



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

Galway County Council Archives



2013-2023
Dúch-Oifige Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
The County of Galway Section of Government

Galway County Council County Sectary's Office

Munitions (Shell Factory) file, 1916-1918

GC/CSO/3/6

Galway County Council Archives



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Identity Statement

Reference Code: IE GCCA / GC/CSO/3/6

Title: Galway County Council / County Secretary's Office / Administration/ **Munitions (Shell Factory) file**

Dates: 29 June 1916 - 13 February 1918

Level of description Item

Extent: 5pp

CONTEXT

Creator(s): Galway county Council, County Secretary's office / Galway Munitions Committee.

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

Shell Factory: File of loose material relating to the a proposed Galway National Shell Factory, including details of a meeting held on 29 June 1916 in Galway between Directors of the Irish Area, Ministry of Munitions and various Councillors, such as James McDonnell (Chairman Galway County Council), Lawson, Naughton, and McDonagh, and also Fogarty (Co. Secretary), and later correspondence relating to uses for the factory '*when it ceases to be engaged in munition work*' (23 Oct 1918).

The minutes state '*It was understood that a Factory at the Granite works could be put in working order within about three months, by which time the Galway Girls who went away to Munitions Factories on the 26th inst would be trained and available for work in their home town.*

The gentlemen who are interested in the establishment of a Shell Factory believe that the present circumstances all point to success, and think it would be very unwise to prejudice the present favourable situation, by formulating at this time any alternative Scheme...' (29 Jun 1916).

Language English

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Cartlann Chomhairle Contae na Gaillimhe '...cuimhne dhoiciméadach Chontae na Gaillimhe a shealbhu, a chaomhnú agus a dhéanamh inrochtana'
Galway County Council - Archives '...to acquire, preserve and make accessible the documentary memory of county Galway'

YOUR REFERENCE

REFERENCE

GC/CSO/3/6(5)

MD/86/176/70585.

Memorandum from the
GENERAL MANAGER,
Broadstone, Dublin.



To W.G. Fogarty Esq.,
Courthouse, Galway.
13th November 1918.

Dear Mr. Fogarty,

Needless to say I sympathise with you in your desire to keep the Factory at Galway, established for munitions purposes, going after the War, but at the moment I do not see how this Company could assist. However, I will look into the matter further, consulting Mr. Morton, and write you again.

Yours faithfully,

Mr. E. Geoghegan

Galway County Council Archives

GC/CSO/3/6 (4)

All-Ireland Munitions & Government Supplies Committee.

President :

THE LORD MAYOR OF DUBLIN.

Vice-Presidents :

THE LORD MAYOR OF CORK.

THE MAYOR OF KILKENNY.

THE MAYOR OF WATERFORD.

THE MAYOR OF CLONMEL.

THE MAYOR OF LIMERICK.

THE MAYOR OF WEXFORD.

THE MAYOR OF DROGHEDA.

THE MAYOR OF SLIGO.

SIR JAMES LONG, J.P., CORK.

JOHN O'NEILL, Esq., DUBLIN.

THE MAYOR OF LONDONDERRY.

Hon. Treasurers:

R. W. BOOTH, Esq., J.P.

H. M. DOCKRELL, Esq.

Hon. Secretary:

E. J. RIORDAN, Esq.

102-103 GRAFTON STREET,

Dublin, 23rd Octr. 19 18

W. G. Fogarty Esq.,

Galway Co. Co., Office,

Courthouse, GALWAY.

My dear Fogarty,

The All-Ireland Committee is still carrying on effectively, but the General Committee meetings are not being held as frequently as previously. However, they are called whenever important business arises.

As you know, the question of the utilisation of the National factories for Commercial purposes After the War has received a considerable amount of attention by the Committee, but it is so complex a problem that it still remains unsolved. Many of the best business minds amongst the members of the Committee have striven unsuccessfully to find a solution.

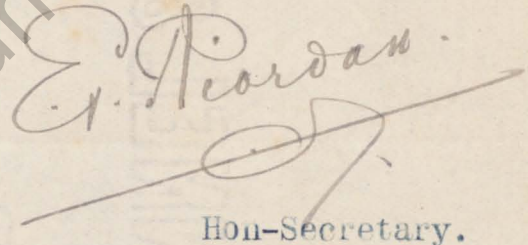
I delayed replying to your letter whilst I ~~had~~ talk^{ed} the matter over with a number of them, but I fear there is nothing further to add to what I have stated above. It looks to me

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as if it will be necessary for your local business men to put their heads together and see if they can evolve a scheme for utilising the Galway factory when it ceases to be engaged in munition work.

I shall let you have notice of the next meeting of the Committee as soon as the date is fixed.

