

**Limerick
Corporation Water
Works
1883-1934
(-1937)**

L/WW

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Introduction

The Limerick Waterworks Act of 1883 provided for the purchase of the Limerick Waterworks Company by the Corporation. The Corporation duly purchased the complete network for providing a water supply to the city, and began levying a new rate, called the water rate (or sometimes the water rent), to pay for the workings of same (see L/WW/1/1-5). The Corporation's purchase of the waterworks company was broadly welcomed, as it had followed a long period of criticism of the quality of the water provided by the private company throughout the 1870s and 1880s.

The Corporation took control of the property of the old company, which comprised a house, land and waterworks at Clareville, house lands and reservoir at Newcastle, two houses, lands, engine house and works at Rhebogue, house, lands and reservoir on the Ennis Road, and house land and reservoir in Garryowen.

This collection includes water rate books, financial records, water reports such as water wastage and water consumption reports, plans and drawings for improvement works, and newspaper cuttings relating to the Water works.

Section A consists of water rate books, dating 1894 to 1933.

Section B consists of the financial records of Limerick Waterworks, which includes general ledger accounts and income and expenditure accounts. It is worth noting that in December 1894, the local government auditor sent a report to the Corporation, describing the careless and incompetent manner in which the Waterworks Department and in particular, its accounts, were carried on. This report however did not result in any immediate action by the Corporation. The financial records also include pay sheets of Limerick Waterworks employees. By 1902, the staff of the water department numbered 20, headed by a superintendent, an engineer and an assistant engineer.

Section C consists of various reports relating to the operation of the Waterworks, and the quality and quantity of the water being supplied to Limerick City.

Section D consists of various plans, drawings and correspondence relating to schemes for improving and extending the water supply in Limerick City.

In 1890 Messrs Cruise, Brown and Fogarty were appointed to design a new water treatment plant and prepared a scheme which was to be located at Clareville, on the banks of the Shannon, near Castleconnel. The first phase of the treatment complex was completed in the 1890's and utilized the Shannon as a source of both raw water and power. It comprised of slow sand filters, a headrace and a tailrace canal and a pumphouse containing water driven turbines and reciprocating pumps, capable of delivering 1.5 million gallons/day to a 5 million gallon open reservoir at Newcastle, Castletroy. The site at Clareville was chosen to make use of the head available on the river to power the pumping plant. The headrace canal took water from upstream of the Falls of Doonass, used the water to power the turbines and returned it at the level of the tailrace. (see L/WW/8)

In 1906 further plans were proposed for auxiliary works at Clareville (L/WW/9)

In 1929 due to the construction of the Shannon Scheme, it became necessary to carry out alterations at Clareville and Professor Pierce Purcell (consulting engineer) was called in to advise the

Corporation on the steps to be taken to improve the water supply and to protect their interests where they were interfered with by the Shannon Scheme

Following the recommendation of Purcell, the Patterson Engineering Company was chosen by Limerick Corporation to install a mechanical filtration plant with a 2,400,000 gallons capacity per day, at the Clareville waterworks. Fredrick W. E Chapman was appointed as resident engineer to oversee the project, and Messrs McCaffrey and O'Carroll's received the tender for laying of the 15" water main from Garryowen to the Crescent.

This collection is key source for researchers interested in history of provision of water supply to Limerick city and it's citizens. It also has sources which relate to the history of engineering in Limerick city, the functioning of Limerick Corporation in the nineteenth and twentieth century, and employees of Limerick Corporation.

Section E consists of correspondence relating to Limerick Waterworks, and section F consists of newspaper cuttings.

Researchers should also consult the L/SMIN collection held by Limerick Archives, which includes Minute Books of Limerick Water Works Committee (1883-1934), which are an excellent source for researching the administration and development of Limerick Waterworks. For information regarding the operation of the water works in the early nineteenth century as a private company see the Limerick Waterworks Company (P9) collection held by Limerick Archives. Additionally see L/WS collections for post -1934 research sources.

A Water Rate Books (1894-1933)

[1/1]

1/2 24 December 1886-8 July 1890

Volume recording quarterly
payments received by Limerick
Waterworks for water rentals.

Details recorded include date, amount, from whom received, and occasionally the address of the Payer. Entries arranged quarterly and by 'meter tenants', 'ordinary tenants', 'building purpose' and 'fire supply'.

c. 270 pp.

Annual Water Rate Books. Books, which list customer's names, addresses and valuation of premise and rents, received each quarter. Quarterly rents due on 24 March, 24 June, 24 September, and 24 December. Details of amount received, date of payment, arrears due and 'observations' are recorded every quarter for each customer. 1894 rental is arranged alphabetically by street. Other volumes arranged by sections with headings such as such as 'building supplies', 'meter supplies', 'fire supplies', 'licensed premises', 'bakeries', 'city trade purposes special', 'outside borough'. Annual summary of rents received generally included at rear of volumes.

