
MOUNTBELLEW
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL
ARCHIVES COLLECTION

1899 - 1923

G01/6



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INTRODUCTION

This archive collection consists of an incomplete series of Mountbellew Rural District Council minute books (1898-1923), together with one rough minute book, and one Roads Ledger. The collection is generally in good condition.

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCILS

Rural District Councils were set up under the Local Government (Ireland) Act of 1898. Their powers were conferred upon them by Section 27 to 39 of the Act.

The Council assumed responsibility for the road and public works functions of the Grand Juries where the cost had been borne by the district, and the housing and public health functions of the Boards of Guardians. In the early years of County Councils much of the routine business was transacted through these Councils. The Poor Law Guardians were also the Rural District Councillors; the same individuals but working in a separate capacity.

The Councils played an important administrative role in the period pre-dating the formation of an independent Irish state, and when democratic local government was first established and developing in Ireland. The Councils were dissolved in October 1925 under Section 8, Sub-section (2), (3), and (4) of the Local Government Act of that year. Their functions were transferred, under the Local Government Act of 1925, to the county councils. County councils were in turn required to discharge their new sanitary duties through boards of health and public assistance.¹ These boards also had responsibility for the supervision of county homes, hospitals and dispensaries, housing, water and sewerage, home assistance and a number of schemes including blind welfare, boarded out children, infectious diseases, tuberculosis and the school medical service.

The Boards of Health and Public Assistance survived until August 1942 when the administration of public assistance and sanitary matters came under the direct control of the County Council acting through the new county managers. Medical Health Officers were appointed and were responsible for the effective administration of the legislation for safeguarding public health.

¹ Guidelines for Local Authority Archives Services, 1996



MOUNTBELLEW RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

The Rural District Council meetings, commonly held in the Boardroom of the Workhouse, were generally held twice a month and then only if the required quorum of Councillors was in attendance. There were usually 34 elected and/or co-opted members of Council; from *circa* 1920 the number was reduced to 17. It appears the Council may have been quite progressive in its early years as it had three female Councillors, namely, Lady Bellew, Lady Clonbrock, and Mrs May Burke. Lists of elected members are often found in various contemporary directories such as Slaters or Pigots, or indeed may often be found in local contemporary newspapers.

The Council's geographical area of responsibility included the electoral divisions of Annagh, Balinakill, Caltra, Castleblakeney, Clonbrock, Cooloo, Derryglassun, Killeroran, Killian, Mountbellew, Mount Hazel, and Taughbog.

This incomplete collection consists primarily of minute books recording the proceedings – with gaps - of Council meetings held between 1899 and 1923. The minutes illustrate the range of topics of concern and interest to the Council, and record together with general and financial business proceedings, the minutes of the Sanitary Authority, and proceedings conducted under the Labourers (Ireland) Acts. The Council was thus concerned with a variety of issues from contemporary political and social matters, to public health and sanitary issues.

The Council held its inaugural meeting on 15 April 1899. Mr Andrew Kenny was elected the Council's first Chairman. A contemporary newspaper reported that all the newly established District Councils in Ireland '*...appointed their chairmen and ex-officio representatives by law authorised and so far commenced the first chapter of what promises to be a new ere in the administrative life of this country. For good or ill, for better or for worse...the new bodies are launched upon a hitherto stormy sea of Irish life and it is to be hoped that, from a sense of patriotism if from no other consideration, the Councils now commencing their careers will by all classes and at all hands be accorded a fair trial neither condemned beforehand for inefficiency nor unduly commended for efficiency but given full, unprejudiced and honest trial....*².

The Council resolved at one of its early meetings, in November 1899, that the bust of Daniel O'Connell would form the seal of the Rural District Council (G01/6/1, p148). However, due to the estimated cost of the Seal the issue caused some debate. A notice of motion proposed that the '*Order for procuring a Seal with the Bust of Daniel O'Connell be rescinded and that a perfectly plain Seal be procured as £7 or £8 pounds is quiet too much to spend on a Seal while one can be procured for about 10/ (shillings)*' (G01/06/1, p196). Nevertheless at its meeting the

² Tuam Herald, 22 April 1899



following month the Council resolved to accept a tender for a brass Seal with the bust of O'Connell for 37/6 (G01/06/1, p246).

The provision of water pumps, and in particular the provision of sewerage schemes in Mountbellew and Ballygar, plagued the Council for many years. It was pre-occupied during its first 10 years with the provision of water pumps and the need to deal with the provision of and funding for sewers and sewerage systems in the district. At one of its early meetings the minutes record *'That the District Council having carefully considered the question of pumps at a previous meeting unanimously resolved to defer the undertaking of new works until the end of the first year. This question being such an important one that they consider it wiser to first see where they are most necessary'* (G01/6/1, p48).

