

34. But they had the question under consideration?—Yes.

34. And was the matter discussed at a meeting of the Commissioners specially convened for that purpose?—Yes.

35. When was that meeting held?—It was held last Monday.

36. How many Commissioners were present?—I don't know, I was not present and I can't say.

37. How many members constitute the board?—Five members from a quorum.

38. And how many Commissioners are there on the board altogether?—There are fifteen members.

39. There were no answers returned to our queries by the Commissioners?—No.

40. Why were the questions not answered; was there any special reasons for not answering?—At the meetings when the matter was brought before them,

the Commissioners said they did not care to have any alteration in the boundaries.

41. Are the Commissioners aware that there is a provision in the Public Health Act of last session enabling the Town Commissioners of any town to apply to the Local Government Board for a provisional order to transfer the Sanitary jurisdiction from the Board of Guardians to themselves?—I believe the Commissioners are aware of that provision of the Act to which you refer.

42. Have they had under consideration the feasibility of availing themselves of that provision?—To the best of my knowledge they have.

43. What was the result of their consideration?—They did not care to have it.

44. They did not care to take any action upon it?—No.

ATHY.

Feb 13, 1879.

John Glover

Mr. EDWARD LORD examined.

Mr. Edward Lord.

45. You are Chairman of the Town Commissioners of Athy?—Yes.

46. Have you been long a member of the municipal body?—Three years.

47. Have you been chairman all that time?—No; this is my second year as chairman.

48. Did you preside at the special meeting held to consider the question?—Yes, having heard that you would be here, I convened a special meeting to consider the question on Monday last.

49. How many of the Commissioners were present at that meeting?—I think seven or eight Commissioners.

50. Were they unanimous in the view they took of the matter?—No; having informed them what the meeting was for, a brother commissioner, Mr. Lawler, who is very much interested in the town because he has property in it, urged on the meeting strongly the necessity and the great advantage of extending the area; that their taxes would be more equally divided. It is true we have had no rate struck for several years, but in the event of having to strike a rate it would be very hard on the town particularly, as the town is improving, and the area is very small considering the extent of the town itself. If you look at the map you

will find that the boundary only goes round the town itself, and doesn't go outside it, so as to bring in those who live around it.

51. There is only a very small portion of rural territory included within the municipal boundary?—Very little, and Mr. Lawler urged these things, and on the other side it was equally urged by a gentleman who has a large interest in the town, and property in it: that is Mr. Duncan. He was against extension of the boundary, and he put forward what was the advantage to be gained by the change. Resolutions were about to be proposed and seconded, and I suggested, as chairman, that each party interested who wished to give their views should attend here to-day and give their views to you, instead of passing any resolution, as the Board was not unanimous, and they adopted the suggestion of the chairman, and hence we are here now to give all the information we can.

52. Are there any sources of income possessed by the municipal body of Athy besides rates?—Yes; we have our court, presided over by Mr. Lawler.

53. What does that produce?—It varies very much, but the Town Clerk could tell the amounts exactly.

JOHN GLOVER, Town Clerk, recalled.

John Glover.

54. Would you have the kindness to tell me what are the sources of income of the Town Commissioners of Athy?—I have them here. They are tolls at public cranes for the past year ending 1st May, 1878, £132 17s. Dogs licence duty, £13 2s. 1d. Fines in Town Commissioner's Court, £41 9s. 8d. Petty Sessions Court, £18 9s. Manure sold, £29 15s. Interest for treasury, 8s. 5d. County presentment towards repairs flagging and crossings, £20.

55. Had you no rate?—No.

56. How long is it since you had a rate?—Four years.

57. Then these sources come to how much?—£352 1s. 2d.

58. What was your expenditure for the year?—Salaries of officers—town clerk, inspector, weigh-master, £82 10s.

59. How is the lighting provided: is it by contract with the gas company?—Yes, by contract with the company, £59 13s. 7d. Then there is lamplighters' wages, £6, repairs of lamps, £3 19s. 3d., repairs of

ouncel and fire engine, 5s., footpaths, £20 9s. 5d. We get a presentment of £20 from the county towards that, and that is consumed. Watering the streets, £46 17s.; new water-cart, £17 11s. 6d.; printing and advertising, £17 12s. 10d.; men employed at fairs, £4 10s. That is to each quarter of the town we keep a man to see after the fairs.

60. How often have you fairs?—Once a month.

61. How often have you markets?—Once a week. Then there are expenses for removing a wall in Meeting-lane to widen the street or passage, £9, scavenging, boundary railings, incidental expenses, &c., making a total of £283 9s. 3d., and leaving a balance of £66 11s. 10d. in the treasurer's hands.

62. Then the sources you have described have for the last four years provided quite a sufficient sum to meet your expenses, and to leave a balance, and you have had no rate?—Yes.

63. What was the amount of the rate struck before that time?—Six pence on buildings and three halfpence in the £ on land.

ATBY.
Feb. 13, 1879.
Edward Lord.

EDWARD LORD, Chairman, Township Commissioners, recalled.

54. You have mentioned that the Commissioners are not all of one view on this question of extension. What is your own view regarding it?—My own view is certainly in favour of extension.

55. The existing radius has been described as half a statute mile, and I understand that that doesn't comprehend much arable land?—It is simply the town boundary.

56. You know this town very well?—I belong to it.

57. Taking a radius of a statute mile from the centre of the town, would you say that between the present boundary of half a mile and the proposed boundary of one mile there are many lands and occupied houses the owners of which derive, in your opinion, substantial advantage by reason of their proximity to the town, as a place of resort, and as a market where they can buy and sell with facility?—If you say a mile and a half, I would say there are.

58. Then, if you take a radius of a mile and a-half from the centre of the town, you say there are between the existing boundary and that proposed extension, lands and occupied houses the owners and occupiers of which derive substantial benefit from their proximity to the town?—Yes.

59. What are the advantages you think these people in that position derive by reason of their proximity to the town?—Well, as an instance of the advantages they derive there is Mr. Duncan, whom I see here, he has a very handsome house very little outside the town, a mile radius would certainly bring that in. If any one could derive more advantage than another it is Mr. Duncan, for he has his house in the country and his splendid business in the town, and he has all the advantage of coming into a clean town, where we occupy our time in cleansing and keeping the streets which he uses. Mr. Bulwer has a very handsome place also about a mile outside the town. I am afraid a mile would not bring him in, but a mile and a half would. Mr. Lefroy would be brought in by a mile, or a little over it.

60. Besides the gentlemen you have mentioned there are a great many farmers and occupiers of land who derive advantage by having a market so close, where they can dispose of their produce, and buy anything they want?—Just immediately outside there is Mr. Byrne, who has a large business in the town, he lives immediately outside the town; a mile radius would take him in.

61. Are there many residents in the town who have accommodation lands outside the boundary?—Yes, there is a good deal of accommodation land; I am one of the holders myself.

62. Within what radius would these be included?—About a mile.

63. This is a very good market town?—No better.

64. You have a weekly market?—Yes.

65. And that, I suppose, is a market for all sorts of produce?—Yes.

66. I presume the persons living within a radius of a mile and a half find advantage in the existence of that market—they obtain better prices and find a ready sale?—Yes.

67. What description of produce do they dispose of chiefly?—Corn, principally; they sell butter, and milk, and eggs, and poultry, and we are going to supply Dublin by-and-bye.

68. Do the children within that radius resort to the town for school purposes?—Yes.

69. Are the schools availed of to a large degree?—To a very large degree, for we have very large schools in the town; we have the Model School and the Christian Brothers' School.

70. And the persons resorting to the town have the advantage of having the town lighted and kept clean, and the use of footpaths, &c.?—Yes, and as they have the advantages we should have the radius increased to a mile and a half.

71. How many are now qualified to vote in the election of Commissioners, and how many would be qualified in the extra district, which it is proposed to bring in?—We never have such a thing as voting here.

72. You are not the sanitary authority, and you have no control over the roads and bridges?—We have nothing of that kind.

73. You are aware that up to 1874 the Town Commissioners were the sanitary authority, and that by the Act then passed all towns with populations under 6,000 became merged in the Board of Guardians as the sanitary authority?—Yes.

74. You are aware, also, that under the Public Health Act of last year a modification has been made in the law, and that while the general law remains the same as in 1874 there is a power given under the 7th Section of the Act whereby on the petition of the Township Commissioners, the Local Government Board can, by provisional order, constitute them the sanitary authority?—Yes.