Yours faithfully,

E. Riordan


Hon-Secretary.

E.J.R./C.T.

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Courthouse,

Galway.

11th February, 1918.

Dear Sir,

Your letter re Meeting tomorrow evening only reached me this morning, and I regret that at such short notice I am unable to alter arrangements previously made. I notice that the report of Messrs Schiller and Lumsden concerning the National factories in Ireland will be placed before the Committee for their consideration and as this is a matter in which more remote parts of the Country are particularly interested, I am all the more sorry that I cannot be at the Meeting. There are, doubtless, points in regard to the administration of particular factories which open to criticism, and there may even be points which ⁱⁿ the whole policy of (national) Factories may be criticised.

But when all is said there remains the fact that direct Governmental action is the only way in which many Districts in Ireland can hope to obtain any share in Munitions and Government supply work, and I, therefore, respectfully submit that the Committee should deal with the interests of each province having due regard to local circumstances.

Yours faithfully

E. J. Rierdan, Esq

PROPOSED GALWAY NATIONAL SHELL FACTORY

GC/CSO/3/6 (1)

Thursday, June 29th 1916

Captain S Gwynn M.P. and Captains Kelly and Downie Directors of the Irish Area, Ministry of Munitions were met on the arrival of the Mail to by Messrs McDonogh, Lawson, Cleary, Donnellan, Lyden, Naughten, Griffin Young, Kenny, Kenney, Fisher, Fogarty.

A conference was subsequently held at the Railway Hotel.

Telegram from Mr James MacDonnell, Chairman, County Council apologising for his unavoidable absence was read.

Communications were submitted as follows:.

Mr J Redmond M.P. " will do his very best to get Galway a Shell Factory"

Mr Wm O'Malley M.P. and Mr Wm Duffy M.P. will co-operate heartily with the Borough Member Captain Gwynn in furthering the project.

Captain Gwynn M.P. Saw Capt Kelly and Mr Sutherland in London, and arranged a further meeting in Dublin. Case of Galway under consideration. We have now a clear and a hopeful field.

Mr Lloyd George, Acknowledges receipt of Resolutions of County and Urban Councils and statement on behalf of Galway Shell Factory project.

All Ireland Munitions and Supplies Committee. Have forwarded special report that after consideration they are unanimously of opinion that a National Shell Factory which could be converted to suitable commercial purposes after the war could be established in Galway, and that the project is unanimously approved and recommended to the Ministry by the All-Ireland Committee in view of the need of industrial revival in Galway, and the sacrifices made by the City in men and money towards the prosecution of the War. That the local conditions as to premises, power, labour and transport have been reported to be "ideal"

Captain Gwynn addressed the meeting and described the negotiations to date, and stated that he understood a difficulty raised was in connection with the possibility of the plant being taken over locally and utilised after the War.

It was pointed out that a general engineering works in Galway would offer great possibilities of success and that such facilities as would be thereby given are much wanted in Galway. Ships break down in the Atlantic and have to be towed hundreds of miles to the North of Ireland, Cork, Scotland or Southampton. In the case of a Naval engagement in the Atlantic Galway would be the nearest port for re-fitting, there is also need for facilities for motor making and repairs; for the making of agricultural implements, and the repairing of machinery of local woolen and other works which have now to be done at other centres necessitating delay and loss.

Captain Kelly stated there was a difficulty in obtaining material and machinery for Shell Factories, and suggested that other work (bandoliers were mentioned) might be obtained.

Asked as to whether the work he had in mind would prejudice the claim of Galway for a Shell Factory Captain Kelly replied that he would not like to.

After discussion the view of the meeting was that the suggestion that materials for Shell making were unobtainable was one that could not be seriously taken, while as to machinery Galway had been assured that machinery could be obtained within a few months.

It was understood that a Factory at the Granite works could be put in working order within about three months, by which time the Galway Girls who went away to Munition Factories on the 26th inst would be trained and available for work in their home town.

The gentlemen who are interested in the establishment of a Shell Factory believe that the present circumstances all point to success, and think it would be very unwise to prejudice the present favourable situation, by formulating at this time any alternative Scheme.

The town is depleted of nearly all its available men for the Army and Navy; there is plenty of labour available for a Shell Factory, while it would be difficult if not impossible to organise labour for any needlework scheme which would make any appreciable improvement in the circumstances of the town. Intense local interest is taken in the Shell Factory project.

Captains Downie and Kelly subsequently inspected the Granite works the old Bonded Stores, and the Distillery. It was understood that the Granite Works in size and general suitability offered the best site for the proposed factory.

The thanks of the meeting was cordially tendered to Captains Gwynn, Kelly and Downie.