

IRISH SILVER: WILL IT BE WEALTH UNTOLD.

200 acres at Loughrea, County Galway, may be destined to change the economic pattern of Southern Ireland. Drillings on Eamon O'Reilly's farm show that the land is rich in Silver, lead and zinc. Whether it's fabulously rich, as optimists believe, will be known when more samples from the bore holes have been assayed. The first step is to do some elementary smelting on the spot. Mud and water from below are poured into a filter, to get rid of as much liquid as possible. It's crude apparatus, but it works.

In cauldrons heated by gas from cylinders, the mud is dried out and handed into the offices which a mining company have established there. The samples are sent to Liverpool to be examined.

O'Reilly won't become a millionaire through royalties, because the Government owns all mineral rights, but he has bought a packet of shares in the mining company, and they are now worth five times more than he paid for them. Farmer O'Reilly hopes the mine's a winner.