75. Are the Commissioners generally aware of that provision in the Act?—They are.

76. Have they ever taken into consideration the expediency of availing themselves of it?—The matter has frequently come before the Board by way of desultory discussion, about having the control of the sanitary matters especially, and many said they could do them much better because they live in the town, and because we know much better than the Poor Law Guardians, who live at a distance of five or six miles away. I think they would be unanimous in getting back the power but for one reason, and that is, that the rate would not come upon the landlord.

77. That is, that half would not be put upon the landlord, that the onus would be on you?—Yes.

78. You are aware that upon the lands it would only fall in the proportion of one-fourth?—Yes.

79. Assuming that the rural district was brought in, would that one-fourth fairly represent the proportion they should pay?—I think so.

80. You think the fact of the rate falling entirely on the occupiers would influence them in wishing for the change?—Yes.

81. Are the Commissioners aware, that amongst the other points with which the Parliamentary Committee has dealt is that question of the division of the rate?—Yes.

82. Perhaps you are not aware of the recommendation they have made?—No.

83. This is the recommendation (Reads paragraph from Report). You were not aware of that?—No.

84. If that division of the rate between the owner and the occupier were made part of the law would it alter the view of the Commissioners regarding the expediency of getting a change?—That is my impression. I think it would be more popular with the people; here, at least, we are always pulling so well together, that the people would like the Commissioners to have the power.

85. You think that a body representing the town interests merely would be better able to deal with questions affecting the sanitary arrangements of the town, than a body of gentlemen coming from a far distance?—No question about it; they are the more competent parties to do it.

86. They have, you think, more interest in it, and would look after it better?—They have; because they are owners of property that would be affected.

87. You think the impediment which presents itself would be entirely obviated if the law was altered in that respect?—Yes.

88. You are aware that under the Poor Law the landlord pays half, and in the town the occupier pays the entire?—Yes.

89. Assuming that change to be made, are you aware that under the same Act there is a further power now to obtain a transfer also of the functions

exercised at present by the Grand Jury over the roads and bridges within the municipal district?—They are aware of that.

90. That the sanitary authority may obtain, by provisional order, a transfer of the control over the roads and bridges?—Yes; that was one view Mr. Lawler put. He mentioned the fact of having control over the roads and bridges.

91. Do you think that if you were made the sanitary authority you would be in favour of having a transfer of the jurisdiction in respect to roads and bridges?—My own opinion is strongly in favour of it, because local people have more interest in these matters than people who live miles off.

92. Under the 62nd section of the Towns Improvement Act arable lands are now rated at one-fourth of the valuation?—Yes.

93. At present, any expenditure incurred by the Grand Jury on these works is charged equally on all descriptions of property. Assuming that the transfer was to be made, is it your opinion that arable lands included within the town should be charged on the one-fourth scale, or on the full scale as at present? What would be your view of the equity? Don't you think that the owners of the lands should pay the full amount as at present?—Yes; as far as roads and bridges are concerned; but as regards anything in the town, they should not pay the full amount. As far as roads and bridges, they should pay the full rate.

94. I wish to ascertain whether you make a distinction between the classes of work which the legislature has already laid down they are to pay one-fourth for; or whether, in the event of the transfer of authority, you would continue to charge them at the full amount?—I would have them pay the full amount so far as the roads and bridges are concerned.

95. I understood you to say that one-fourth, as regards the class of expenditure for which a different charge should be made, is a fair charge?—Yes.

96. As regards lands lying within a mile and a half, do you apprehend that the persons interested there would object to be introduced, or would they be glad of it?—I have had no conversation with them.

97. Do you think they would be anxious to have a share in the municipal government of the town, being entitled to vote at the elections, and qualified to become commissioners?—I think they would.

98. Do you think yourself it would have a healthy effect on the administration of affairs in the town to have this new area introduced into it?—Yes. But for people like me, who have already to pay in the town, and who would then have to pay on the land outside, it would be heavier.

99. But if people outside having different tastes and interests were brought in, and mixed with the town people, would it not have a good effect in the administration of town affairs?—Yes; if it was only to get their suggestions.

100. Mr. Bulwer.—I want to ask Mr. Lord why does he make a distinction between the taxation for roads and bridges and other taxation?—Because the roads and bridges are outside the town.

101. Assuming that there was an extension of the boundary, why should the taxation for roads and bridges be put on a different footing from the taxation for other purposes?—Because the people in the town have more or less more advantages from works done in the town than people living a mile and a half out.

102. You don't apprehend the meaning of my ques-

tion. Mr. O'Brien says one-fourth would be charged on the land that would be brought in; and why should you make a distinction between the charges for roads and bridges, and charge on the full amount all lands outside, instead of one-fourth the valuation of the lands brought within the increased municipal boundary? How would you draw the distinction between paving and sewerage?—The people outside use more of the roads.

103. Mr. O'BRIEN.—This is a question on which a good deal of difference of opinion exists; and even where the thing has been accomplished already by local Acts the practice is not uniform. In some towns they are charging one-fourth, and in others the full amount. They charge the full amount in some places because it is merely a substitution, they say, for the amount they pay at present; and in the other because it is merely a contribution by those who don't derive all the advantages, but derive certain advantages, which are met by the one-fourth taxation. These are the grounds put forward, generally speaking.

104. Mr. Bulwer.—I confess I don't see the force of it.

105. Mr. O'BRIEN.—Do you contemplate, if you got that area of a mile and a half, extending the benefits of lighting and watering to the increased district?—I don't see any necessity for it.

106. How does Athy stand as regards water supply?—We have too much water.

107. Are the houses supplied by pumps or pipes?—We have an excellent supply, and within a few yards of where you are now we have a great piece of engineering work carried on by the Duke of Leinster, the water is brought up 300 or 400 yards from a well, to the centre of the town, and there is plenty of water.

108. Then you won't require any more outlay for water purposes?—No.

109. How do you stand as to sewerage?—I think that subject is so very difficult.

110. Is there a want of some scheme at present; is it in an unsatisfactory condition?—I think not, it requires to be constantly looked after.

111. Is there a want of main drainage?—There are very large drains, whether they want to be flushed or not I can't say.

112. Are they the old sewers?—Yes.

113. Not pipe sewers?—No.

114. The sanitary state of this town has not been satisfactory of late; have you been able to trace anything to the sewerage of the town?—We have, from one epidemic to another.

115. Do you consider an outlay for sewerage purposes would be a necessity?—I think it would be very well expended money.

116. If you were to put this town into a proper condition as to sewerage, would it involve a considerable sum?—No doubt of it.

117. Would that expenditure confer advantages not only on the inhabitants of the town, but on the people in the neighbourhood, by making it a more healthy resort?—By all means.

118. And you think, therefore, that they should in some way contribute to the expense?—This is my view.

119. Have the Board of Guardians been restrained from undertaking any works of the kind by reason of the taxation it would involve?—I don't know.

120. Is there anything else you would like to suggest bearing on the subject of the inquiry?—No.

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Feb. 12, 1879
Edward Lord.

ALEXANDER DUNCAN examined.

Alexander
Duncan.

121. You are a member of the Town Commissioners?—Yes.

122. Have you been long so?—Over thirty years.

123. Do you reside within the municipal district?—No.

124. You have business premises in the town?—Yes.

125. Where does your residence lie from the centre of the town?—About an Irish mile; about a statute mile and a quarter.

126. Then you would not be brought in unless there was a radius of a mile and a half?—I think not.

127. Are you in favour of having the existing

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Alexander
Duncan.

municipal district extended or not?—Apart from any personal interest that might be involved by my residence, I am not in favour of extending the area of taxation at present, unless we get duties added, for our present duties are very limited, we have only lighting and scavenging practically to do, and these can be done as you have seen, almost without levying taxes at all; therefore for the purposes of taxation there is no need of extension, but if we get what I, as a deputation from this board, waited on Sir Michael Beach and other Members of Parliament in London for the purpose of getting, namely, the sanitary authority, then it would be desirable to have the area of taxation extended, for it would be both desirable and fair; on the grounds of equity, I admit it would be wrong under our present taxation, and with our present duties to extend the area, for we have nothing to give those outside, they don't want our light, we their roads or grounds, and some of the men living outside must already be paying heavy taxation in the town, for instance, Mr. Byrne is already paying heavily in the town, and to tax them in the town and then to tax them outside, it would be double taxation, that would be the case with at least several people who live out of the town. If we became the sanitary body, and if we undertook the care of the roads and bridges, which are things we had earnestly discussed in former years, but which we could not see our way to undertaking, as we could not discharge the duties as economically as the Grand Jury, then I say, by all means, when we undertake the roads and bridges, and become the sanitary authority, extend the area, with our present duty it would seem to be a most foolish thing to extend the area of taxation.

