make haulage more economical

TABLE 1

ANALYSIS OF INSURED EMPLOYEES BY INDUSTRY IN KILKEEL ADMINISTRATIVE AREA, FEBRUARY 1970

Industry*	Male		Female	
	A	B	A	B
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing	290	67.6	4	
Mining and Quarrying	4		0	
Construction	428	52.3		
Production	722	58.8	4	
Food, Drink, Tobacco	8		56	5.4
Chemicals and Allied Industries				
Metal Manufacture				
Engineering and Electrical Goods	6		10	10.0
Shipbuilding and Engineering				
Vehicles	40	Nil	12	Nil
Metal Goods not elsewhere specified	8		4	
Textiles	4		44	13.6
Leather, Leather Goods and Fur				
Clothing and Footwear	14		132	6.1
Bricks, Pottery, Glass, Cement	72		8	
Timber, Furniture				
Paper, Printing, Publishing			4	
Other Manufacturing Industries				
Manufacturing Industries	152		270	
Gas, Electricity and Water	32	3.1		
Transport and Communication	56	12.5		
Distributive Trades	116	12.9	76	20.0
Insurance, Banking, Finance	32	9.9	4	
Professional and Scientific Services	44	2.2	113	8.8
Miscellaneous Services	68	19.1	92	10.9
Public Administration and Defence	71	23.9	23	4.3
All Services	419	13.6	308	11.7
Not classified by Industry or Service	15	133	5	
Grand Total	1,308	30.5	587	9.7

SOURCE Ministry of Health and Social Services, Stormont, Belfast

Notes A is numbers of Insured employees June 1969

B is percentage unemployed February 1970

Where numbers are less than 10, B is not calculated

\*In accordance with Standard Industrial Classification 1968

The clothing and footwear industry is the main source of female employment. Mourne textiles are famous among textile producers throughout the world.<sup>7</sup> There is an opportunity for expansion from a small factory workshop to a large weaving shed which would increase employment in an indigenous industry.

The scenic beauty of Mourne is unrivalled in Ireland and the fostering of tourism has great growth potential. People in the rural areas are still not attuned to providing farmhouse accommodation which has experienced rapid growth in the Republic and other areas of Northern Ireland. The Mourne Development Association claims to have pioneered this project. It is significant that 41 per cent of all visitors to Northern Ireland visit the Mourne area,<sup>8</sup> but this is not the same thing as saying that 41 per cent of their expenditure can be attributed to Mourne. The major point is that visitors do come in substantial numbers and it is a challenge to local initiative which must not be found wanting during the 1970s.

One of the key factors in economic development is mobility of labour. The degree to which it exists in Mourne can be seen below.

TABLE 2

Place of Work	WORKING POPULATION AGED 15 AND OVER			
	Area of Usual Residence			
	Kilkeel Urban District		South Down Rural	
	Number	%	Number	%
Local Area	642	73.8	2,098	52.5
Belfast	61	7	269	6.7
Elsewhere in N. Ireland	167	19.2	1,633	40.8
Total	870	100	4,000	100

SOURCE: General Report Census of Population 1966, Table 19 (9)

It is evident that almost half of the rural labour force is working outside the area. Mourne is a relatively small region and a solution to its economic problems will have to be looked at in the context of the whole of South Down. (A list of government sponsored industry in South Down is given in Appendix 3.) A development plan for the area is to be published shortly.

### SURVEY RESULTS

With the kind co-operation of the headmasters and class teachers a questionnaire<sup>10</sup> was completed by 116 pupils, 59 boys and 57 girls during

7 Rural Industries Development Leaflet, Bryson House, Bedford Street, Belfast

8 Data supplied by Research Officer, Northern Ireland Tourist Board, 1969 *Area Development in Northern Ireland*, Appendix I, 1969 Northern Ireland Economic Council. See Mathew Report, Command Paper 451, 1963

9 *General Report Census of Population, 1966*

10 A copy of questionnaire is included Appendix 1

a normal class period in March 1969. None of these pupils had been successful in the qualifying examination for admission to Grammar schools in Northern Ireland. They were mostly all in their last year of secondary education and were classified according to A, B and C streams by the school authorities.

The broad purpose of the inquiry was to obtain information from school-leavers on their attitudes to further education, where and what type of work they preferred and expected to take up on leaving school. Location of such employment was considered under three broad headings: a) the local area within ten miles of home, b) Belfast, and c) outside Ireland. In addition an attempt was made to see in what way the employment expectations of school-leavers resembled or differed from the existing pattern of family employment. The survey concluded with specific queries concerning children's and parental attitudes towards agricultural education.