However, the procrastination over the construction of sewers and the resultant unsanitary condition in Mountbellew and its environs caused the Local Government Board to rebuke the Rural District Council for its lack of action to remedy the situation. In July 1901 the Board referring to previous correspondence stating that *'respecting the various sanitary works which require to be executed in the Mount Bellew Rural District, i.e. the improvement of the sewerage of Mount Bellew, and of the water supplies of Mullaghmore, Graigue, Ballinruan, and Lower Ballagh, the Local Government Board for Ireland desire to point out the grave responsibility of the Council incur in neglecting to remedy the Sanitary defects which have been frequently brought under their notice by the Medical Officer of Health, and by the Boards Medical Inspector, especially in view of the serious outbreak of fever which has recently occurred in the District. The Board trust that the Council will immediately take the necessary steps to improve the sanitation of the portion of the Rural District referred to'* (G01/6/3, p299).

The Board, deflecting from normal practice, allowed that the area of charge for the expenses to be incurred in connection with these works be restricted to the Dispensary District concerned (G01/6/3, p299). However, the issue was not solved at that point. The Rural District Council still objected to the system of rating, and passed a lengthy resolution on the issue concluding with the statement that *'We therefore consider that principle of Rural District rating for Sanitary works is not only false economy for ratepayers, but is depriving townlands in need of these works of any chance whatever of having their wants supplied. And we therefore have that the old system of charging the area benefiting by such work be again adopted...'*(G01/6/3, pp353-364).

A loan of £870 was sanctioned by the Local Government Board for the erection of pumps in the District (G01/6/4, p59).



In October 1907 the sanitary conditions in Mountbellew were still poor. A report from the Medical Officer, Dr Monaghan, stated that the '*...streets of Mount Bellew and the roads in the immediate vicinity are in a filthy and unsanitary condition and a danger to the public health*' (G01/6/8, p428a). He recommended that they be '*...cleaned up and the street or road scrapings be not allowed to accumulate on the public thoroughfare as their decomposition gives off an offensive and dangerous odour*' (G01/6/8, p428a). However, due to a gap in the Minutes when or how the issue was finally resolved is not identified³.

Under the Labourers Acts the Council was involved in the provision and maintenance of labourers cottages, taking advantage of the various housing loan schemes available under the Labourers (Ireland) Acts 1883 (46 & 47 Vict. C.60), and 1885 (48 & 49 Vict. C.77). Under this legislation the Council applied in the first instance to the Local Government Board, who in turn applied to the Board of Works giving its recommendation that the loan be granted⁴. By 1923 a total of 45 labourers' cottages had been completed.

In addition to the provision of housing the Council was responsible for the building, maintenance and repairs of local roads.

During the turbulent War of Independence years the Council recognised Dáil Eireann and '*...consigned to the waste paper basket*' a letter received from the Local Government Board (G01/6/20, 10 August 1920).

Following the abolition of Rural District Councils in September 1925 the County Galway Board of Health adopted a Scheme, establishing various committees, for the administration of the works transferred to it under the Sanitary Acts, Labourers Acts, Burial Grounds Acts and so on. The East Galway Committee comprised of the rural districts of Mountbellew and Ballinasloe, with the permanent office in Mountbellew, and Mr R Halvey, Mountbellew Rural District Council Clerk was appointed Clerk to the Committee⁵.

Overall this collection illustrates various aspects of local administration and democratic government during one of the most significant periods in Irish republican history. Commencing with records created when the authority, and county, was under British rule, and ending with records recording the authority's recognition of Dáil Eireann. It should therefore be of immense interest to administrative, economic, political, social, and local historians. The latter in particular should learn much from the collection about the development of the Mountbellew district's

³ Where gaps in the minutes occur local newspapers should be consulted for reports of the meetings.

⁴ The Archives of the Office of Public Works at the National Archives of Ireland, Dublin contains a substantial quantity of records relating to the various schemes and may be of value to those seeking further information on this topic. See *Guide to the Archives of the Office of Public Works*, Rena Lohan, The Stationery Office, Dublin 1994, (pp256-257).

⁵ County Galway Board of Health & Public Assistance collection, GC5/3, pp171-172.



infrastructure – the building of roads and bridges – and the provision and growth of various public and health related services, such as water and sewerage schemes.

The item reference number (e.g. G01/6/15) should be used in full when citing documents or records, and each reference cited should be preceded by the initial GCCA (Galway County Council Archives, e.g. GCCA G01/6/15).