5 volumes

[3-5]

1/6 24 March 1894-24 December 1894

140 ff

[7-18]

1/19 24 March 1907-24 December 1907

c.90 ff

[20-30]

1/30 14 March 1919-24 December 1919
Draft Rate Book

c. 90 ff

1/31 14 March 1919-24 December 1919

c. 90 ff

[32-37]

1/38 14 March 1926-24 December 1926

c.100 ff

1/45 14 March 1933-24 December 1933

c.100 ff

B Financial Records

(i) General Ledger Accounts (1883-1934)

| | | |
|-----|-----------------------------------|---|
| 2/1 | 17 December 1883-31 December 1884 | General ledger and expenditure account book of Limerick Corporation water works |
|-----|-----------------------------------|---|

committee. Account book begins with details of loan received from Commissioners of Public Works towards the purchase of Limerick Water Works Company. Payments relate to items such as wages, loan repayments, fitting out offices, incidental expenses coal supplies, plant extension and plant repairs. Includes analysis of payments made between 1 January 1884 and 31 December 1886. Includes Wages Account which is arranged under headings such as 'date', 'staff on street', 'canal works', 'collector', and 'office'. Includes 'Coals' Account with details such as date of purchase, cost of coal, freight and weighing at harbour recorded. Includes 'Maintenance of Plant and Premises' arranged under headings such as 'Garryowne', 'Rhebogue', 'Ennis Road', 'City' and 'Repair of Meters'. Includes various other accounts such as 'Rates taxes and Insurances', 'Printing, Stationary and Advertising', 'Interest on Loan', and creditors accounts.

c.426 pp

[2/2-5]

| | | |
|-----|----------------------------------|---|
| 2/6 | 28 October 1895-22 November 1934 | General ledger and expenditure account book of Limerick Corporation water works |
|-----|----------------------------------|---|

committee. Includes also annual abstract of accounts with revenue account, profit and loss account, and balance sheet showing assets and liabilities for years for years ending 31 March 1895-1903. Includes index to accounts.

c.340 ff

(ii) Income and Expenditure Books (1898-1946)

[3/1-2]

| | | |
|-----|------------------------------|---|
| 3/3 | 1 February 1898-7 April 1921 | Annual expenditure book of Limerick Water Works Committee. Entries are arranged |
|-----|------------------------------|---|

chronologically by year. under headings titled 'no. of voucher', 'date', 'date paid by bank', 'to whom payable', 'amount of cheque', and whether 'revenue' or 'capital' expenditure, and 'observations'. Revenue expenditure is arranged by sub headings such as 'wages', 'coals', 'maintenance of plant and premises', 'salaries', 'rates, taxes and insurances', 'printing, stationary, and advertising', 'repayments of loan', and 'new tenure scheme'. Capital expenditure has sub-headings such as 'plant extension', 'extension of mains' 'general works'. Total expenditure for year-end is also calculated.

c.150 pp

[3/4]

3/5 1 April 1935-15 April 1946 Receipts and expenditure book of Limerick Water Works, arranged chronologically by year. Details of money received is recorded such as 'date' 'from whom received', 'purpose for which received', 'lodgment', 'meter and other rents', 'maintenance or plant recoupments'. Details of expenditure is recorded under headings such as 'no of voucher', 'date', 'date paid by bank', 'to whom payable', 'purpose for which paid', 'no. of pay order', 'amount of pay order'. The amount is entered under columns which indicate the purpose of payment, such as 'wages', 'repairs to plant and fittings', 'alumina', 'electrical current', 'repairs on services', plant extension', 'coal', 'mains alterations and repairs', 'rates, taxes and insurances', 'printing and stationary', 'incidentals', 'contributions to Ministry of Industry and Commerce', and 'repayments on loan'. Includes various summaries of expenditure per month or per quarter at rear of volume.

c.100 ff

(iii) Pay Book (1900-1908)

[4/1-3]

4/4 31 May 1900-30 July 1908 Volume with weekly pay sheets of staff paid from Limerick Water Works Fund. Pay sheets arranged by headings such as 'staff on street', 'works Rhebogue', Garryowen, 'Newcastle', 'maintenance of plant and premises, 'plant extension', 'Works Clareville' and 'incidental expenses'. Under the headings either the profession such as 'foreman', 'plumber' and caretaker at reservoir' and weekly sum they were paid are recorded or else the cost of particular work carried out such as 'cleaning filter beds' and 'breaking stones (concrete) for new bridge'. Occasionally individuals' names are recorded such as 'foreman-G Watson'. Incidental expenses includes items such as 'railway fare and car hire'.