The data collected on fathers' occupations, that of working brothers and sisters and the occupations that school-leavers expect to obtain provides a comparison over three periods of time concerning the structure of employment. Significant changes can be seen clearly in the pattern of male employment.

TABLE 3

Occupation	Fathers	Eldest Son	Other Sons	Schoolboys' Expected Jobs
Percentage Composition				
Agriculture	35	11	6	33
Fishing	8	9	6	8
Tradesmen	17	36	36	33
Construction	30	23	32	17
Manufacturing	—	4	2	—
Service	9	14	14	—
Professional	1	3	4	9
Total	100	100	100	100

It is no longer true that the eldest farmer's son automatically follows in his father's footsteps. Indeed there is a diminishing proportion of sons working on the land, and as you go down the age scale this is true to an even greater extent. None of the farmers in the sample had a third son working on the land.

However, the proportion of school boys who expect to farm is almost as high as the proportion of fathers who are farmers. The vast majority of these schoolboys who expect farm work were sons of farmers. One could infer that these boys are already orientated towards farming and have not weighed up carefully the economic consequences of taking a job on a small farm which, so far as the future is concerned, is a dead

end "It may be harder for the farmer's son to resist family ties and break away from the farm. The early and thorough acquaintance with all aspects of practical farm work, though not necessarily with the organisation and financial aspects may predispose a farm boy to visualise himself as a farmer and therefore to disregard any other possibilities"<sup>11</sup> These observations have been borne out in other parts of England and by rural sociological studies in the U S A<sup>12</sup> Straus found that most boys choosing to farm will not be able to do so and that the occupational training may be functional for the role of farmer "but inhibits optimum placement in the non-farm occupational world"<sup>13</sup>

The Youth Employment Officer in Londonderry applied the author's questionnaire to findings which he had collected from a secondary school situated in a rural environment in the county. The results concerned nineteen boys and twenty-three girls due to leave school if they so wished in 1968. Thus the children were similar to the Mourne pupils in age, ability and probably attainment level. The farming background is different from the Mourne area. On the whole the average size of farms would be significantly larger. Most holdings would range in size from fifty to one hundred acres and some farms up to two hundred acres are not unusual. The pattern of farming is mainly dairying with potatoes as the main tillage crop. Agriculturally, the area is prosperous. About one-third of the fathers of the children "questioned" were farmers, roughly the same proportion as in Mourne, but in the Derry region sixty per cent of farmers' sons expected to go into farming. The tendency to farm is nearly twice as strong in Derry but in view of the larger farm structure this choice may be more realistic than those of Mourne boys.

Another trait common to both areas was the general tendency to take up a trade on leaving school. In Mourne one boy in three expected to learn a trade and the proportion in Derry was one in four. This trend is very encouraging because as a region becomes economically more developed the proportion of unskilled workers who become unemployed increases. As can be seen from Table 3 the tendency towards a skilled manual job has been evident for some time. Thirty per cent of sons were tradesmen compared with seventeen per cent of their fathers.

None of the older generation worked in a factory and none of the boys expected to do so. These figures speak for themselves.

The occupations of sisters and the jobs girls expected to obtain on leaving school were classified according to secretarial, service, manufacturing and professional status.

In the Mourne area there was a fairly close relationship between the type of work sisters were doing and the type of work that school leavers

11 GASSON, RUTH, "Occupations chosen by the sons of farmers" *Journal of Agricultural Economics*, Vol XIX, No 3, 1968

12 NALSON, J S, *Mobility of Farm Families* (Manchester University Press 1968) Chapter X The Effect of Environment on Mobility

13 STRAUS, M A, "Societal Needs and Personal Characteristics in the Choice of Farm, Blue Collar, and White Collar Occupations by Farmers' Sons" *Rural Sociology*, Vol 29, 1964

expected The occupation of elder sisters seems to play some directional role in the occupational aspirations of adolescents In the Derry region the relationship was closest for secretarial employment and weakest for professional (mainly nursing) It would be interesting to compare the aspirations of school leavers with subsequent job attainment after a five or ten year interval <sup>14</sup>

The following table summarises the broad structure of female employment as measured by the occupations of those children who had sisters working (Mourne region only)

TABLE 4  
STRUCTURE OF EMPLOYMENT

	Sisters actually working	School girls' expected job
Secretarial	14%	16%
Service	46%	49%
Manufacturing	28%	21%
Professional*	12%	7%
Agriculture	—	5%
Undecided	—	2%
Total	100%	100%

