

GC/CSO/3/2

**Galway County Council.**

**Subject**

*Munitions*  
*General*

**References**

DATE	REFERRED TO	FOR

Drawer No.....



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe  
Galway County Council

Galway County Council Archives



2013-2023  
Eagraíocht Comreachtála Uachtaraí na Gaillimhe  
The County of Galway Institute of Commemorations

# Galway County Council

## County Secretary's Office

**GC/CSO/3/**

© Galway County Council

All Rights Reserved.

No part of this film may be reproduced or transmitted  
in any form without the permission of  
Galway County Council

Digitised 2017



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe  
Galway County Council

Galway County Council Archives



## **Galway County Council County Secretary's Office**

### **Munitions, General file**

**24 Nov 1916 - 20 Nov 1918**

**GC/CSO/3/2**



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe  
Galway County Council

Galway County Council Archives  
Island House  
Cathedral Square  
Galway  
Tel: 091 562471  
[www.galway.ie/archives](http://www.galway.ie/archives)

## Identity Statement

**Reference Code:** IE GCCA / GC/CSO/3/2  
**Title:** Galway County Council / County Secretary's Office / Administration/ **Munitions, General file**  
**Dates:** 24 November 1916 - 20 November 1918  
**Level of description** Item  
**Extent:** 13pp

### CONTEXT

**Creator(s):** Galway county Council, County Secretary's office.

### Archival History

Transferred from Galway County Council, Roads & Transportation section to Archives in 2013.

### Archivist's Note

Listed by Patria McWalter, Archivist, 2014.

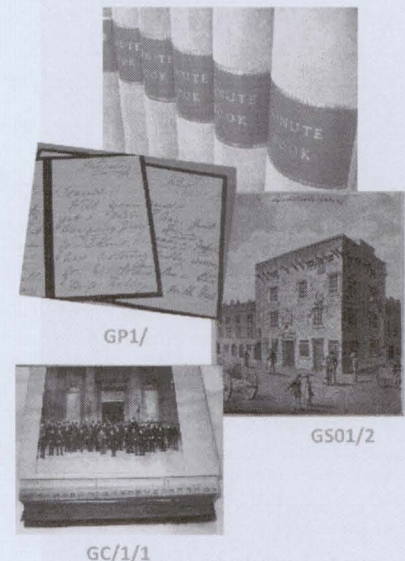
### Scope and Content

**Munitions, General** file of correspondence between Galway Munitions Committee (Courthouse, Galway), the Ministry of Munitions (32 Nassau Street, Dublin), and Connemara Green Marble Quarries Ltd (24 James' Street, London. SW) regarding a site on Earl's Island<sup>1</sup>, Galway for possible additional munitions works at a *'splendid bonded stores erected by the late H S Persse, situate on the banks of the canal opposite to the small Marble Works which you have already decided to utilise for a small Munitions Factory'* (24 Nov 1916). The Ministry advised that *'there is no intention of increasing the number of munitions factories in Ireland at present, and that the statements which have recently appeared in the Press on the subject are entirely unauthorised'* (19 Dec 1916).

Language English

<sup>1</sup> A shell factory was established at Earl's Island and became a significant employer in the town. The first shell produced in the plant is held by Galway City Museum, an inscription on the shell reads "Galway National Shell Factory, The First Shell Manufactured, 17.3.1917, presented to Martin McDonogh Esq.

If quoting from the archives please cite and reference all collections appropriately & acknowledge Galway County Council Archives.



Cartlann Chomhairle Contae na Gaillimhe *'...cuimhne dhoiciméadach Chontae na Gaillimhe a shealbhú, a chaomhnú agus a dhéanamh inrochtana'*

Galway County Council - Archives *'...to acquire, preserve and make accessible the documentary memory of county Galway'*

GC/CSO/3/2 (14)

Courthouse, Galway

November 20th 1918

Gentlemen,

If your Company are prepared to dispose of the  
Paris Island Works I would be obliged if you would kindly  
inform me on what tenure and subject to what liabilities  
the premises are held, and on what terms the Company's interest  
would be sold.

yours faithfully,

Messrs CONNEMARA GREEN MARBLE QUARRIES LTD

24 St James St.

LONDON.