128. As to the sanitary jurisdiction, is your opinion in favour of having the sanitary jurisdiction transferred to the Commissioners, or are you adverse to such a change?—That was a change which I waited on Sir Michael Beach, with representatives from other towns, for the purpose of having accomplished, provided a little portion of the taxation was allowed us, but otherwise it would not be at all practicable or desirable to undertake the sanitary business.

129. You have heard that Sir Michael Beach's Committee appear to have adopted the same view as you have adopted, and have recommended that where practicable there should be one body for the discharge of the several duties?—Yes.

130. If that difficulty was got over, and the municipal taxation was divided between the occupier and the owners, would you be in favour of transferring the sanitary jurisdiction to the town body?—Decidedly.

131. You think it would be a duty you would be able to perform better, and more qualified to discharge it than the Board of Guardians?—Yes; I should say so. In the past when we were the Sanitary Authority we got exceedingly valuable and liberal help from the Grand Jury in the county at large, portion of the work that was done under our directions and auspices, in the way of main sewers. We got considerable help from the county, in fact, the work though done by us was done through county means. We had not the resources ourselves. If, however, we could draw on the wider area, I believe we could do the work as reasonably and more skilfully than the Board of Guardians.

132. Assuming that you got the sanitary jurisdiction and that your boundary was extended, to what radius would you consider it equitable to extend it?—If we undertook the roads and bridges as well?

133. Do I understand you to advocate, that if you became the Sanitary Authority you should seek a transfer of the other authority?—Yes; I think it is only with that work, and with a proper area of a mile and a half that we could get on well, for there are many things connected with the roads and bridges that could be practically carried out under the sanitary sections of the Act.

134. You consider a mile and a half a reasonable radius in the event of your being constituted the

Sanitary Authority, and getting control over the roads and bridges?—Yes; I think so.

135. And you think that fairly represents the extent to which lands, and the occupiers of land adjacent to the town may be said to fairly derive advantage from their proximity to the town?—Of course there are advantages derived by persons beyond that, but that is as wide a district as we should undertake.

136. Are you clearly of opinion that persons within a mile and a half do derive advantages from having a market so close to them, and that they would be ready to take a share in the town work?—Of course, I believe they derive advantages, but I don't think there is one person outside the present boundary who cares one jot to interfere with our business, or who would take the trouble of becoming a Commissioner.

137. Do you think that if the area was extended a mile and a half, the persons brought in would be glad to have participated in the municipal government?—Assuming the other works to be added?

138. Assuming you had got all the authority, don't you think there would be ambition on the part of those outside, to come in and take a share in the management?—I believe there would be not only from public interests, but from sinister aims and interests, for it would be their interest to have persons sent in here, and many persons seeking their own personal ends would accomplish that, and the only question is whether we would have strength and power as a Board to resist the personal interest used in order to get jobs under our direction. I believe, the Grand Jury has done its duty exceedingly well as far as I know of it. At present all the men who form it are placed far beyond the influence which we as a Board would be subject to, and that they would be able to resist personal influences. It is on that ground, I believe, the persons within a mile and a half would be very anxious to come in to join our board.

139. Assuming that the arrangements were carried out, and that you had the sanitary jurisdiction, and the control over the roads and bridges, which do you contemplate that the arable lands as regards the expenditure of the works transferred from the Grand Jury should pay the full amount or one-fourth?—If we got control of the roads and bridges they should pay the full amount.

140. If you had that control you think they should pay the full amount?—Yes; may I ask a question? This inquiry doesn't bind the Board of Commissioners to a present alteration.

141. This is only one element in an inquiry of a very general and comprehensive scope; it is merely that before the Government undertook to legislate in pursuance of the report they considered it necessary that there should be a local inquiry, and when they receive the result of that, they will not be bound by it, and whenever they adopt their views it will be for Parliament to ratify them or not afterwards?—This intended legislation as regards bodies such as this would be very foolish indeed unless we were placed under the Local Government Board or some other controlling Board.

142. There are certain things which at present require the sanction of the Local Government Board; to what extent would you suggest that this controlling power should exist?—To the same extent under the Local Government Board as the Poor Law Guardians are now; not one jot less.

143. You think such a control would have a good effect?—Yes; for there are questions arise where personal matters come in and there must be a central authority to control.

144. Is there anything else you would like to suggest on any matter connected with the inquiry?—No, except with reference to the Board who sat here on Monday to consider this subject. There were nine or ten persons present, and the majority were against. I withdrew my motion against extension of the area, believing we could come and see you and state our own views, but the majority were decidedly against the thing within our present duties.

145. The Chairman of your body has also mentioned that if the sanitary jurisdiction were to be transferred to you he was of opinion that the rate should be divided as it is for poor law purposes between the owner and the occupier. Do you think the rate ought to be paid by the occupier as at present?—I believe that unless it is divided we could not get the town people to consent.

146. What is your own individual opinion as to dividing the rate between the owner and occupier?—Between landlord and tenant: certainly.

MICHAEL LAWLER examined.

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Feb. 13, 1879.
Alexander
Duncan.

Michael
Lawler.

150. You are a Town Commissioner of Athy?—Yes.

151. How long have you been so?—Since 1842.

152. You are also a magistrate for the town?—Yes.

153. And you are well acquainted with the town?—Yes.

154. You have heard the views expressed by the Chairman and by Mr. Duncan; which proposition are you in favour of; are you an advocate of extension of the boundaries?—By all means.

155. Do you contemplate as a board on that arrangement that you should get sanitary jurisdiction?—Yes, and I say we would do the sanitary duty much better than it is done at present.

156. And when you advocate extension it is with the view of getting sanitary jurisdiction?—Yes.

157. You think you would do it much better than at present?—Yes, and much cheaper.

158. Do you contemplate also getting the grand jury control over roads and bridges?—I have not made my mind up on that matter inasmuch as I think we should undergo a good deal of trouble. We went to a good deal of trouble and got a good deal of statistics about eleven years ago, and we then found that owing to the liberality of the Grand Jury towards us in public works here, that when we came to have a proper gentleman to supervise the works such as Mr. Brett, the County Surveyor, the expense would be considerable to us, and that while we were so liberally dealt with by the Grand Jury it would be better leave that department as at present.

159. Are you of opinion that in the amount expended by the Grand Jury within the municipal district in the various works for which they provide they give you a fair equivalent for the rates they raise from you?—I think they do. Some people may take exception to that, but I think they do.

160. You think the amount they give is commensurate with what they receive?—Yes, I do. For instance, three years ago our town was greatly worn by the great traffic, and the Grand Jury put two feet six inches of broken stone all over the town, and improved the roads greatly.

161. And you have no complaint to make against the Grand Jury?—No.

162. And your mind is not at all made up about the transfer of that duty?—No.

163. But you are quite in favour of a transfer of the sanitary duty?—Decidedly.

164. What radius would be fair as representing the extent to which advantages derived from proximity to the town extend?—Less than a mile and a half would not be sufficient.

165. And you think that within a mile and a half the owners and occupiers of land derive advantage from the town?—Decidedly.

WALTER R. BULWER examined.

Walter R.
Bulwer.

179. You are magistrate in the neighbourhood?—Yes.

180. And you have lived in Athy?—I have lived here a great number of years.

181. You have no property in the municipal district?—I have some.

182. How far is your residence outside the municipal

147. You think that the municipal rate ought to be divided between the landlord and tenant?—Yes, and for two reasons in equity and because it would give the landlord influence and interest.

148. Does that opinion extend to all the rates for sanitary and grand jury purposes?—Yes.

149. You believe it would have a good effect for the landlord to pay half?—Yes.

166. And land within that distance sets at a greater value?—Yes, townparks always do.

167. And the occupiers have an available market where they have a ready sale for their produce?—It is one of the best markets.

168. And don't children resort to the town for school purposes from that radius around the town?—Yes, from that whole district, and on for two or three miles, but particularly from a mile and a half.

