



The Right Honorable Sir Horace Plunkett, K.C.V.O.

Date

1904

Primary Maker

John Butler Yeats

Medium

Oil on canvas

Dimensions

76.2 × 64.8 cm

Description

Horace Plunkett (1854-1932) founded the innovative and successful Co-operative Movement when the first dairy co-

operative was formed at Dromcollagher, Co. Limerick in 1889. The aim of the Co-operative Movement was to assist small farmers economically and through the sharing of expertise to enable them compete in evolving and newly mechanised agricultural markets. Plunkett believed that culture was also an essential component in realising Ireland's economic recovery and for this reason he was a steadfast supporter of the Gaelic League, founded by Douglas Hyde, and also of the Abbey Theatre founded by W.B. Yeats and Lady Gregory. This attitude of intertwining cultural and economic aspirations for the benefit of Irish society as a whole was shared by the poet and painter George Russell, who was a chief organiser in the co-operative movement in Ireland. (JO'D)