Place names are generally given as they appear in the records.

The extracts from the various minutes listed herewith are intended as a representation of the proceedings. The purpose of their inclusion is to give the reader an indication of the diversity of the Council's areas of concern and responsibility. However, given the volume and multiplicity of the Council's work it is not practical in this instance to include an extract highlighting every single district, time and aspect mentioned in the minutes.

Readers are also requested not to view as definitive the appended list of District Councillors. Lists of elected members are often found in various contemporary directories, such as Thoms, Slaters or Pigots, and in contemporary local newspapers.

Disclosure Requirement

As much of the information in this collection clearly identifies families and individuals researchers are requested, in order to prevent possible distress or embarrassment to near descendants, to sign a disclosure form prior to consulting the records verifying a willingness not to cite specific names in research work.

Acknowledgment

The microfilming of the collection was facilitated by a grant from the Heritage Council in 2003.

(NOTE: In the microfilmed version of volume G01/6/20, minutes for 10 August 1920 include a page relating to Records Management, which was inserted into the volume and microfilmed in error; it does not relate to the collection).

Patria McWalter
Archivist



Related Collections

Records held by Galway County Council Archives :

- Mountbellew Poor Law Union, 1850-1921
- Galway County Council Minutes, GC/1/
- County Galway Board of Health & Public Assistance, GC5/

Records held at the National Archives of Ireland

- Office of Public Works, OPW

Records held at the National Library of Ireland

- Bellew Papers, of Mountbellew c.1750-1860, Collection List 33

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Appendices

Appendix A**List of some of the members of Council[⊗]**

Lists of elected members are often found in various contemporary directories such as Thoms, Slaters or Pigots, or indeed may often be found in contemporary local newspapers.

Bellew, Lady Sophia Grattan	Gavin, Michael
Bellew, Sir Henry Grattan	Gilmore, James
Bracken, John	Gilmore, T.
Browne, Ed	Glynn, Tim
Burke, Mrs May	Grainger, Thomas
Burke, Thomas J.	Geraghty, P.M.
Carr, Michael	Hans, C.
Carroll, J.	Haverty,
Clonbrock, Lady Augusta	Hynes, Thomas
Clonbrock, Lord	Johnston, Samuel
Collins,	Joyce, John,
Coppenger, John	Keane, T.
Costello, M.	Kelly, John
Cornwall, Thomas	Kelly, Martin
Crehan, John	Kelly, M.J. (Taughboy E.D.)
Cunningham, John	Kelly, M
Daly, Thomas	Kelly, T.
Dillon, The Honourable R.E.	Kenny, Andrew (Chairman 1899 – 1905)
Dillon, M.	Kenny, Thomas.
Donoghoe, M.	Keogh, J.
Egan, Michael	Kilgannon, T.
Egan, Owen	Killelea
Fahy, Martin	Kinsella, P.
Fallon, Bernard	Leonard, Thomas
Fallon, Michael	Loghan, Thomas
Farrell, J.	Lohan, Christy
Fitzmaurice, John	Lohan, John

[⊗] Not to be taken as a definitive list



Lohan, Thomas (+1911)
Lyons, Patrick
Mannion, Laurence
Morris, John
Nolan, P. (Kelglass)
Noone, Laurence
O'Connor, Patrick
Quinn, M.
Ryan,

Staunton, John
Tannian, James
Tierney, Martin
Tannian, Thomas
Taylor, W.
Verdon, Bernard (Taughboy E.D.)
Wall, M.
Ward, John

Clerk of Council

Halvey, Roderick (1899 – 1925)



[Appendix B](#)

ELECTORAL DIVISIONS COVERED BY

Annagh
Ballyinakill
Caltra
Castleblakeney
Castlefrench
Clonbrock
Cloonkeen
Cooloo
Derryglassun
Killeroran
Killian
Mountbellew
Mount Hazel
Taghbog



ABBREVIATIONS

Co.Co.	County Council
D.C.	District Councillor
I.R.A	Irish Republican Army
J.P.	Justice of Peace
L.G.B.	Local Government Board
M.P.	Member of Parliament
R.D.C.	Rural District Council



MOUNTBELLEW
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A. Minutes of Mountbellew Rural District Council, 1899 - 1923

Volumes of minutes of proceedings of Council meetings, which were generally held twice monthly. The minutes record attendance at the meetings, together with proceedings of Council business conducted under various legalisation relating to the administration of the district under various headings such as general, financial, sanitary and labourers' cottages. The proceedings of the Council acting as the 'Sanitary Authority' relate to health and sanitary conditions, such as the prevention of disease and the care and management of burial grounds, sewerage systems, and water supply. The proceedings under the 'Labourers Acts' relate to the provision and maintenance of labourers' cottages. The minutes record resolutions proposed and resolved or rejected by the Council. They also include details of correspondence received, generally from the Local Government Board and actions required thereafter.