GC/CSO/3/2 (3)

QUARRIES } DERRYCLARE.  
CLOONACARTON.  
TOMNOUGHMORE.  
DERRYVOREADA.

# CONNEMARA GREEN MARBLE QUARRIES LTD.

TELEPHONE  
5696 REGENT.

24, ST. JAMES' STREET,

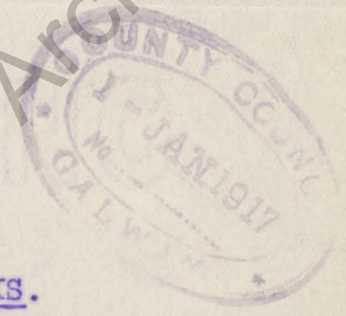
TELEGRAMS & CABLES  
"SERVINALIM, ST. JAMES, LONDON."

LONDON, S.W.

CODE  
A.B.C. 5th EDITION.

30th January, 1917.

W. G. Fogarty Esq.,  
Secretary,  
Galway Munitions Committee,  
Courthouse, Galway.



Dear Sir,

re EARLS ISLAND WORKS.

We are obliged by yours of the 27th inst, and note the contents, we have accordingly communicated with the Ministry of Munitions in London as you suggested, and will acquaint you with any further developments.

We have to thank you for your kind suggestion which we have adopted as stated, and also for the offer of your Committee to render every assistance in their power in this matter, and beg to remain.

Yours faithfully,  
p.p. The Secretaries.

GALWAY MUNITIONS COMMITTEE,

COURTHOUSE, GALWAY.

27th. January, 1917.

Gentlemen,

I have forwarded your letter of the 18th. ulto. to the Ministry of Munitions, Nassau Street, Dublin, and have been informed that if anything further should develop in connection with the matter they will communicate with me. I should, however, advise you to get in touch, if possible, with the Ministry of Munitions in London, as it is persistently stated in the Irish Papers that the Minister of Munitions has decided on a huge extension of munition making in Ireland.

If you would repeat the particulars in your letter of the 18th. ulto. to the Minister of Munitions, and offer to place the premises at his disposal upon such terms as you consider fair, and, if possible, have your proposal supported by some Parliamentary influence, you may succeed in having a Munition Factory started in your premises.

My Committee will give you every assistance in their power in the matter.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

Hon. Secretary.

The Secretaries,

Connemara Green Marble Quarries, Ltd.,

24 St. James' Street,

London, S.W.

GC /CSO/3/2 (11)

QUARRIES { DERRYCLARE.  
CLOONACARTON.  
TOMNOUGHMORE.  
DERRYVOREADA.

# CONNEMARA GREEN MARBLE QUARRIES LTD.

TELEPHONE  
5696 REGENT.

TELEGRAMS & CABLES  
"SERVINALIM, ST. JAMES, LONDON"

CODE  
A.B.C. 5th EDITION.

24, ST. JAMES' STREET,

LONDON, S.W.

25th January, 1917.

W. G. Fogarty Esq.,  
Galway Munitions Committee,  
Courthouse, Galway.

EARLS ISLAND WORKS GALWAY.

Dear Sir,

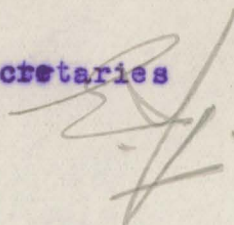
We wrote you on the 18th ulto, with full detailed particulars as to the above, since when we do not trace having heard from you with reference to the matter.

Might we enquire whether this property is still under consideration by your Committee, and whether it is likely that any progress will be made with the matter in the near future?

We shall be glad to hear from you, and thanking you in anticipation.