c. 400 pp

C Water Reports

(i) Consumption Reports (1900-1950)

Report Books recording the supply and consumption of water from Clareville water works. Books consist of monthly reports and 'general information'. The 'general information' at beginning of each volume generally includes information regarding the Newcastle reservoir, and its depth in inches and feet, population changes; technical information. Each monthly report consists of daily entries recording the dept of water in reservoir Newcastle, height of water over sill at head sluice Clareville, indices of pumps a, b, c, and d, number of pump strokes in 24 hours, daily consumption in gallons, and consumptions in gallons per head of

population and 'remarks' such as 'rain at 6pm' and 'frost'. Average daily consumption in gallons and per head of population is calculated at end of each month. Includes also a diagrams showing daily consumption of gallons consumed per month. Includes occasional annotations such as 'water main burst in Roche St.' and 'no record Home Rule Demonstration in Dublin' (31 March 1912). After 1 March 1908, the maximum and minimum pressure daily at 10 am, and at night is also noted. After 1 May 1909, the number of hours the 'reboghué worked' is also noted. After 1 July 1937, information regarding the daily units consumed and meter readings of electric pumps is recorded. Occasionally monthly diagrams are not completed.

4 volumes

| | | |
|-----|--|----------|
| 5/1 | 8 September 1900-31 December 1907. Includes scale of charges payable quarterly, and scale of charges as amended 2 February 1906. | c.90 ff |
| 5/2 | 1 January 1908-31 January 1914 | c.75 ff |
| 5/3 | 1 January 1914-31 May 1924 Includes table showing cost of iron piping of various diameters per mile. | c.125 ff |
| 5/4 | 1 June 1924-30 June 1937 Includes list of water pressure in lbs per sq. inch. 21 April 1927 and 10 August 1936 | 157 ff |

(ii) Water Wastage Reports (1898-1909)

| | | |
|---|---------------------------------|--|
| 6 | 4 October 1898-[] November 1909 | Volume consisting of water wastage reports. Entries arranged under columns titled 'date', 'name', 'number of inspections', 'nature of waste, cause', 'date when defects made good' and 'observations'. Nature of waste and cause includes entries such as 'pipe burst in yard', 'tap loose in scullery area' and 'fittings loose constant waste'. Observations include entries such as 'cautioned' and 'not attended to'. Includes summary of work done per week, which is generally signed by mayor. Entries from June 1904 onwards annotated with 'Pat O'Halloran, waste water inspector'. |
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c.250 pp

(iii) General Reports (1897-1942)

| | | |
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| 7 | 26 April 1897-10 September 1942 | File of reports mainly relating to water at reservoirs. Includes test on centrifugal pumps (18 November 1930), test on new unit at Clareville pumping station (23 March 1938), report on water samples prepared by laboratories of Pathology and Bacteriology, University College |
|---|---------------------------------|---|

Cork (10 September 1942). Includes also report of Medical Officer of Health relating to unsanitary condition of cellar water under Mr. D Lynch's shop in Roches street. (26 April 1897).

11 pp.

D Extensions and Improvements to Limerick Water Works

(i) Water Supply Order 1886

8/1 October 1886 Limerick Water Supply, Plans and Sections drawn by James J. F Browne and Robert Fogerty (engineers) and Richard J. Cruise (consulting engineer). Plans consist of two printed sheets. Sheet number 1 is map County of Limerick, 6 inches to one mile, indicating location of water pipe, which is divided into four sections. Sheet number two shows cross section of each of four sections. Section number one shows enlarged section of intake channel and outfall of head works; section number two shows line of pipes to reservoir, section number three shows line of pipes from reservoir, and section number four shows line of pipes from road to city.

2 pp

8/2 c. 1886 Plan of Limerick Water Supply showing water pipes from the North Strand reservoir to the Leap of Doonass. Plans also show the River Shannon, Garryowen reservoir, Rebogue works, Newcastle reservoir, Mulkear bridge, and Clareville works.

1 item

8/3 18 March 1887 Printed notice to owners, lessees, and occupiers issued by W.E Corbett, executive sanitary officer for Limerick Corporation regarding the construction of waterworks in Clareville.

2 pp.

8/4 18 May 1889 Copy of contract and specifications for the construction of turbines and pumps as part of the works intended to be constructed under the authority of the Limerick Water Supply Order 1886-87. Specifications were drawn up by Cruise, Browne and Fogarty Engineers. Annotated with note 'William F. [Mhunane] signed 26 pages 29 June 1889'.

29 pp.