Minutes are generally signed by the Chairman and witnessed by the Secretary.

Average size circa 420pp

1. 14 August 1899 – 26 March 1900 Includes entries such as,
 - Transcript of report from Dr O'Kelly, Medical Officer, regarding the sewerage of Mountbellew town wherein he states 'That the sewerage of Mountbellew is very bad, the smell from the sewers at the corner of the village, particularly near the Hotel is sufficient to cause some dangerous epidemic. I have frequently brought this matter under your notice and no action has been taken. Take care will it be done when too late. I therefore respectfully urge you to adopt immediate measures to remedy the existing state of the sewers and the general unsanitary condition of the town' (p32).
 - 'Resolved, that in cases where the County Surveyor thinks it advisable to retain money from road Contractors for not fulfilling their specification that the County Surveyor or his assistant be requested to point out defects to such Contractors at the quarterly meeting, an give them at least 10 days notice to have such defects remedied and if the Contractors have the work done to his satisfaction in that time that the Contractors be paid their money at next quarterly meeting' (pp775-76).



- 'Resolved, That we the Rural District Council of Ballinasloe decide to draw the attention of the Local Government Board for the reconsideration of the following:-
"We are informed that all new Works under the Labourers Acts are a District Charge and we are further of opinion of such a system will grievously (sic) burden the large majority of ratepayers who have no interest or benefit from new works, wells or cottages outside their divisions and naturally better cause of creating violent competition for new works and cottages in the several divisions of a District in order to equalise the benefits owing to a District charge such a system even reasonably pursued would swamp a District.
We are also of opinion all new works wells, and new roads not a County at Large Charge should be divisional charges then the ratepayers in the several divisions will be interested in preventing bogus charges on the rates", Adopted.' (pp146-147).
- 'Resolved:- That we the Mount Bellew District Council protest against the extra levy of a farthing in the £, struck by the Board of Management of Galway Hospital, and that we request the County Council of Galway, not to sanction it, as we consider that such extra levy would not be required if the Institution was properly managed' (p407).
- 'Circular from the Local Government Board stating that their attention has been recently drawn to the diversity of practice which exists in different parts of Ireland in regard to the closing of schools with a view to prevent the spread of infectious disease; and the Board therefore think it desirable to address the Sanitary Authority on the subject.
The provisions of the Public Health Acts bearing on the subject are section 144 and 146 of the Public Health (Ireland) Act 1878 are' (p413).
- Letter from the Local Government Board advised that Council that 'The prices of Labourers Cottages vary in different Districts, according to the design selected, and the facilities for obtaining building materials, the cost where an inexpensive plan of house is adopted, including the purchase of land and the legal and other incidental expenses varies from £100 to £120 each' (p458).



2. 2 April 1900 – 13 November 1900 Includes entries such as,
- Report from the Medical Officer, Joseph O’Kelly advising that at ‘Ballagh, Ballinruane, Derryglassaun and the Sunhill there is a great want of pure water. I reported this matter on 31 July 1899 and it has since been strongly advocated by Members of the Council and sites selected I am informed by your Engineer. The Parish Priest has also come before you on two or three occasions and spoke of the great importance of supplying the inhabitants of those villages with water. Then the moment the question of pumps arises, opposing crowds of people from other localities appear at your board and in obedience to their clamour the subject id dropped. It is plainly to be seen that no pumps will be put down by the Council unless commanded by the Local Government Board and I trust that measure will be take. A deputation of women from the Village of Ballinruane appeared before the Board on Monday 16th instant imploring to be supplied with pure water’ (p334, see also p374, p413).
 - ‘...Read report from Mr O’ Kelly Medical Officer of Health stating that he visited the Police Barrack at Menlough on two occasions, and on consideration be believes that if the Police had the privy frequently cleaned out, it would probably remedy the complaint. He also states that there is away at the back of closet, to remove the collection of nuisance etc’ (p475).
3. 27 November 1900 – 3 September 1901 Includes entries such as,
- ‘Resolved – That we the District Council of Mount Bellew express entire approval of the Bill promoted by the Great Southern and Western Railway Company, this Session, to obtain running powers from Athenry to Athlone on the M.G.W. Railway systems and we have no doubt but that it would for the benefit of this District by assisting to develop trade and agriculture and afford a much needed efficient Railway Service and we recommend it to the favourable consideration of all the Irish Members of Parliament in particular the Members of this County whom we respectfully urge the (sic) to strenuously support the measure’ (p348, see also p118).