Yours faithfully,

p.p. The Secretaries





Telephones:—DUBLIN 4894, 4895, 4896, 4897.



Telegrams:—"MUNAREA," DUBLIN.

GC/CSO/3/2(10)

# MINISTRY OF MUNITIONS

(No. 10 AREA)—IRELAND.

## BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION:

### DIRECTORS:

CAPT. R. C. KELLY.  
CAPT. F. DOWNIE.  
MR. LEWIS C. GRAY, C.A.

EVC.

32, NASSAU STREET,  
DUBLIN.

20th January, 1917.

*All communications to be  
addressed to the Directors.*

REFERENCE Engr/FD.

W. Fogarty, Esq.,  
Galway Munitions Committee,  
Courthouse,  
Galway.

Dear Mr. Fogarty,

I am in receipt of your letter of  
yesterday's date, and am extremely obliged for the  
information therein contained.

If anything should develop in  
connection with this matter, I shall not fail to  
communicate with you.

Yours sincerely,

*Downie*  
*Capt.*



GC/CSO/3/2(9)

GALWAY MUNITIONS COMMITTEE,  
COURTHOUSE, GALWAY.

19th. January, 1917.

Dear Captain Downie,

An announcement, made with some show of authority, appears in to-day's Freeman, stating that the Government has decided upon an immediate extension of munition making in Ireland, and establishment of new Factories. In this connection I beg to send you full particulars of the Earl's Island Works at Galway, and also Persse's Distillery. You have yourself seen both Earl's Island works and the Distillery.

Yours faithfully,

Hon. Secretary.

Captain Downie,  
Ministry of Munitions,  
Nassau Street, Dublin.

GC/CSO/3/2(8)

**JANUARY 19, 1917.**

**WAR FACTORIES**

**EXTENSIONS IN IRELAND**

**BIG MUNITIONS PROJECT**

**IRISH WORK APPRECIATED.**

It is understood that the Government Munitions Department has decided on an immediate extension of munition making in Ireland and the establishment of new factories.

This step has been taken as a result of representations made by Mr. Redmond and his colleagues of the Irish Party, who have been continually pressing upon the Government the claims of Ireland to an increased and increasing share of war work and munition contracts.

The new establishments now projected will employ a large number of workers, and will mean the distribution of a largely increased sum in wages. The possibilities of munition making in Ireland are beginning to be more fully appreciated by the Government, and the excellent manner in which the work is being done in the Irish factories has encouraged the Ministry of Munitions to embark on the larger schemes.

In connection with the extension of the work in Ireland a Freeman representative is informed that Mr. Duke has given a sympathetic and practical support to the representations made to the Government.

**SIR MAURICE LEVY'S REPORT.**

The report of Sir Maurice Levy, Bart., who recently investigated the possibilities of Ireland in the matter of providing munitions and general supplies for war purposes has, it is understood, been very favourable, and, as a result, further developments are anticipated shortly. The scheme of food production, following the reconstruction of the Government and the consequent dislocation of some of the Departmental work of the Government, has had the effect of delaying some of the larger schemes contemplated. It is hoped, however, that these will be developed along satisfactory lines in the immediate future.

No definite details of these further developments are at present available. Captain Downie, of the Irish Munitions Department, has been in London for some days, presumably in connection with the projects that are now to be taken in hand. He returned to Dublin last night, but, seen by a Freeman representative, explained that he was not in a position to make any statement on the matter. Notwithstanding the official reticence, however, we have authority for stating that munition factory extensions on a large scale are certain to be embarked upon immediately.

Galway City Council Archives

GC/CSO/3/2(7)

Telephones:—DUBLIN 4894, 4895, 4896, 4897.



Telegrams:—"MUNAREA," DUBLIN.

# MINISTRY OF MUNITIONS

(No. 10 AREA)—IRELAND.

BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION:

DIRECTORS:

CAPT. R. C. KELLY,  
CAPT. F. DOWNIE,  
MR. LEWIS C. GRAY, C.A.

CF.

All Communications to be  
addressed to the Directors.

REFERENCE Engr/JS.

32, NASSAU STREET,  
DUBLIN.

19th December, 1916.

W.G. Fogarty, Esq.,  
Courthouse,  
GALWAY.

Dear Mr. Fogarty,

With further reference to your letter of the 24th. ultimo regarding the manufacture of munitions, I beg to state that the Ministry direct me to inform you that there is no intention of increasing the number of munition factories in Ireland at present, and that the statements which have recently appeared in the Press on the subject are entirely unauthorised.

The Ministry further desire me to thank you for having brought to their notice buildings in Galway which are said to be suitable for the purpose of munition factories, but they much regret they are not in a position to avail themselves of the offer to take these over.

Yours faithfully,

*F. Downie*  
Capt.

15.

GC/CSO/3/2(6)

QUARRIES { DERRYCLARE.  
CLOONACARTON.  
TOMNOUGHMORE.  
DERRYVOREADA.

# CONNEMARA GREEN MARBLE QUARRIES LTD.

TELEPHONE  
5696 REGENT.

TELEGRAMS & CABLES  
"SERVINALIM, ST. JAMES, LONDON."

CODE  
A.B.C. 5th EDITION.

24, ST. JAMES' STREET,

LONDON, S.W.

5th December, 1916.

W. G. Fogarty Esq.,  
Galway Munitions Committee,  
Courthouse, Galway.

Dear Sir,

## EARLS ISLAND WORKS.

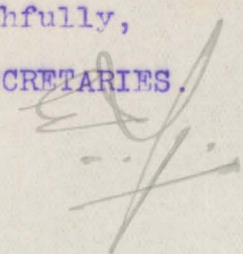
Your communication of the 24th ulto to Mr. Deakin with reference to the above property has been forwarded to us, and we are writing to inform you that the matter is receiving our attention, and we hope to write you fully with the particulars required in the course of the next few days.

We should have sent the information with this letter, but there are some matters of which we require to obtain particulars from Mr. Deakin.

In order to save delay we should be glad if you would make further communication direct to this Company at the above address, when the same will at once receive attention.

Yours faithfully,

p.p. THE SECRETARIES.



Telephones:—DUBLIN 4894, 4895, 4896, 4897.



Telegrams:—"MUNAREA," DUBLIN.

GC/CSO/3/2(5)

# MINISTRY OF MUNITIONS

(No. 10 AREA)—IRELAND.

## BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION:

### DIRECTORS:

CAPT. R. C. KELLY.  
CAPT. F. DOWNIE.  
MR. LEWIS C. GRAY, C.A.  
EVC.

32, NASSAU STREET,  
DUBLIN.

*All communications to be  
addressed to the Directors.*

REFERENCE Engr/FD.

27th November, 1916.

W.G. Fogarty, Esq.,  
Courthouse,  
Galway.

Dear Mr. Fogarty,

With reference to your letter dated 24th instant, which we received late on Saturday, regarding the manufacture of Munitions, I have to state in reply that I have forwarded your letter to the Ministry in London for attention, and on receipt of their reply shall have much pleasure in communicating with you further on the subject.

Yours faithfully,

*Downie.*  
Capt.

TELEGRAMS { INCONNOR, LONDON.  
" GALWAY.  
" RECESS.

REGISTERED OFFICE AND SHOWROOMS:  
"CARLTON-HOUSE."  
11 LOWER REGENT STREET, LONDON, S.W.

GC/CSO/3/2(4)

QUARRIES { DERRYCLARE.  
CLOONACARTON.  
TOMNOUGHMORE.  
DERRYVOREADA.