\*Mostly nursing

Some idea of the mobility of labour can be gauged from a comparison of the proportions of each generation of workers and potential workers with the geographical location of their employment Location was subdivided into three areas, the Mourne area, elsewhere in Northern Ireland and abroad

TABLE 5  
PLACE OF WORK

	Local	Elsewhere in N Ireland	Abroad
Fathers	80	15	5
Sons	64	24	14
Daughters	74	14	12
Schoolboys' Expected Place of Work*	54	34	12
Schoolgirls' Expected Place of Work*	53	30	17

\*Instead of "elsewhere in Northern Ireland", Belfast, being the nearest city, was specified

14 For results of similar research carried out in USA see KUVLESKY, W P and BEALER, R C "The Relevance of Adolescents' Occupational Aspirations for Subsequent Job Attainment", *Rural Sociology*, Vol 32, 1967

Age, of course, is a governing factor when determining labour mobility. It is the younger people who are the most willing to work outside their immediate vicinity. One son in four worked elsewhere in Northern Ireland and twelve per cent abroad, mostly in Britain but some in America. This figure for emigration is high but a feature of Mourne. However, the emigration is seldom permanent. After a few years abroad the Mourne man returns to his native heath and ploughs back his savings into the family homestead. This is one of the factors determining the very high living standards<sup>15</sup> that exist in Mourne. In an area of small farms there is no sign of decadence. The other main factor is the independent and energetic spirit prevalent in Mourne, a spirit of enterprise which impels the men to take on two jobs and travel daily one hundred miles in search of work. (This pattern of dual employment will be referred to later.)

About three-quarters of female employment is local because, as already stated, there is more opportunity for girls to obtain manufacturing jobs in clothing and textiles and probably in service jobs than there is for men. However, the twenty-five per cent who do work in other parts is divided fairly evenly between Northern Ireland and abroad. It is common practice for girls to take jobs in the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands as waitresses and this is unique to the area. In the Derry region all the girls work locally but the comparison here is not really valid, since the data available was not extensive. All but one of the Derry school girls expected to work locally.

In the Mourne survey it was the children of highest ability as measured by their class stream who showed the greatest inclination to accept work away from home. Two-thirds of the boys in A stream classes expected work in Belfast or abroad. The same relationship was true for the girls, particularly in respect of secretarial and professional jobs. It was particularly noticeable that all of the boys in a C stream preferred and expected to work at home.

There was a stronger preference for work in their own locality from all the pupils. Here their aspirations differed significantly from their expectations, seventy per cent preferred a job at home but only fifty per cent expected it. Almost three times as many children expected to work in Belfast than actually preferred to do so. One could conclude that these children are not really attracted by city life but regarded work there as an economic necessity. Those children whose fathers are working in building and construction sites have experienced the harsh economic facts of life, in the sense that their fathers work long hours away from home.

Table 6 shows fathers' occupations and the data provide a useful cross check on the employment structure which has already been discussed. Occupations are further analysed by full-time and part-time employment and the table also gives some indication of the mobility of labour by industry. Two observations spring to mind in relation to this table. One

<sup>15</sup> Results of a survey of fifty farms in 1967 showed thirty-six with piped water and electricity, twenty-six with bathroom and forty-four owners had a car. Forty-two farms had a tractor.

farmer in five is part-time and combines two jobs Secondly, skilled and semi-skilled labour is the most mobile<sup>16</sup>

TABLE 6  
FATHERS' OCCUPATIONS

Job	Full Time			Part Time		
	Local	Elsewhere in NI	Abroad	Local	Elsewhere in NI	Abroad
Agriculture	23	—	1	6	—	—
Fishing	3	1	—	2	—	—
Tradesmen	6	4	1	4	—	—
Construction	15	7	2	1	1	—
Manufacturing	—	—	—	—	—	—
Service	5	—	—	4	—	—
Professional	1	—	—	—	—	—
Not Stated	16	—	—	—	—	—
Unemployed	13	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>—</b>

Dual employment is typical of small holding agriculture<sup>17, 18, 19</sup> and may offer an alternative solution to the small farmer problem Although it militates against government amalgamation schemes<sup>20</sup> this pattern of adjustment is more logical During inflation land is appreciating and few farmers wish to part with what they own and join the ranks of those in a fixed income group who are always worst off As Odd Gulbrandsen (Sweden) has observed, dual employment may not be an ultimate cure for rural problems but it may achieve the intermediate objective "of increasing the mobility and the adaptability of the rural people to changing conditions"<sup>21</sup>