- Proposal to ‘...borrow the sum of £600, repayment to be extended over the period of 15 years, for the purpose of making 1208 perches of a road from Cloonrilagh to Annaghmore, in the townlands of Springlawn and Annaghmore...’ was unanimously adopted by Council (p79).
- ‘The Council this day appointed a committee under the Agricultural and Technical Instruction Act, consisting of 9 Members of the Council and 12 who are not Members’ (p134)
- ‘That we the Mount Bellew District Council protest in the strongest manner, against the form of Oath taken by the King (Edward VII) on the occasion of His Coronation, as it singled out the Roman Catholic Religion for special insult. It is deplorable that such a ceremony was made the occasion of reminding million of Loyal Catholic subjects of penal times, and persecutions which belonged to a barbarous past, and we call on our Government to consign that remnant of past bigotry to the oblivion which it deserves...’ (p150, see also p167, p198).
- ‘Letter from the Local Government Board, to inform the District Council that the Medical Officer of Clonbrock Dispensary District in Mount Bellew Union, has furnished his return Form L for the past quarter on an obsolete form, and requesting that none of the old forms be in future supplied to the Medical Officers’ (p220a).
- ‘Read report from Dr O’Kelly, Medical Officer of Health, stating that he finds the people of Mount Bellew the slowest in cleaning their houses etc, and some of them are loudest in talking and laying down the law. I recommend that prompt measures be (taken) to make the people to observe even common decency. There are very few privies, and the demesne around Mount Bellew is a network of human excrement’ (p285)
- ‘Resolved that we the Mount Bellew Rural District Council protest against the position occupied in the program of the Board of Intermediate Education and against the insult sought to put on the language and Nation thereby We claim, as Irishmen and as having an interest in the education of our young fellow County men to have the Irish language made a compulsory subject in all the grades’ (p310).



- 'Resolved : That in compliance with the L.G.B. letter of the 25th of July, giving their reasons for Rural District Rating for sanitary works and requesting our views on same.

We are of opinion that the reasons given for Rural District rating are insufficient, as the trouble of making special levies on limited areas for sanitary works as formerly done should be more than provided for by the large amount at present paid for Clerical Work, besides this small inconvenience is not sufficient reason for imposing a tax- say for the sewerage of a small town on people living 10 miles from there, people who never saw one penny of public money spend within a mile of their homes, and who perhaps find it hard to eke out an existence on a bog or mountain hamlet, where these works are really needed the people there are willing and anxious to bear the cost themselves, but as the L.G.B. refuse to sanction a loan on these limited areas, the Representatives of other Divisions thou want the scheme, therefore the works most in need of being done are note done, it is only works for which most influence can be raised that are likely to be done.

Rural District Council rating also encourages a number of bogus claims, from localities where a water supply is not urgently needed. When the people see they are about being saddled with expenses for pumps elsewhere, they wish to get the same for themselves, and try to condemn their present water supply. We therefore consider that principle of Rural District rating for Sanitary works is not only false economy for ratepayers, but is depriving townlands in need of these works of any chance whatever of having their wants supplied. And we therefore have that the old system of charging the area benefiting by such work be again adopted...'(pp353-364)

(4.)

5. 2 December 1902 – 8 June 1904 Includes entries such as,

- 'Resolved, That we the Members of the Mount Bellew Rural District Council, representing as we do the opinions and aspirations of the people of this District heartily approve of and rejoice at the successful efforts of the Tenants and Landlords representatives at the recent Land Conference by unanimously formulating the basis of a Scheme for the final settlement of the Land Question. That the discontinuance of duel ownership, the creation of ownership, the



enlargement of small holdings, and the re-distribution of the land, is the only solution of the Irish Land problem, which would bring peace, prosperity, and contentment to our people of all creeds and classesand we call upon the Government to have the report of the Land Conference embodied in an Act of Parliament next Session with such amendments as may be essential for the successful operation of the Act' (pp39-40)⁶.

- 'Resolved – Being of opinion that the proposals contained in the Land Bill now before Parliament for relief of Congested Districts and the enlargement of small holdings and for the general acquirement of grass lands for cultivation are altogether insufficient, and falls far short of being a final settlement of the Land Question.

We urge upon the Government, the desirability and absolute necessity of conferring compulsory powers on the Congested Districts Board, and on the estate Commissioners who will be appointed under the bill, to purchase these vast grazing tracts for the purposes set forth in their resolution, thus putting the people back upon the land and stemming the tide of emigration' (pp93-94).

