

12003-21
PATHE GAZETTE: 42/14. (DUBLIN)

BLIND FARMER CARRIES ON

A remarkable triumph over infirmity is that of John Irwin a 34 year old Northumberland farmer who has been blind from birth. But instinct takes the place of sight and does most of the principle jobs on the farm without help. Milking is one of many. He milks and delivers the milk too, from a churn on his pram as he calls it. John serves a large gound. He says he can tell exactly where he is, apart from the sound of his customers' voice, by the noise of his boots on the roadway. He knows all the farm animals by name and he can tell them apart by touch. Indeed he knows as much about pedigree cattle as most men and he is often called upon to act as a judge. A quick rub over and he's got all the fine points. He lends a hand with the turnip cutting machine. If there's a man who ever deserved a smoke, that man is blind John.