169. You have not been in a healthy state here recently. Are you of opinion there is an existing necessity for a considerable outlay to improve the sanitary arrangements of the town especially the sewerage?—I am.

170. Do you consider that it would take a large sum of money to effect these improvements?—I should say it would. There is a great deal to be done still in the town.

171. Would the expense of the works to which you refer fall on the existing municipality as a very heavy burden?—Decidedly there should be at least a shilling rate put on the town.

172. Do you think that that improvement in the sanitary state of Athy would, to some extent, be an advantage to those in the neighbourhood of the town? I do.

173. And it would be reasonable that they should make some contribution in respect of that?—Yes.

174. Under the Towns Improvement Act the sense of the legislature appears to have been that arable lands should be rated at only one-fourth. Does that appear to you to be a sound basis to take in making a distinction between the residents in the town who derive all the advantages, and the occupiers outside who only derive advantages in a modified degree. Do you consider it an equitable and fair division for the advantages derived by both?—Yes, I do. That is what we always levied.

175. Is it your opinion that those who own land, and those who occupy land within a mile and a half would object to be included in the town?—I daresay a good many would object.

176. On what ground do you think they would object to be included?—That they don't want further taxation.

177. Don't you think they would be ambitious of being able to take part in the municipal government? I think they would so far as that.

178. Do you think it would have a healthy effect if you widened the area of municipal government, and introduced a new class of ratepayers?—I think it would. I think we are too contracted at present. Half an English mile from the castle is not at all sufficient.

boundary?—The house is about a mile and a half English.

183. Assuming that a radius of a mile and a half were adopted, would that take in your place?—I could not answer that; it may be a few yards inside or outside, but it would be very close to the mark.

184. Assuming that the radius of a mile and a hal

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Walter R.
Bulwer.

would bring you in, would you consider it objectionable that you should be included?—It is a principle on which I have always expressed a very decided opinion that those living in the immediate vicinity to a town like this, certainly derive advantages from it, and that they should not be unwilling to pay for those advantages.

185. Would you consider that in laying down the basis of what they should contribute; one fourth which is the basis prescribed by the Towns Improvement Act is a fair proportion?—I think taking the rates that have been struck here it would be fair and not oppressive.

186. I am aware you have acted as a member of the Board of Guardians?—Yes, when I am here.

187. You have had experience of the way the sanitary work is usually transacted by the Board of Guardians. Do you think the sanitary affairs of the town could be best provided for by the town body or by such a body as the Board of Guardians, comprehending gentlemen from rural districts?—Of course in answering a question like that I should prefer confining myself to the actual case before me of Athy, and my answer might possibly be different if I had to consider other circumstances; but considering the constitution of the Board of Guardians of Athy, the attendance there is there, and the exceptional intelligence there is as far as I know amongst the Town Commissioners of Athy, I think the Commissioners of Athy would be by far the more competent body to carry out sanitary arrangements. I think they would do it less expensively and much better. More than that, the great element that is wanting in the present sanitary laws is what I am convinced will be ultimately supplied. In my opinion, and I have had considerable experience of it, I go so far as to say there is an absolute necessity for effectual local supervision. Under the present Act and the late Act, I don't think the omission is sufficiently supplied. The sanitary laws are likely to be productive of enormous expense with very little result, and any body like the Town Commissioners here, where they have men competent to supervise these things on the spot, I think can carry out these things much better than a Board of Guardians, who don't know the localities, and have a great many other things to attend to and without speaking very harshly of them, are utterly ignorant of the whole thing as a body.

188. Would it in your opinion have a healthy effect, if those who are at present outside the town, within the radius of a mile and a half, were added to the constituency, and thus enabled to take part in the affairs of the town, and be incorporated with the electors and with those eligible to be Commissioners?—Yes, I think it is desirable to have a mixture of classes, if possible. I need not tell you it is popularly supposed that gentlemen have intelligence commensurate with their education.

189. Assuming that the area was extended and that the functions of the Board of Guardians were transferred, do you think it would be desirable to have the

control of the roads and bridges, also transferred to the town body?—I think that question stands on a different basis altogether. I am afraid in a place like Athy the taxation for roads and bridges would be enormously heavy if we took the whole charge of them; for instance the flagging of Athy alone has cost hundreds, and the municipal taxation would be utterly unable to provide for it.

190. You think the expenditure would be increased and that it would fall heavily on the town?—Yes, so heavily that I think it would be a bar to any improvement and it would be found sufficient for them to keep the roads and bridges without thinking of improvements of any sort.

191. You think the grand jury gives an equivalent for whatever they receive?—I do; and I think it is fairly and economically expended.

192. Generally speaking the allegation by town bodies is that while the grand jury receive large sums the town people find it impossible to get anything done, and at Wexford they said there was £900 paid to the county grand jury of which £500 went to the county at large, and that of the £400 balance they got no equivalent but that since they managed things themselves they have been able to do all for themselves?—Athy is quite different, and I know the place for a long time.

193. You found no unwillingness on the part of the grand jury to do what was asked?—No; they have on the contrary been always willing on all occasions to meet the views of the inhabitants provided there was any sort of equity.

194. Suppose the legislature did transfer to towns this jurisdiction over roads and bridges, do you consider that the arable lands contributing within the municipal district should pay one fourth or the whole amount?—I have not considered the subject, but *prima facie*, I don't see the grounds on which the distinction is made.

195. You think all should come under the same rule?—Yes, I don't see why there should be a distinction.

196. Is there anything else you would like to suggest on the subject of this inquiry?—Nothing except that I thoroughly agree with Mr. Duncan's recommendation as to having a controlling power vested in some superior authority.

197. As regards the division of the municipal rate, what is your view; that it should be divided between the landlord and tenant or paid by the occupier?—It is a matter of the most perfect indifference by whom it is paid, but for the sake of satisfying the ratepayers I would say divide it.

198. You would do that to satisfy them although it makes no difference who pays?—I think substantially it makes no difference.

199. Is there anything else you wish to add?—No. Except that the municipal accounts have to be audited by the Local Government auditor.

200. You are in favour of that?—I am.

RICHARD T. LEFROY examined.

Richard T.
Lefroy.

201. You don't live within the municipal boundary?—No.

202. Have you any property within it?—No.

203. How does your residence stand as regards the centre of the town?—I think it is about a mile and a half out.

204. Would a radius of a mile and a half include or exclude you?—I think it would about take me in.

205. What is your feeling on the subject, are you in favour of extension of the boundary or otherwise?—I have not given the subject any thought, but I don't see any objection to our being included because no doubt we derive benefit from the town.

206. You are a member of the Board of Guardians?—Yes.

206. Would you consider that the sanitary affairs of the town would be best looked after by the Board of Guardians or by the Commissioners?—I never had a doubt on the subject, I think the Commissioners are the better body.

207. And you consider also that if they had the power over sanitary matters and looked after them better it would be reasonable that those living within a certain distance should pay a contribution towards the expenses of the town?—Certainly.

208. Does it appear to you that the basis laid down of one fourth is fair?—Yes, I think so.

209. And you would not individually object to that?—No.

210. What would be your view with regard to the

proposal to transfer the jurisdiction over roads and bridges, from the grand jury to the town body?—I would not be in favour of that; I think the grand jury would do it better than the town body.

211. As regards the division of the rate, what would be your view? would you be in favour of dividing it between the landlord and tenant, or otherwise?—I don't think that will make much difference any way.

212. Assuming there was a general popular feeling

that it should be divided?—It will be generally arranged between the landlord and the tenant who is to pay, and it makes no difference any way.

213. You don't see anything inequitable in it?—No.

214. You think they do practically divide it at present?—I do.

215. And if the general feeling was in favour of dividing it, you would have no objection?—No, I would have no objection on my part.

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Richard T
Lefroy.

MATHEW MAGRATH, Clerk of the Athy Union, examined.

Mathew
Magrath.

216. How many townlands are there in the electoral division of Athy?—Thirty-two townlands.

217. What is the area of the electoral division?—9,287 acres.

218. And the valuation?—12,372 10s.

219. Are you aware whether the electoral division extends equally in all directions from the town or unequally?—Unequally.

220. What is the furthest point in one direction to which the electoral division extends?—The furthest point from the town would be about two and a half or three miles.