- The Council express its regret on learning that William O'Brien resigned his seat in Parliament, his membership of the Directory of the United Irish League, and the withdrawal of the Irish People newspaper, and appealed to him 'to re-consider it and withdraw his resignation, for the sake of the county he loves so well, and has worked for with such unselfish devotion, and not paralyse the organisation of which he is the founder and champion, an organisation which by his genius, energy and patriotism, has brought the Irish cause to the very threshold of a complete and final victory...' (p295).
- 'Ordered That the Local Government Board be requested to sanction a combined loan of £200 for sinking wells and erecting pumps at Kilmore and Rushestown, and the necessary maps, specifications etc, relative to the Rushestown pump be forwarded to the L.G. Board. Similar documents in relation to Kilmore well being at present in the L.G. Board office' (p315, see also p396).

⁶ The Papers of Captain John Shawe-Taylor, Castle Taylor, Ardrahan, 1890 – [1909], G01/4 held by Galway County Council might be of interest



6. 14 June 1904 – 21 February 1905 Includes entries such as
- 'Letter from Board of Public Works to inform the Council that the Lord Commissioners of his Majesty's Treasury have sanctioned a loan of £200 to the Council for the purpose of sinking wells and erecting pumps at Kilmore and Rushestown, the loan to be repaid in 20 years with interest @ 3½ per annum and will be issued to the Council in 3 installments of £76, £75, £50. Also enclosing a receivable Order for a sum of £1.1.0 to meet expenses' (p27, see also p39).
 - 'Read letter from the Local Government Board drawing the attention of the Rural District Council to the fact that the triennial election of RD Councils will take place in the coming year, and with reference thereto, I am to point out the necessity that exists of including in the R.D. Estimate and Demand for the year '05-06 a sufficient sum to enable the Council to meet expenses in connection with the elections in question under Article t of the Schedule to the Local Government (application of enactments) Order 1898' (p150).
 - 'Resolved – That we the Mount Bellew Rural District Council desire to give expression of our strong disapproval of the action of the Co. Council for having passed a resolution under Clause 13 of Local Government Act '98, taxing 3^D in the £ for the purpose of giving Outdoor Relief, in the Unions of Clifden and Oughterard. We consider it's unfair and unjust to tax the whole county for the benefit of two or more Unions and we furthermore say that it's the duty of the Imperial Government to come to the aid of distressed Unions by opening up Relief Works which will be of a permanent benefit to the districts, as well as giving employment to the people and that the money expended on such works, be paid by the Treasury, who are robbing the Country of 3 millions a year in over taxation and not levy it off the county, which is already taxed to its utmost capacity (pp167-168).

192pp

(7.)



8. 18 September 1906 - 15 October 1907 Includes entries such as,
- 'Read letter stating I am directed by the Local Government Board to state that they have had before them the petition of the Mount Bellew R. District Council praying for a Provisional Order confirming an Improvement Scheme under the Labourers Acts which they have made in respect of 3 Electoral Divisions of the District and stating that the Board have appointed their Inspector Mr R Fitzpatrick to hold a local inquiry as to the propriety of confirming the Scheme and to proceed to make such order in the matter as he may think proper in pursuance of Section 6(l) of the Act of 1906' (p88).
 - Letter from the Local Government Board calling attention to the '...grave danger to the health of the inhabitants of the district which arises from the objectionable control of allowing accumulations of manure to remain in proximity to dwelling houses and they trust that the Council will adopt prompt measures for the abatement of this form of nuisance' (p121).
 - Report of the Local Government Board's Inspector, Mr Fitzpatrick on the progress of work pertaining to the Rushestown well and pump and the 'Kilmore Pump. With reference to the latter he states 'This is progressing very slowly and pressure ought to be brought to bear on the contractor to oblige him to complete his contract without any further delay. I understand that the contractor commenced work on this well 3 years ago last July.
The well has been sunk to a depth of 67 ft and is now full of water, the Contractor has the stones on the ground for dry lining, but has done nothing further for some time' (p143).
 - Letter from the Lord Clonbrock stating that 'after the meeting of the Council on February 19th I received a notice from you that a Sites Committee for the Clonbrock Dispensary District had been appointed consisting of the Priests, the Councillors and Medical Officers of the district with Mr Lyons as Chairman and that the Chairman had been requested to arrange meeting with Councillors and Engineer.
I therefore, expected to receive notice from the Chairman of the meeting of the Committee I however receive no such notice, and I hear that the Committee did meet and select sites for Labourer Cottages in various parts of the districts without my being informed that they were about to do so.
But I am also informed that no notice was sent to all the occupiers of the land



on which it was proposed to erect the cottages. It is laid down in the order of the Local Government Board that such notice should be given before any scheme is adapted by the Council and I would therefore submit to the Council that they should instruct the Committee to communicate with all occupiers concerned, before they draw up their report to the Council as otherwise the proceedings will be illegal' (p231, 233).