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|-----|--------|--|
| 8/5 | c.1899 | Plan of Limerick Waterworks, Rhebogue submitted by W.E. Corbett, city surveyor showing proposed new engine and boiler house, and longitudinal and cross sections of the filtered water tank. Scale is 20 feet: 1 inch. |
| | | 1 item. |

(ii) Clareville Auxiliary Works (1905-1906)

| | | |
|-----|---------------|---|
| 9/1 | November 1906 | Drawing prepared by J.J. Peacock (city engineer) showing proposed Auxiliary Works at Clareville. Drawings show proposed position of Engine House, and also the filter beds, clear water tanks, turbine house, gas engines and pumps, suction gas pumps and intake channel from River Shannon. |
| | | 1 item |

| | | |
|-----|---------------------------------|---|
| 9/2 | 10 August 1905-4 September 1905 | Correspondence file between J.J. Peacocke, city surveyor and Gilbert Gilkes and Company Limited, civil hydraulic and electrical engineers, relating to extension of water pumping plant. Includes specification and estimation for turbine pumping plant. |
| | | 10 pp. |

(iii) Water Main Installation (1927)

| | | |
|------|-------------------------|--|
| 10/1 | 18 May 1927-1 June 1927 | File regarding application by Limerick Corporation to the Department of Local Government for sanction to raise a loan of £7,995 to defray the cost of installing an additional water main in the County Borough. |
| | | 3 items. |

(iv) Extension to Engineers' Houses (1928)

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|------|-----------------|---|
| 10/2 | 16 October 1928 | File consisting of plans to extend the engineer's house at Clareville Water Works and additions to the cottage at the Garryowen reservoir. Includes colour plan for |
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addition to cottage at Garryowen reservoir showing front, side and rear elevation, ground plan, and roof plan (scale 4 feet to one inch). Includes plan for extension of house at Clareville waterworks showing front, side, and end elevation, ground plan, and roof plan, (scale 4 feet to one inch). Plans drawn by J.J Peacocke, city surveyor.

2 items.

(iv) Improvement of City Water Supply and Shannon Scheme (1930-1933)

11/1 24 April 1930 1930-9 October 1933 Correspondence file relating to improvements made to City Water Supply between 1930 and 1933 based on recommendations made by Pierce F. Purcell, consulting engineer. Work included the installation of a mechanical filtration plan in Clareville Waterworks, the construction of 16 " Diversion main between Clareville and Castletroy, and laying of 15" pipe between Garryowen reservoir and the Crescent. File includes letters from the Office of Public Works regarding terms of loans for £20,000 and £8,500 for carrying out improvement works and issuing of installments; letters from Department of Local Government and Public Health sanctioning Limerick Corporation to raise the loan; letters from Pierce F. Purcell regarding payment of consultancy fees; public notices issued to land owners and lessors regarding works; public advertisements for tenders; copies of managers orders approving of tenders for carrying out works; letters from the Paterson Engineering Company Limited regarding installation of their filtration system; letters from Messrs Caffrey and O'Carrell, Limerick regarding their civil engineering work.

c. 100 pp.

11/2 4 February 1932-17 June 1936 Correspondence file relating to Shannon Scheme consisting of letters between the Electric Supply Board, Department of Industry and Commerce, City Manager, John J. Dundon (law agent, Limerick Corporation), and Waterworks Committee. Topics discussed include transfer to the Electricity Supply Board of the rights and liabilities of the Minister for Industry and Commerce under the agreement with the Council dated 4 February 1932; ownership of the pipe line, pumping house and electrical plant; proposed installation of additional electric pumping station (1936); Includes copy agreement between Limerick Corporation and Minister for Industry and Commerce regarding the installation of electric pump at Limerick Waterworks and ownership of pipe line, pumping house and electric plant (4 February 1932)

c. 50 pp

11/3 c. 1932 Plans submitted by Paterson Engineering Company Limited for a Rapid Gravity Filtration Plant for Clareville Waterworks. Plans show front elevations of the plant.

2 items.

E General Correspondence (1926-1937)

| | | |
|----|-----------|--|
| 12 | 1926-1937 | <p>Correspondence file relating to Limerick Waterworks</p> <p>Correspondents include city surveyor, Waterworks Committee, City Manager, Waterworks employees and customers of Limerick Waterworks such as John Quin and Company, Cannock and Company and William B. Fitt and Company. Topics include complaints regarding poor water supply and disputing water charges; investigation of excess consumption reports; payment received by Waterworks from customers; applications for the water supply to be extended to newly constructed buildings; proposals to improve water supply to certain areas and buildings; terms of employment of engineers, laborers and others; applications for vacancies in Limerick Waterworks.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">c. 100 items</p> |
|----|-----------|--|

F Newspaper Cuttings (1889-1893)

| | | |
|------|-----------------------|---|
| 13/1 | April 1889-April 1893 | <p>File of newspaper cuttings relating to Limerick Water Supply and the</p> <p>Waterworks Committee. <i>Fragile handle with care.</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;">c. 80 items</p> |
|------|-----------------------|---|