221. In what direction would that be?—Towards Churchtown, which is in the north.

222. That is about the most remote point?—Yes, a little outside three miles.

223. To the north?—To the north-west, at Churchtown.

224. How far does it extend to the south?—A mile and a half.

225. How far to the east?—About three miles.

226. How far to the west?—Two miles.

227. So that it doesn't extend equally?—No sir.

228. Have you had any special rates for sanitary purposes?—Yes, sir, every year.

229. What is the amount of the special sanitary rates?—Two pence in the pound.

230. What was the nature of the work for which the rate was assessed?—For sewers in Athy, cleaning and repairing them, and some new sewers.

231. Not large main sewers?—No, sir.

232. Then, the Guardians have not undertaken any extensive scheme of sewerage?—No, sir.

233. Have they had under consideration any general scheme of drainage?—Not that I am aware of.

234. Have the Guardians ever been considering the question, whether it would be desirable that the sanitary jurisdiction should be transferred from the Guardians to the Commissioners?—No, sir.

235. Are you aware, whether the feeling of the Guardians would be adverse to such a transfer, or in favour of it?—I am not aware. It was never spoken of.

Mr. Lord, Chairman Town Commissioners, recalled.

Mr. Lord

236. The Parliamentary Committee made one recommendation which, in a great many instances it has been stated, would be utterly impracticable, namely, that municipal boundaries should be made coterminous with electoral divisions. Would it be practicable in this case to adopt the electoral division as the municipal boundary?—That would be going outside what we were proposing.

237. You don't consider it would be feasible?—No.

238. Do you see any advantage that would be gained by adopting the electoral division as the municipal boundary?—No.

239. You think it would be bringing in people who don't derive much advantage?—Yes.

240. Mr. *Buher*.—With regard to the sanitary question you asked, one or two questions that led me to believe that you were anxious to know whether the Board of Guardians had ever considered any scheme of sewerage for Athy. I was Chairman of a Committee appointed by the Guardians to carry out the Sanitary Act, and at my instance. I pointed out the inadvisability of allowing the sewage of Athy to run into the river, which is strongly forbidden by an Act of Parliament, and at my request two schemes were considered, one to convey all the sewage into a large reservoir, and to treat it in the way it has been treated in several towns in England and elsewhere, more particularly in Kilkenny county, at Castlecomer. That was one scheme to get rid of the fetid matter, and let the water run off; and another scheme was to take the sewage down about a mile and a half away from the town into low-lying lands, and there distribute it as it came from the sewers, but the expense was so very considerable that the Guardians were, I think, frightened. My own individual opinion is, that sooner or later some such scheme will have to be adopted.

241. Such a scheme would involve very considerable outlay?—I think it would cost about from £3,000 to £5,000.

242. Would you consider it equitable and fair, that those outlying lands within a mile and a half should contribute to that work?—Certainly, and I go a great deal further, for I think a mile and a half would scarcely indicate the advantages derived from such a town as Athy.

243. But still unless you were to extend the boundary beyond that for all purposes you could not be extending it for some purposes only?—I would be inclined to extend it beyond that for all purposes; I look upon such a market town as Athy as of incalculable benefit and advantage to the county.

244. Would you consider the electoral division a fair municipal district?—I think it would be very fair for certain purposes.

245. But not for all purposes?—No.

246. For instance, such a matter as sewerage?—Or lighting.

247. For such a scheme as that sewerage scheme you think that a fair district?—Yes, for such a scheme where there is a wide scheme the advantages would be more extended. I am entirely against confining the advantages to the 200 or 300 people immediately over the sewers. The more flourishing the town the better for the people who live about it.

248. Mr. *Duncan*.—For the equalization of taxation it might be a great object to have the electoral division constituted the municipal boundary for roads, bridges, and sanitary affairs for instance.

249. Mr. O'BRIEN.—Yes, but a town must be a town whatever it is, and once you adopt a boundary it must be for all purposes?—In the matter of light, what we have to do is very inexpensive.

250. Mr. O'BRIEN.—Then there are certain purposes for which you would not consider the electoral division too large as a municipal district?—No, if we undertook all these purposes.

251. Mr. O'BRIEN.—For sanitary purposes you would not consider it too large?—No.

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Mr. Lord.

252. Mr. O'BRIEN.—But for lighting you do?—Yes.

253. Mr. O'BRIEN.—And for all other purposes you would not object to the electoral division as the municipal boundary?—No, and I think the people within it would not object if we took on all these duties.

254. That would give about three miles, speaking roughly?—Yes, the matter of fairs and markets is one of great interest to the people near a town, and within

the electoral division, and the people would have for a return their vote, and they would be able to take part in the regulation of the fairs and markets, one of the matters that has caused us most trouble is the matter of fairs, especially pig fairs, and horse fairs, and it would be well the country people should have a voice in the regulation of the fairs and markets, and it would be an essential service for the country, that they should have power to see what was being done in the town.

Mr. Glover.

Mr. GLOVER, Clerk to the Town Commissioners, recalled.

255. There are in the township, 175 persons qualified to vote, and 56 qualified to be Commissioners.
The inquiry then closed.

GOREY.
Feb. 24, 1879.

GOREY—MONDAY, 24TH FEBRUARY, 1879.

Before Messrs. EXHAM, Q.C., and COTTON, C.E.

Mr. O'Dempsey, solicitor, asked leave to appear professionally for a number of persons who objected to any alteration in the boundaries of the town.

John O'Neill.

JOHN O'NEILL examined.

1. CHAIRMAN.—You are Town Clerk of Gorey?—Yes.

2. For how long have you been Town Clerk?—Since November, 1868.

3. The town is under the Towns Improvement Act?—Yes.

4. When was it adopted here?—In 1859.

5. Were the boundaries fixed then?—They were.

6. And have the boundaries as then fixed continued the same ever since?—They have.

7. Has there been any alteration or change in them?—No.

8. What is the population of the town of Gorey?—In the year 1871, the population was 2,639.

9. Has the population increased since that or not?—I think it has decreased.

10. What is the area of the town at present?—The present area is 421A. 1R. 1P.

11. I believe you were good enough to mark on the Ordnance Sheet the present boundaries?—Yes.

12. Mr. COTTON.—Are they taken from any map you have, or how did you get them?—The only thing I had was a little map in the office.

13. It was from that you marked it?—Yes.

14. Have you a copy of the Gazette in which the boundaries are described?—No; I have a copy of the order from the Lord Lieutenant.

15. Describing the boundaries?—Yes.

16. What is the date of the Gazette?—The 2nd September, 1859, is the date.

17. What is the entire valuation?—The entire valuation is £3,069 10s.

18. How much of that is land, and how much buildings?—Buildings £2,646 15s., and land £422 15s.

19. What are the rates that have been struck for the last five years; improvement rate, poor rate, and county cess?—The town rate in 1874 was 6d. in the £; in 1875 it was 5d. in the £; in 1876 and 1877 there was no town rate struck, and in 1878 it was 5d. in the £.

20. What is it this year?—We have struck no rate this year yet.

21. Will you require a rate?—Yes.

22. I suppose it will not be greater than in the preceding years?—No; it will not be greater at all events, it might be less.

23. What are the poor rates you have been paying?—In 1874 the poor rate was 2s. 10d. in the £, and there was no sanitary rate; in 1875 the poor rate was 1s. 9d. in the £, with one penny sanitary rate; in 1876 the poor rate was 1s. 4d. in the £, with one penny sanitary rate; in 1877 the poor rate was 1s. 3d.

in the £, and one penny sanitary rate, and in 1878 the poor rate was 1s. 7d. in the £, and the sanitary rate two pence.

24. What has been the county cess during the same years?—The county cess in 1874 (paid in two instalments) was 2s. 3d. in the £; in 1875 it was 1s. 11d. nearly; in 1876 1s. 8½d. nearly; in 1877 1s. 7d., and in 1878 1s. 4½d. That is, you will see, it has been decreasing since 1874.

25. Was that increase in 1874 owing to anything the Grand Jury did for the town?—No, I don't think it was.

26. Because I observe there has been a great deal of flagging done in this town?—That was done from the year 1875.

27. Were the town Commissioners able to do that, or was the work done with help from the Grand Jury?—It was done in this way. The town Commissioners applied to the associated cess-payers for a grant.

28. When was that?—In 1875. That was in the first commencement of the flagging, and they got a grant of £49 10s.

29. We don't want the figures, but tell us have the cess-payers from time to time contributed from the funds of the Barony at large, towards the flagging of the town of Gorey?—Yes; they have contributed largely.