- 'Letter from Local Government Board stating I am directed by the Local Government Board to state that they have sanctioned the loan of £1,120 applied for by the Council to enable them to carry out the Improvement Scheme Authorised by the Mount Bellew Labourers Order 1907 for the first installment of the loan to £300...' (p303).
- 'That we the Members of Mount Bellew Rural District Council condemn the action of Lord Clonbrock in the strongest possible manner by stating in the House of Lords recently that Ireland was in a state of lawlessness and property insecure and that we [stigmatize] his constant misrepresentation of Ireland while for miles [around] Clonbrock property everything is mild, law-abiding and respectful to property and no case of intimidation or boycotting as stated by his Lordship...' (p325).
- Report from the A.C. Callaghan, Medical Officer regarding the in-sanitary conditions in Caltra (p428).

9. 3 December 1907 – 29 December 1908 Includes entries such as,

- Report from Dr Ffrench, Medical Officer of the Killerorana Dispensary District, stating that '...there is an outbreak of Enteric Fever in Ballygar due to water in one of the pumps getting polluted. I recommend that the wells be cleaned out and the pumps secured from any further pollution. I consider it absolutely necessary that a new well be sunk and a pump provided in central and secure position in Ballygar...' (p468).
- 'Resolved – That we the District Council in meeting assembled protest and condemn in the strongest possible manner the action of the Government in retaining an extra force of police in various constabulary districts throughout the prison, we consider it not alone a direct insult to the peaceful and law-abiding



inhabitants therein but also an incumbrance on the already overburdened ratepayer, as the presence of such a large force is unnecessary.

We call upon the Authorities responsible for their immediate removal' (p218, see also p344).

- 'Letter from the Local Government Board relating to the area of charge for expenses in connection with the proposed sewerage works for Mount Bellew and Ballygar and pointing out that the Council do not appear to have considered the effect of confining the charge for the works in question to a restricted area as indicated by the Board in their letter of 9th ulto' (p247).
- 'Letter from Local Government Board sanctioning the Loan of £5,950 applied for by the District Council under the Labourers Acts' (p249).

(10.-11.)

12. 22 August 1911 – 15 July 1913 Includes entries such as,

- Report of the Clerk of Works regarding building of 45 labourers cottages stating that 'Some of the Cottages appear to have been built by men who had little or no knowledge of building, construction, or material, and in a few cases the entire work is very bad.
The Joinery in connection with Design A, appears to have been beyond the Contractor, and generally the joinery is bad, a remark which applies also to the concreting and plastering is a good many cases...' (p22 August 1911).
- 'Letter from the Local Government Board stating they observe an entry in the Minutes of Council's proceedings on 14th inst., of the Board's letter of the 30th ulto. pointing out the necessity of providing proper system of sewerage for Mount Bellew and Ballygar, and with reference to the order made by the Council thereon, the Board state that in the event of a formal complaint being addressed to them as to the default on the part of the Sanitary Authority in providing these portions of the District with sewers etc., the Board will be obliged to take action in the matter under Section 15 of the Public Health Act (Ireland) 1896 (19 December 1911).
- Includes Clerk of Works report on repairs carried out on various labourers' cottages (19 December 1911).



- Letter from the Local Government Board in connection with the Ballygar Sewerage Scheme wherein the Board ‘...think it well to remind the Council of the various complaints which have been made to them by residents in Ballygar, as to the delay in carrying out these much needed sanitary works, which the Council now appear to have decided to abandon, and wish to point out [to] the Council that the area of charge was fixed in each case by their sealed orders dated 8th August 1908, and to intimate that in the event of a complaint being made to them, alleging the Council's default in this matter under Section of the Public Health (Ireland) Act, 1896 the Board will consider the propriety of holding an inquiry into the Representation, in accordance with the terms of the Section quoted’ (4 June 1912,p18).
- The Council ‘...direct that their (sic) shall be placed on the Minutes, a record of the high appreciation in which he is held by them, fully cognisant as they are of his demeanour on all occasions often under troublesome and trying circumstances’ (16 July 1912, p1).
- The Council ‘...cordially and sincerely congratulate Mr J Redmond and his faithful colleagues, on the triumphant passage of Home Rule Bill through the House of Commons, and we also desire to express our gratitude and thanks to the Liberal and Labour parties so nobly and skillfully led by Mr Asquith for the untiring and unflinching support given by them to the Bill through all its stages. That we emphatically condemn the House of Lords in rejecting the Bill and their audacious attempt to thwart the will of the overwhelming majority of the Democracies of Great Britain and Ireland, as expressed through their representatives, both inside and outside Parliament’ (11 February 1913, p2).