24 St James Street

# CONNEMARA GREEN MARBLE QUARRIES LTD

## Architectural Decorative Work a Speciality

PEDESTALS, COLUMNS, FONTS, PULPITS, ALTARS, REREDOSSES, CHANCEL RAILINGS, PAVEMENTS AND MOSAICS.  
*Specialities*—THE FAMOUS TRANSLUCENT, GREEN SERPENTINE MOTTLED, AND LIGHT MOSS GREEN MARBLES FOR JEWELLERY AND ORNAMENTAL PURPOSES.

SOLE AGENT FOR GERMANY, BELGIUM, HOLLAND, M. JULES ANCIAUX 6 BOULEVARD CAUCHY NAMUR BELGIQUE.

TERMS: NETT CASH 30 DAYS AFTER INVOICE.

*M. G. Fogarty Esq* *Earls Island Marble Works,*  
*Galway 24-11-1916*  
*Mar. Sec. G. H. C.*

QUOTATIONS ARE SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS:

- 1 BUYER'S ACCEPTANCE AND SELLERS' CONFIRMATION
2. DELIVERY AT A DATE IS SUBJECT TO STRIKES, LOCK-OUTS, ACCIDENTS, FAILURE OF MATERIAL AND OTHER UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES.
3. WHERE DELIVERY IS AT A TOWN OR PLACE, THE SELLER MAY DELIVER AT ANY STATION OR WHARF WITHIN THE DESTINATION. CARTAGE THENCE IS PAYABLE BY BUYER.
4. CASES CHARGED ADDITIONAL, BUT CREDITED IF RETURNED WITHIN 21 DAYS IN GOOD CONDITION, CARRIAGE PAID AND RETURN ADVISED TO SELLER.
5. AS THE QUARRIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGES IN SHADES AND TEXTURES, VARIATIONS FROM SAMPLES MAY POSSIBLY OCCUR, BUT IT IS GUARANTEED THAT THE MATERIAL SUPPLIED IS FROM THE QUARRY, AND BEDS OF MARBLE SELECTED.
6. UNLESS BUYER COMPLAINS WITHIN FOURTEEN DAYS IN REGARD TO BLOCKS OF MARBLE SUPPLIED AND SEVEN DAYS IN REGARD TO SAWN SLABS OR TRANSLUCENT GREEN, OR ANY WORKED MATERIALS, SUPPLIED, ALL OBJECTIONS ARE HELD AS VOID. NO COMPLAINTS CAN BE ENTERTAINED IN REGARD TO BLOCKS, SLABS, OR GOODS OF ANY DESCRIPTION INSPECTED AND BOUGHT AT THE QUARRIES OR WORKS.

*for Sir*  
They to acknowledge receipt of your favor 24<sup>th</sup> inst and to say some is having attention be receipt of reply from directors I will again write to you with the necessary particulars

*Yours. Jf.*  
*Jr. C. G. H. L. Lea*  
*H. J. Learkin*



GALWAY MUNITIONS COMMITTEE,

Courthouse, Galway.

24th. November, 1916.

Dear Captain Downie,

The Ministry's new Irish programme, for munitions, which is stated in to-day's ~~papers~~ papers, will be likely to take in every suitable building in the Country, and to employ up to 50,000 people, will be my excuse for again reminding you of the existence of a magnificent, practically new, and very extensive premises in Galway, which you have already inspected. I refer to the splendid bonded stores erected by the late H. S. Persse, situate on the banks of the canal opposite to the small Marble Works which you have already decided to utilise for a small Munitions Factory. There is huge floor space available in this building, there is water power available, and special railway siding in connection with the M. G. W. Rly. Coy. runs into the field beside the building. You have, therefore, transit either by rail or water available. It would, of course, be a very big scheme, but you will probably be unable to find in Ireland any premises of this size in such good order and with such advantages as to power and transit.

If you think there is any way of developing this idea I would be much obliged if you would give us some advice as to how we should proceed.

Yours faithfully,

Hon. Secretary.

Captain Downie,  
 Ministry of Munitions,  
 Dublin.