30. And then I suppose you have added to that contribution out of the rates or by private contribution?—It has been done in this way: first, the grant of the Grand Jury, and then the shop-keepers, in front of whose business the street has been flagged, have been charged with the kerbing, and the deficiency was made good by the rates.

31. We sent out queries to be considered by your Board—have they been considered?—At the time in November when the queries arrived they did not consider them.

32. Have they considered them at all?—They have, in this way: when the queries came down they asked me what were the present boundaries of the township and I could not tell them, and they asked me were they an English mile.

33. I believe the Town Commissioners are not unanimous as a body in their opinion as to whether the boundaries should be extended or not?—No.

34. Did they pass any resolution on the subject?—They called a meeting of the ratepayers to consider it.

34. But, as a body, the Commissioners did not pass any resolution on the subject?—No, sir.

35. Then you are not authorized on the part of the Commissioners, as a body, to offer any opinion on their

part as to the extension of the boundary or otherwise?
—No, sir.

36. Of course you live in the town?—I do.

37. Are you in business in the town?—I am.

37. Having lived here for some time, do you, as a matter of fact, know whether lands in the immediate vicinity of the town are more valuable, and bring more to the landlord in consequence of their proximity to the town, than lands further off?—They do, of course.

38. Do the people who hold these lands use the town of Gorey largely?—They do.

39. I suppose they send in their produce daily to the market; such things as butter and eggs, and poultry, and so on?—Yes, sir.

40. Could you say to what extent that exceptional value extends; does it extend a mile all round from the centre of the town, or two miles, or only a half mile?—I could not say exactly—I think the lands in the immediate vicinity are valued higher than at a distance.

41. That may arise from other causes; but could you say whether land in the immediate vicinity within a certain distance does derive from its proximity to the town a higher value than land of a similar quality, that is further off?—I could not say; I don't understand the question.

42. Suppose that the town was extended a mile and a half from the centre of the town, could you tell me how many voters could be brought in, and to what extent there would be an increase in the constituency?—The clerk of the Union would be better able to tell that.

43. Could you tell me how many voters are there at present living in the town?—About 115 within the township.

44. How many are qualified to be Town Commissioners?—I think there are about forty.

45. How many qualified to be Town Commissioners would be brought in by adopting the radius of a mile and a half?—It would increase the number by about forty or fifty.

46. Of those qualified to be Commissioners?—Yes; that is, houses of £10 and £12 and upwards, I don't think there would be so many, I think the number qualified would be raised to about fifty altogether within the whole increased area.

47. The township boundary is only in two electoral divisions; namely, Gorey and Courtown?—Yes, sir, Gorey and Courtown.

48. It is entirely included within those two electoral divisions?—Yes.

49. To what distance should you go from the town at the nearest point to include any other electoral division?—Huntington is a mile on the Gorey-hill side.

50. How far is the nearest point of Huntington from the centre of the town?—About an Irish mile, or a mile and a quarter from the centre.

51. Mr. COTTON.—How is the town supplied with gas?—By the Gas and Water Company.

52. There is one Company for water and gas?—Yes, it is a Gas and Water Company.

53. And the Commissioners pay rent to them?—Yes, they pay £3 a lamp for the public lamps. There are sixteen public lamps in the town.

54. How do the private parties get gas?—By agreement with the Gas Company.

55. CHAIRMAN.—Are the people here, as far as you

know, satisfied with the way the roads are kept by the Grand Jury?—I think they are satisfied enough.

56. And also with the way the sanitary affairs are carried out by the rural sanitary authority?—Yes, I think so.

57. Mr. COTTON.—Have the Commissioners ever considered the advisability of becoming the sanitary authority themselves?—They have been speaking of it.

58. But no resolution was arrived at on the subject?—No, I was directed to write to other towns to inquire how the sanitary work was being done.

59. The sanitary rate you mentioned as being one penny?—Yes.

60. What was that for?—For the water supply.

61. On what district was it struck?—On the contributory district.

62. CHAIRMAN.—To the eighth query we sent you, the reply is, "The Commissioners are of opinion that it would be of advantage to extend the boundary, if it would not interfere with the rights of land holders under the Land Act; if so, the Commissioners would object to any alteration being made in the present boundary; secondly, that the extension of the boundary would lessen the town rate by affording a larger area," and there were present, concurring in that, six of the Town Commissioners?—That was adopted, not at a formal meeting, but they came to that conclusion for the purpose of aiding me.

63. That was the opinion of six of the Commissioners?—Yes.

64. And there are nine of them altogether?—Yes.

Cross-examined (by CHAIRMAN, at request of Mr. O'Dempsey.)

65. I believe you told us you did not represent the majority of the Commissioners, do you represent even a considerable minority of them?—I am not authorized to speak for any one.

66. Are you aware that two meetings were held, at which this proposal for extending the boundary was unanimously condemned?—Yes, I think I sent up the resolutions of the public meeting to the Boundaries Commissioners in Dublin.

67. A resolution was passed at a public meeting on the 31st January, 1879, to this effect, "That any extension of the existing boundary is wholly unnecessary and uncalled for"?—Yes.

68. I believe, according to the rates struck, they amount to about 2d. in the pound annually?—Yes.

69. What is the rating power of the Commissioners?—Up to one shilling.

70. But you have never been obliged to go higher than 2d.?—Yes, a great deal higher.

71. Doesn't the irregularity of the boundary conform to the geographical formation of the town, which I believe is one long street?—Yes.

72. And of course the boundary is necessarily oblong to a certain extent?—Yes.

73. What is the class of people who occupy the land about the town?—Principally gentlemen who have dwelling houses outside, and persons in the town who have land round it.

74. Doesn't it principally consist of rate payers in the town who have small holdings of land about it?—Yes.

75. Which are not at present within the boundary?—No, of course not.

76. And I believe they pay an increased rent in respect of these lands outside?—They do.

WILLIAM MILLER KIRKE, examined.

William M. Kirke.

77. CHAIRMAN.—You are Chairman of the Town Commissioners of Gorey?—Yes.

78. You reside at the park?—Yes.

79. Is it your opinion that the boundary of the town should be extended?—Decidedly.

80. I believe you have a quantity of land that will be brought in by any proposed extension?—Yes.

81. That is at present outside the boundary?—Yes.

82. Are you aware from your own knowledge whether lands within a certain distance acquire exceptional value, owing to their proximity to the town?—I am, because I receive an increased rent for them.

83. We have marked on the map before us the present boundaries of the town; to what extent do the

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William M.
Kirke.

lands around the town derive exceptional value from it?—They vary according to the character of the land, I myself get from £3 to £5 an acre.

84. Within what distance from the centre of the town is that?—I should say half a mile in.

85. Do you receive a higher rent from the lands that are just outside than from those inside, or as high?—Almost the same rent; I have lands let within the boundary at present very low, and I have lands within the boundary with a considerable increase of rent since I bought the property in 1870; there are other lands outside let, which are not higher than inside, and some also let higher, and it is right to add that a feeling has got up in the town, that this is a job of mine for the purpose of raising the rents, and that it is for the purpose of enhancing the value of those lands that are outside.

86. Have you considered to what extent you, as an individual ratepayer, and as Chairman of the Commissioners, think the area should be increased?—No; I leave that entirely in the hands of the Commissioners, and whether they make it half a mile, or a mile, or two miles, it is perfectly immaterial to me; all I want is some regularity in the boundary.

87. Do you consider that, following the townland boundaries as far as possible, within an area of one mile, the lands derive exceptional value from their proximity to the town?—I am perfectly satisfied they do.

88. You are aware there is a circle drawn on this map of a statute mile?—Yes, and I believe the reason the Commissioners advocated that in the first instance was, that they heard, and had the evidence which Mr. O'Neill told you about, that he had corresponded with a great many other towns, and that was what they wanted.

89. They varied in their views, but, at all events, your opinion is that, to the extent of the one mile circle, and adopting the townlands as near as possible, lands do derive exceptional benefit from the town?—Decidedly.

90. Are there a number of gentlemen's seats that would be included within that area?—No, not many, somewhere about five.

91. I observe there is a place called Woodlands, for instance?—Yes; and the Cottage, Knockmullen House, Ramsgate House, and there is General Guise's (St. Waleran's), the Deanery, Coolatin Cottage, Millmount, Westmount, and Ramsgate Cottage.