#### FURTHER EDUCATION

The rate of flow of educated manpower in Northern Ireland will have a vital influence on the rate of economic development In order to learn the

16 A sample survey of labour mobility in Northern Ireland during 1963 reached the same conclusion See *Facts and Figures*, No 20 Northern Ireland Government Information Service, January 1965

17 In the nineteenth century the close connection between the weaving of cotton and linen, and agriculture "not only enabled the small holder to maintain his position but increased population on the land and encouraged subdivision" GREEN, E R R, *The Lagan Valley, 1800-1850* (Faber and Faber)

18 An analysis of dual employment in an upland area of England is given by J S WALSON, *Mobility of Farm Families*, Table 41, 1968

19 RUTH GASSON discusses "Some Economic Aspects of Part-time Farming in Britain", *Journal of Agricultural Economics*, Vol XVIII, 1967

20 Farm Amalgamations and Boundary Adjustments Schemes, 1967 Farm Structure—Payment of Outgoers Scheme, 1967 Statutory Instrument 1608

21 ODD GULBRANDSEN (Sweden), *Objectives in Rural Areas Development Programmes*.

attitudes of school leavers to further education the pupils were asked the question at what age did they intend to leave school

In both regions two-thirds of the pupils intended to remain at school beyond the minimum leaving age This shows an awareness of the long term values of education, values which are not easy to quantify <sup>22</sup> In the Derry region half were interested in further education for one year and in Mourne a quarter Girls in both regions intended to remain at school longer than boys However, in Mourne more than half of the girls intended to stay at school for over two years beyond the statutory leaving age The comparable figure for girls in Derry was a quarter

In Northern Ireland an age analysis of young persons entering employment in 1967 showed 80 per cent of boys and 58 per cent of girls entering employment at fifteen years of age The proportion of young persons continuing their full time education beyond the statutory school leaving age, has increased recently but still falls short of the proportion doing so in Great Britain <sup>23</sup>

As one would expect children of higher ability were more interested in further education and had a higher job expectation than children in lower streams

TABLE 7  
BOYS

Class Stream	A	B	C	Total
Leaving at 15 years	0	11	12	23
Further Education for one year	5	10	7	22
"    "    " two years	2	5	—	7
"    "    " three years or more	4	3	—	7
Total	11	29	19	59

GIRLS

Class Stream	A	B	C	Total
Leaving at 15 years	3	7	9	19
Further Education for one year	2	2	3	7
"    "    " two years	6	12	1	19
"    "    " three years	6	5	1	12
Total	17	26	14	57

<sup>22</sup> In Britain in 1963 the results of a random sample of 6,500 men who were aged over twenty and were heads of households showed that the private benefit of an extra two or three years at school beyond the minimum leaving age was £400 per year or about £20,000 over a working life MARK ABRAMS, "Rewards of Education", *New Society*, 9th July 1964 See also P W MUSGRAVE, *The Sociology of Education* (Methuen and Co., 1968), Chapter 7

<sup>23</sup> Sixth Annual Report of the Northern Ireland Youth Employment Service Board H M S O Government of Northern Ireland Table VII

It would appear that girls have achieved a higher level of attainment than boys if one uses the criterion of the proportions of both sexes in A streams. There are approximately thirty per cent of the girls in Class A compared with less than twenty per cent of the boys. However, there is no significant difference between the numbers of boys and girls in B or C classes. One should exercise caution in interpreting these figures too literally as there are many physical, psychological and environmental factors which would need to be taken into account before one could conclude that the boys in the area are less interested in scholastic achievement than girls.

Considering their level of ability the general impression gained from the Mourne survey was that the children were aware of their capabilities and their choice of occupations was realistic and practical. Prestige choices (such as professional footballer, air pilot) were on the whole rare. There was a greater discrepancy between wishes and expectations in the replies of the girls than of the boys concerning their future employment. Generally speaking the choice of occupation and the further education it required was appreciated by most boys and girls. This reflects the excellent vocational guidance now provided in the schools by careers masters and the ever growing involvement of Youth Employment Officers as the liaison between school and first employment. For most socio economic groups, it is true that a growing number of parents want their children to receive further education.<sup>24</sup>