Gc/CSO/3/2(2)

GALWAY MUNITIONS COMMITTEE,

COURTHOUSE, GALWAY.

24th. November, 1916.

Dear Sir,

You will have seen in to-day's papers an intimation that the Ministry of Munitions are considering an elaborate programme for producing munitions in Ireland, and that every suitable building throughout the Country would be utilised. It therefore becomes desirable that the Galway Munitions Committee should have on record as full particulars as possible of any buildings available in Galway, which might be used for this purpose, so that, if an opportunity offers, the information may be placed before the Ministry of Munitions without delay and the best possible case made for Galway.

I would therefore be obliged if you would let me know in regard to

- (1) What is the suitable superficial area of the available floor space.
- (2) What is the available water power, if any, in H.P.
- (3) How is the available water power transmitted (i.e. turbine, waterwheel. )
- (4) Is the power connected to shafting.
- (5) If so, what length of shafting is available.
- (6) Is there any machinery on the premises, and if so, please give particulars.
- (7) What rent would be expected for the premises.

Yours faithfully,

Hon. Secretary.

Messrs.

Millar & Deacon.

GC/CSO/3/2(1)

### MUNITIONS SCHEME FOR IRELAND.

#### LARGE EXTENSIONS.

Under the above heading we published yesterday a paragraph taken from the *Morning Post*, and supplied to that journal by a Belfast correspondent. The paragraph stated, in effect, that the programme of the Ministry of Munitions for producing munitions in Ireland is of an elaborate kind, that every suitable building throughout the country would be utilised, and the number of workers greatly increased. Inquiries made yesterday in Dublin go to show that this statement is substantially accurate. Contracts have been placed for large quantities of munition boxes over the whole of the South of Ireland, and the programme includes the opening of a National Shell Factory in Ulster. A representative of the Ministry of Munitions is at present in the West of Ireland arranging matters in connection with a building which it is proposed to utilise as a National Shell Factory. Machinery is being provided for it, and an effort will probably be made to have it in full working order before Christmas. Only shell cases are made at present at existing factories, with the exception of one in the South, where cartridges only are made. Additional machinery is coming into the country for munition purposes, but some difficulty is still being experienced in getting all that is required. As the works increase in number the hands required to operate the machinery will, of course, also increase. Workers are being trained for the different munition departments, and, as new factories are opened, the workers so trained will be sent to them, and the knowledge they have gained by their training will be useful when applied, as it will be, to assist in qualifying inexperienced hands, drawn from the respective districts for the work.

The Chancellor of the Ireland's Exchequer has stated, in Contribution. reply to a question, that on the basis of the Budget estimate the contribution of Ireland to the revenue for 1916-17 will, roughly, be £21,733,000. He gave also the probable contributions of England and Scotland respectively but, as the aggregate for the United Kingdom amounts only to £489,660,000, as compared with an estimate of £502,000,000, and as the returns so far indicate that the estimate will be substantially exceeded, it would seem to us that the Irish contribution has been underestimated. However, the figure stated by Mr. McKenna means an increase of £3,804,000 on the contribution of 1915-16, and is no less than £10,599,500 in excess of the revenue contributed by this country in the last pre-war year. This year's contribution will be very nearly double that of 1913-14. Assuming that the expenditure on Irish services will be no greater than in 1915-16—it will probably be less—the balance available for Imperial purposes will be £9,136,000. Although we do not urge that Ireland should contribute nothing to the war expenditure, we maintain that the burden at present imposed upon her is out of all proportion to her relative taxable capacity, and that if no relief is obtained this excessive taxation will have a serious effect on her industries, and will arrest development.

#### Ireland and Munitions.

The programme of the Ministry of Munitions for producing munitions in Ireland, says the Belfast correspondent of the *"Morning Post,"* is of the most elaborate kind, and will necessitate the use of every suitable building available throughout the country. Anything up to 50,000 persons will be employed, and full use will be made of the services of women.

Galway County

Galway County Council Archives