92. I observe that by a circle of a mile a great deal of your demesne and park would be taken in?—Yes.

93. But following the townland boundary it would not come up to your house?—No.

94. And if we followed the townland boundary which would go half a mile below your house, you would not object to that?—Not at all. I look upon it in this light, not as a matter of a few pence more or less, but what would be the benefit. The rates I paid last year, which were for three years, I look upon in this broad sense; £3 7s. 7½d. was what I paid, and I find the valuation I am under at present would amount to £161, and if a bigger area is brought in and my neighbours are included, instead of having to pay 5d. rate in three years, I will have to pay 4d., and that, even on the increased area, will result in my being absolutely nothing more out of pocket, for my neighbours will be brought in to share the burden.

95. But your neighbours will be brought in to a less extent than you?—No matter.

96. Do the Commissioners supply light to the present boundary?—They pay for it.

97. With regard to the proposed increased area, what would be your view in reference to the Commissioners supplying it with light?—I believe we would have to do so, and thereby incur additional expense, but I go on the broad principle that if we get an increase of taxation we are bound to give value for it.

98. Do you think you would be able to do that, having regard to the fact that lands only pay one-fourth. As far as lands are concerned, you would not

light them, but if the streets were increased you would propose that any continuously inhabited portion of the district should be supplied with light, and that as to water they would have to supply themselves?—No, I believe the Gas Company would do that also.

99. You are aware of the exception in the 62nd section of the Towns Improvement Act, by which lands only pay one-fourth?—Yes.

100. Is it your opinion that the land introduced should continue to pay one-fourth, or be increased?—No; I think the contribution is very well and properly adjusted. Those people living in houses outside, and visiting the town, would get the greatest value.

101. You are aware that under the Public Health Act of last year these lands are only to pay sanitary rate on one-fourth?—Yes.

102. Is it your opinion they should continue to pay that if they are brought within the boundary of the town?—As far as this is concerned we are determined we shall separate from the guardians, and that we will undo the provisions of the Act of Parliament, and go back to things as they were before.

103. That is, become the urban sanitary authority?—Yes, because I don't see the sense of taxing myself or my fellow-citizens to the amount of £15 a-year, when we can get the work done as well for £7. I will put money in my pocket by so doing, and so will every inhabitant of the town.

104. If you became the urban sanitary authority the lands would have to pay the whole of the sanitary rate?—Yes; and when I talk of £15 and £7, I speak of absolute figures. We are under salaries to the amount of £30, and we would get half of that from the Consolidated Fund, and I don't see the slightest use in our taxing ourselves for £15, when we could get the work as well done for £7.

105. The lands to be brought in would be differently circumstanced, would you think it right there should be no alteration in the rate they pay?—No; because if you bring in lands there is no expense to be incurred.

106. Then, at present, as far as the lands are in a rural sanitary district, the tenant gets half the rate from the landlord?—Yes.

107. Do you think the rate should be divided?—Yes.

108. Do you say the same with regard to the improvement rate?—Yes.

109. Then you are saying that your own tenants should have power to deduct half the rate from you, as landlord?—Yes; I think we are all bound up in the one bundle.

110. What do you mean by speaking of £15 sanitary rate?—I think the sanitary officer costs us somewhat about £30 a year. There is a sanitary officer and sub-sanitary officer. The present sanitary arrangements are more expensive than under the old regime.

111. Have you taken any steps to get the sanitary authority transferred to you?—We are going, as soon as the boundaries are settled, to seek to get back the sanitary management of the town.

112. Are you satisfied with the way the roads are kept at present?—Yes, on the whole we are, and they are improving.

113. Have the Commissioners considered whether they will try to become the authority over the roads?—Not finally, but it was under discussion, and for the present we are not going to seek the power, for we have the experience of other towns where it was not successful, and we believe under the new Grand Jury Laws we can get the work done properly, and we are prepared to wait, for we don't know what the new Grand Jury Law will do for us.

114. Can you tell us whether your opinion as to the extension is shared by any number of the Commissioners?—Yes.

115. Then you are authorized to speak for yourself, and how many of them?—I would rather not state the number, but it is shared in by a great many.

116. Can you say it is shared in by ratepayers besides?—I can't say.

117. Do you know is it objected to by the gentlemen whose seats would be taken in?—Yes, they would object to it.

118. Then you are only giving as far as possible your own individual views only?—Yes, and in my capacity as chairman of the Commissioners, and I believe I am not far wrong in saying they are pretty unanimous.

119. Following the townland boundary within the red line, how much of your land would be taken in?—I could not tell how much.

120. But it would take in a very considerable proportion?—Yes, very nearly as much more as what is in it now. The total number of acres I hold is 1527.

121. How much of that 1527 acres is in the present area?—I could not tell.

122. Independent of the gentlemen's seats to be taken in by the proposed extension of a mile or a mile and a half, are there many farmers who would be taken in?—Not many; it is principally people in the town who hold these accommodation lands, and they are the people who would be brought in, and then their rate would be only three halfpence in the pound.

123. Do they use these lands largely for grazing?—Certainly.

124. Do they supply from these farms produce for the town?—No, I think they principally use the produce for their own purposes, and any surplus they have they sell of course.

125. Mr. COTTON.—You know the electoral divisions of Gorey and Courtown?—Yes.

126. I presume we may take it that it would be absurd to think of them as a boundary?—Yes. There is only a very little portion of Courtown in the borough, and it runs away to the sea three miles from this.

127. The improvement rate of one-fourth would be payable by those owners of land outside, is it your opinion that half should be borne by the landlord?—Yes.

128. And would you apply the same principle to lands at present within the town?—Yes.

129. And the sanitary rate the same?—Yes.

Cross-examined.

130. Mr. O'Dempsey.—Do you say this opinion of yours was shared in unanimously?—No, but largely.

131. Upon what is your opinion formed that this extension would benefit the town?—That it would reduce the taxation to a certain extent to certain parts, and bring in others who are equally enjoying the privileges and not paying anything.

132. How many would it bring in?—About a dozen or fifteen.

133. Have you counted them?—No, but I have given eight or ten.

134. Is that all the cases?—No.

135. How many is the constituency?—I don't know.

136. What benefit would extension bestow on the ten who would be taken in?—It would bestow very considerable benefits. Up to the present time the inhabitants of the town, as you have been informed, have flagged it and cleansed it, and everything of that sort, and I myself and the gentlemen living around enjoy these privileges without paying for any of them.

137. What advantage would it confer on these people within a mile and a half, more than on Lady Esmonde, say?—Yes, a great deal more, for every time she comes into the town these people come a dozen times, and the same answer applies to the whole of them, and I am sure General Guise comes in twenty times for every once Lady Esmonde comes in.

138. Are there any other advantages?—Yes, they would get their letters and telegrams delivered free.

Lady Esmonde does not. It is well known what benefits people living near a town get as opposed to persons living four or five miles away.

139. I believe anyone living five miles away can get their letters by leaving a bag at the Post Office?—Yes; and they have to pay for it.

140. You will deliver them free to Mr. Hamilton, for instance?—Yes.

141. Do you think would this extension be any benefit to you?—Perhaps it would, and perhaps it would not; and as far as I am concerned if the Commissioners fix the boundary at a mile or a mile and a half, I am quite satisfied with their decision.

142. Do you think it would confer any additional rights on you in respect of your tenants?—I don't believe it would.

143. Assuming that it would make those holdings brought within it townparks, would it confer any benefit?—It would, and it would not.

144. Isn't it a fact that since you got this estate you have doubled the rents?—No, not all.

145. Well, nearly all?—That is a different question.

146. Isn't it a fact that in one instance at least in which I have specific instructions you doubled the rent within the boundary, and you left untouched the land in the same man's possession outside the boundary?—I did for the present.

147. There is no such thing in Gorey as a suburb where people live who carry on business in the town?—No, except two or three.

148. It is strictly a rural town?—Yes. I believe there are only two who live outside, and have business in the town.

149. CHAIRMAN.—You know several other towns well; in your opinion does it apply to them all that lands within a certain distance derive exceptional benefit from their proximity to the town?—Yes.

150. Is there anything in the circumstances of Gorey to make it different from any other towns?—No, not the slightest. In the Keady estate, which my father bought in 1863, and which you will have an opportunity of inspecting presently, you will find that what is the case there is the case here. I say the lands derive exceptional value. You will find it so.