Since agriculture provides employment directly or indirectly for about one in seven of the working population in Northern Ireland, a special analysis of children's responses to agricultural education was carried out. The attitude of parents to the possibility of their children attending an agricultural college was given by the children and the author asked the opinion of their headmasters. Both headmasters thought that farmers were not keen to send their sons to agricultural colleges because they would come home with "new ideas" and they, the fathers, would not have the capital to finance them. Furthermore, the farms were too small and many farmers thought they could train their sons on their own farms. It is probably true that a pattern of small farms does discourage adventure-some farming. In other words it seems that the bigger the farm the higher the response to agricultural education. This would seem to be the case because in the Derry region where farms were larger the response was three times better than in Mourne, albeit the number of farmers' sons in the survey was three times smaller. More concrete proof is available in the form of an analysis of the farming background of students admitted to Greenmount Agricultural College. In 1956, for instance, seventy per cent of students were born and reared on farms of over fifty acres.<sup>25</sup>

<sup>24</sup> RAYMOND POIGANT discusses the Social Demand for Education in *The Role of Educational Plans in Economic and Social Development Programmes*. See Organisational Problems in Planning Educational Development. O.E.C.D. Paris, 1966.

<sup>25</sup> Greenmount Entrance 1966. Data supplied by Ministry for Education, Education and Information Division.

TABLE 8

		Boys		Girls		Total	
Total number of school children questioned		59		57		116	
No who would like to go to an agricultural college		10		7		17	
		No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
Do you expect to go to an agricultural college?		7	3	7	—	14	3
Would your parents like you to go?		3	7	4	3	7	10
Have any of your brothers/sisters been to an agricultural college?		10	—	7	—	17	—
(P=Preferred X=Expected)		P	X	P	X	P	X
What is your future occupation	Agriculture	2	4	2	2	4	6
	Fishing	1	1	—	—	1	1
	Construction	1	2	—	—	1	2
	Tradesman	4	3	—	—	4	3
	Service	1	—	3	4	4	4
	Manufacturing	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Secretarial	—	—	—	1	—	1
	Professional	1	—	2	—	3	—
	Not Stated	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Present Age	13	—	—	—	—	—
14		1	—	2	—	3	—
15		8	—	5	—	13	—
16		1	—	—	—	1	—
School Class (stream)	A	2	—	2	—	4	—
	B	6	—	4	—	10	—
	C	2	—	1	—	3	—
(FT=Full-time PT=Part-time)		FT	PT	FT	PT	FT	PT
Father's Occupation	Agriculture	6	—	2	—	8	—
	Fishing	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Tradesman	—	—	1	—	1	—
	Construction	1	—	1	—	2	—
	Manufacturing	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Service	—	—	—	1	—	1
	Professional	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Other	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Not Stated	3	—	2	—	5	—

One boy in every six stated he would like to go to an agricultural college, but only one in twenty expected to go. One girl in every eight was interested but none thought they would actually go. On the whole the response was disappointing. Probably the fact that further education involves being away from home for a year is a big obstacle for some parents. "The aim of prospective farmers should be to stay at school until they are seventeen years of age. They should concentrate particularly on English, mathematics and science subjects and then take at least a

one-year course at an agricultural college''<sup>26</sup> It was depressing to find that none of the boys who were reared on a farm intended to continue their education beyond the minimum leaving age There was, however, no indication that the dullest boy was kept at home on the farm

Perhaps shorter courses on a weekly basis taking fifty young farmers at a time would be more attractive and might simulate demand for a three month course and eventually the full year course

It may be interesting to note that in Kenya Farming Training Centres have been developed at which short courses of up to six weeks are run taking 100 farmers at a time<sup>27</sup> There technical obstacles are much greater and an economic holding is one of six to eight acres supporting a family of eight persons'

Facilities for part-time and day release classes have been provided in all areas of Northern Ireland in the form of Winter Agricultural Classes and Agricultural Courses in Centres of Further Education<sup>28</sup> The survey showed that some brothers and sisters had attended these type of courses but the percentage was small However, one of the features of such courses is that they are invariably attended by those who intend making farming their career and therefore serve a vital role

#### CONCLUSION

This paper has touched on many topics, of necessity rather superficially Most of the research has been descriptive rather than prescriptive It is to be hoped that it will serve to promote discussion particularly concerning the attitudes, economic aspirations and expectations of the rising generation<sup>29</sup>

26 Careers in Agriculture and Horticulture Advisory Services Ministry of Agriculture Leaflet No 135

27 CLAYTON, E S, *Agarian Development in Peasant Economies*, Wye College, University of London, Pergamon Press, 1964 Pp 51-53