(13-19.)



20. 15 June 1920 – 13 November 1923

- Extract from the Medical Officer's of Health Report stated '...there are no systems of sewerage in the Rural District, but merely drains for the conveyance of surface water. The existing drain in Ballygar, which is situated at the rear of houses on the Chapel side of the town, was in a very bad state on the occasion of my inspection, and surface water contaminated with fluid manure, was lying stagnant in this locality. It would be necessary to extend this drain and put it in proper working order, as at present its condition constitutes a dangerous and unsightly nuisance' (13 July, 1920, p13).

- Letter from the Local Government Board 'I am directed by the Local Government Board for Ireland to state that their attention has been called to the series of resolutions passed by certain local authorities in Ireland repudiating the authority of the Imperial Parliament and declaring their intention to place very obstacle in the way of the existing administration under His Majesty's Government.
In view of the possible effect of this policy upon the responsibilities of the Departments acting under the control of Parliament, which regulate the issue of loans and subsidies to public bodies in Ireland, the Government have given the Board explicit instructions that no loans or grants from public funds for authority without a definite assurance that they will submit their accounts to audit and be prepared to conform to the rules and orders of the Local Government Board as heretofore.....
In this connection, the Board desire to point out that the new Councils seem to be under a misconception as to the purport of the regulations and orders of the Local Government Board. These orders were not framed with a view of restricting the authority of the Councils, their sole object and intention is to secure efficiency and uniformity in the system of administration, and to safeguard the interests of ratepayers throughout the country.
ORDER: That above communication be consigned to the waste paper basket' (10 August 1920, p1).

- 'It was ordered that Pat Killelea of Bohill, who was wounded by gun fire, be removed to a Dublin Hospital, as recommended by Dr Callaghan' (14 December 1920, p11).



- 'Read letter from Dail Eireann dated 13th Dec. 1920, relative to the absolute necessity for all Public Bodies to safeguard their financial interests against "inequitable seizure" and suggesting that if each member of Council set himself to secure the lodging of say £50 to a dozen or twenty people, the sums so lodged to be deemed collateral security against an overdraft to the Council's Representatives while each individual acting in this way as security would have as his security against loss the rates of the County' (11 January 1921, p1).
- '...we the Members of the Mountbellew R. District Council condemn in the strongest possible manner the dastardly outrage committed in our midst, namely the burning of Mr Hession's farm produce, on the night of 26th or the morning of 27th of September, we ask the co-operation of all patriotic Irishmen in our condemnation, and furthermore we are of the opinion that the perpetrators (sic) of such acts are enemies to Ireland (sic) cause' (4 October 1921, p1).
- 'We the members of the Mountbellew R.D. Council extend our heartiest welcome to our colleague Mr Thos. Collins, on his release after prolonged internment & we take this opportunity to thank himself and the other internees from this district for the noble service they have rendered to Irelands cause' (17 January 1922, p1).
- 'That we the Members of the Rural District Council present at this meeting dissociate ourselves from the action of the Chairman of the late Board of Guardians in organising opposition to rate paying in this District. That we think the County Galway Branch of the Farmers Association should have some better Agricultural Policy to put before the Farmers than trying to get them organised against paying rates which are used for the upkeep of the aged and infirm and otherwise afflicted persons in the County....'(12 June 1922, p1).
- 'Read letter from the Ministry for Local Government stating that they have observed that at the close of the last half year, there were large rent arrears outstanding in the District. The Ministry are prepared to make allowances for the exceptional period through (which) our Country is passing, but they are confident that if the Collectors are energetic in the pursuit of their duties, these arrears can be reduced.....(12 December 1922, p15)



B. Draft Minutes, 1908 - 1910

21. 8 September 1908 – 10 June 1910
- Volume of draft minutes of proceedings of Council meetings, setting out in rough form the proceedings of Council business conducted under various legislation relating to the administration of the district under various headings such as general, financial, sanitary and labourers' cottages. The minutes primarily record resolutions proposed and resolved or details of letters received and read.

C. Roads Ledger, 1914-1916

22. 17 July 1914 – 14 July 1916
- Volume recording expenditure on roads under headings such as road number, amount available £, ganger's name, date certified, amount for labour, materials tools and so on, and gross total of pay sheet.
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