28 The role of the Ministry of Agriculture in Agricultural Education and the importance of education to the industry are discussed in *Agriculture in Northern Ireland*, March and April 1969 Vol 43, Nos 11, 12

29 As a general reference to some of the topics referred to in this paper see Schools Council Enquiry 1

Young school leavers

Report of an inquiry carried out for the Schools Council by the Government Social Survey, Part II, Chapter 7, Part III, Chapters 1, 2

APPENDIX I  
QUESTIONNAIRE

Completed by 116 pupils attending secondary schools serving the Mourne area of Co Down March 1969

Christian Name	Age	years	Class
Father's Occupations <i>Full-time</i>	Place of work		
<i>Part-time</i>	(nearest town)		
Brothers'/Sisters' Occupations	Place of work (give nearest town)		

1

2

3

Answer the following questions

- 1 At what age do you intend to leave school?
- 2 If you had a free choice what job would you *like* to get when you leave school?
- 3 What job do you *expect* you will get when you leave school?
- 4 Would you *like* to get a job near home?                      in Belfast?  
outside Ireland?
- 5 Do you think you will get a job near home?                      in Belfast?  
outside Ireland?
- 6 Would you *like* the same sort of job as your father?
- 7 Do you *think* you will get the same job as your father?
- 8 Would you *like* to go to an agricultural college?
- 9 Do you *expect* to go to an agricultural college?
- 10 Would your parents like you to go?
- 11 Have any of your brothers or sisters been to an
  - (a) agricultural college?
  - (b) agricultural class?
  - (c) if so where?

**APPENDIX II**  
**NUMBER OF HOLDINGS IN KILKEEL RURAL DISTRICT**  
**ACRES**

Year	1-4 75	5-9 75	10-14 75	15-19 75	20-29 75	30-49 75	50-99 75	100-149 75	150-199 75	200-299 75	Total
1953	281	363	269	213	293	269	139	14	6	12	1,859
1959	248	392	266	233	254	228	97	13	3	5	1,739
1966*	195	338	261	210	247	215	72	6	1	1	1,546

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SOURCE Economics and Statistics Division, Ministry of Agriculture, NI

\*Crops and grass

Holdings Year	Less than an Acre
1953	312
1966	52

## APPENDIX III

## GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED INDUSTRIES IN THE SOUTH DOWN AREA

## 1 Established Industries

	Product
<i>Newcastle</i>	
Albion Ltd	Men's and boys' clothing
Homa Engineering Ltd	Castors and allied equipment
<i>Kilkeel</i>	
Aircraft Furnishings Ltd	Aircraft seats and allied equipment
Star Manufacturing Co (Belfast) Ltd	Men's and boys' clothing
<i>Warrenpoint</i>	
Reed Corrugated Cases Ltd	Card and fibre containers
<i>Newry</i>	
J & J Colman Ltd	Mashed potato powder
Damolby Spinning Co Ltd	Carpet yarns
F M C (Newry) Ltd	Meat products
S D McKee & Co Ltd	Tiled fireplaces
Newry Metal Fabrications Ltd	Agricultural implements, gates, etc
Stark Bros (Salford) Ltd	Rainproof coats
Ulster Textile Mill Ltd	Cotton yarns and cloth
Welrex Ltd	Ladies hosiery
Peter Marsh & Son (NI) Ltd	Jute bags
Bessbrook Products Ltd	Enamelled wire

These firms are now employing 2,200 persons (including 1,200 men) and will eventually employ 2,450 persons (including 1,250 men)

## 2 Industrial Prospects

Construction of a factory for the International Rectifier Co (GB) Ltd, will shortly be commenced in Newry. This factory will produce semi-conductor devices and associated products and will eventually employ 250 persons.

In addition the Government has under construction two "advance" factories (33,000 sq ft and 17,250 sq ft) at Warrenpoint Road, Newry. A further factory of 17,250 sq ft which is also under construction will be temporarily used by the Ministry of Health and Social Services as an industrial training centre.

APPENDIX IV

TABLE SHOWING THE POPULATION IN KILKEEL URBAN AND RURAL ADMINISTRATIVE AREAS  
SINCE 1901

Area	POPULATION								Intercensal Variation 1961-66	
	1901	1911	1926	1937	1951	1961	1966	Number	Per Cent	
	Kilkeel U D	1,784	1,836	1,882	2,090	2,337	2,497	2,597	100	+4 0
Kilkeel R D *	15,634	14,476	13,393	12,960	13,482	13,410	13,418	278	+2 1	

\*In 1966 Census Kilkeel R D was changed to South Down Rural