151. Mr. O'Neill told us it was the Grand Jury did the paving?—No; it is done partly by them, and partly by the people who have flags opposite their houses.

152. General Guise.—There is one thing that I would like to put to Mr. Kirke with respect to his evidence, and that is that he should define something of the advantages which he says will result from extension of the boundaries. His reason for extending the boundary is, that it would give a regular boundary. What do you mean by a regular boundary, and what advantages does it give?—If you take a statute mile or an Irish mile round from the market house, that gives a regular boundary.

153. What advantage does that give?—It gives a definite thing. Some of it at present is within less than a quarter of a mile from the market house, and other parts of the boundary are a mile and a quarter away.

154. What advantage would that give?—It puts every one on an equal footing, because I can't see the fair play or common sense of having a town going out a quarter of a mile in one direction, and a mile and a quarter in another direction.

155. But that is owing to the shape of the town?—Yes; and a radius of a mile will bring it in.

156. But is there any specific reason why that extension would confer especial advantage?—It is just to bring every person within a certain fixed distance of a given point in the town within the radius, and to cause them to pay.

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William M. Kirke.

MICHAEL JOSEPH REDMOND, examined.

Michael J. Redmond.

157. CHAIRMAN.—Are you a Commissioner?—I was Chairman of the Commissioners before Mr. Kirke, and I wish to give my evidence, subject to the condition that any alteration of the boundary will not cause tenants to lose their tenant right.

158. You are a Town Commissioner at present?—Yes.

159. And you have been Chairman?—Yes.

160. And you own land outside the town?—Yes.

161. Do the owners of land receive greater rent out

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Michael J.
Redmond.

of their land owing to its proximity to the town?—Of course any land in the immediate vicinity of the town is rented at a great deal higher than land outside.

160. Then, as I understand you, you are in favour of extension, but that is on the understanding that such extension shall not interfere with any rights that exist at present, in favour of the occupiers of those outside lands under the Land Act, or with any privileges they have?—Yes. I am a very large contributor.

161. Have you considered the extent to which this extension should go, bearing in mind that we are to take care to keep the townlands boundaries as the boundaries of the town?—No; I could not suggest any particular extension.

162. How far would you say that lands derive from the present borough that exceptional advantage?—That is a very difficult question. Some parts of the townland derive more advantage than in other directions.

163. But, as a general question, within what radius would you say the land derives this advantage?—I would rather not decide any particular distance.

164. But we must depend to a great extent on the distance to which the land derives additional advantage?—I would extend the boundary considerably in some directions.

165. Why in some directions more than others?—Because I would make the township more regular; it extends more in one direction than another.

166. Would you extend it more north or south or east or west?—I am not able to answer that question.

167. Taking a circle of a mile from the centre of the town would bring in the railway, and they pay no rates at present?—It would be very desirable to bring them into the township.

168. If you were to extend the boundary to the north-east and to take in the railway, would it not be fair to extend the boundary correspondingly round other portions of the town?—I don't feel competent to give an opinion on that.

169. But at all events you are of opinion it should be extended some distance beyond the present boundaries?—Yes. Of course, subject to the condition I have mentioned as to the Land Act.

170. Have you formed any opinion as to the rating of these lands that would be brought in, and whether they should continue to pay one-fourth?—Yes; I think they should pay one-fourth.

171. Have you considered the question, whether if

they are brought within the borough half of the rate should be paid by the landlord?—I think it should.

172. Have you considered, with regard to the lands to be brought in, and that would only have to pay one-fourth of the improvement rate as at present, whether the whole of the district to be brought in should get the benefit of light from the municipal Commissioners, or would you consider it would be enough to give light in any continuously inhabited district?—That is all we could be expected to do. The mere land would not want light.

Cross-examined.

173. Mr. O'Dempsey.—Are there any lamps wanted at all?—There are dozens wanted if we could afford to put them up.

174. Have you formed no opinion at all as to what advantages would be derived by the persons to be brought in?—No.

175. You have not formed any opinion on the subject?—No; but I think they have a perfect right to pay for the accommodation of having the town to come into, having such a place to resort to for different purposes.

176. Can you point to any special advantage they have?—No.

177. Would the fact of their being near the town, within a mile, for instance, give them in your opinion any additional advantages over the people who were say three miles from the town?—No; only they use the town often.

178. The farmer living a mile from the town—is he likely to use the town oftener than the farmer who is several miles away?—Not so much the farmers as the gentry.

179. Are there more than two or three to whom that could allude?—Oh yes, seven or eight.

180. The great majority of the lands are occupied by farmers who use the lands for their maintenance?—Yes, and it is an advantage to them to have a market near them where they can dispose of their articles.

181. Is it any advantage more than if it was three miles from them?—It is very small, but it is an advantage to them.

182. Do you know of any of the Commissioners who are in support of the extension?—I don't mention names, but I think they are all in favour of it. I was the only one who objected to it.

183. But they did not propose any resolution?—No.

WILLIAM GRAHAM, examined.

William
Graham.

184. CHAIRMAN.—You are one of the Town Commissioners?—I am one of the oldest members on the Board.

185. Have you any land outside the boundary?—Yes.

186. I may take it that your evidence is given on the supposition that the land outside to be brought in would not lose any rights under the Land Act?—That is what I understand, otherwise I would not be in favour of extension.

187. Giving your views on that supposition, what is your view, do you think that the land to a certain distance around the town does acquire exceptional advantage from its proximity to the town as a market town?—I don't know that. I am not for extension at all. I am well satisfied with the boundary as at present.

188. Do you think that the land within a mile of the town pays more rent than if it was three miles off?—Some does and more does not.

189. Is it your view as a rule that the lands close to a market town derive benefit from their proximity to the town?—They do sometimes; it is convenient to people to have a market to come into.

190. Do you think that Gorey affords that advantage?—For some places.

191. You know the present boundary of the town?—Yes; I do, well.

192. Do you mean there is no portion of the land outside the boundary of Gorey that derives advantage

from its proximity to the town, that the tenant is not able to pay a better rent, and that the landlord is not able to get a higher price for the land on account of its being close to the town?—What I understand by that is town parks. Some of them are paid for at exorbitant sums.

193. Do the lands outside pay more rent?—Some of them do, and more do not.

194. Then the landlords who get this larger rent, get it inasmuch as these fields are in the nature of town fields?—Yes, quite right.

195. Is it your opinion that anyone ought to pay for that any portion of the rates?—I don't know; it is immaterial to me one way or the other.

196. The landlord at all events gets a large rent?—Yes.

197. And isn't the tenant able to pay the larger rent?—I don't know about that.

198. How many acres do you hold yourself outside the present boundaries?—Six acres twenty perches.

199. Where is that?—Ramstown, lower.

200. What is the valuation of that?—The poor law valuation is £5 a year.

201. According to the present rating, if you were brought in, your rate would have been only 5d. for the last three years, and on the three years you would pay a penny farthing, and if you got half back from your landlord, why it would not be more than a half-penny one-eighth in the three years—would you object

to pay that?—I would sooner have the boundary where it is.

202. Would you suggest that Mr. Kirke should not be brought in, or do you think he should pay anything towards the town?—If he was brought in he should pay, but I don't think he has any right to pay at all.

WILLIAM WEBB, examined.

205. CHAIRMAN.—Are you living in the town?—I am.

206. How long have you been living here?—More than twenty years.

207. Do you know the present municipal bounds?—I do, pretty well.

208. Is it your opinion that the lands outside derive exceptional value from their proximity to the town?—I believe they derive some benefit.

209. That is, I suppose, that the occupiers are able to buy their goods and sell their produce at the market at the town?—Yes, and draw their manure from the town. It doesn't take them so long to come into the town, or to the market.

210. Where do the people about draw sand and coal from?—They draw it from the railway, and from Courtown Harbour, and Ballymoney.

211. Do people up at the southern side draw produce through the town?—They do, in a great measure, any one living outside the town has to come through it to get coal.

212. At all events they have to use the town in winter nights when it is dark?—Yes, of course.

213. And do you think it is advantageous to them to have the town lighted?—Yes, I think it is a great benefit to them on market days and fair days.

214. Have you formed any opinion as to extension; do you think the present boundary ought to be extended?—I do, to a certain limit.

215. What would be your view of the limit?—About a mile.

216. Following the townland boundaries as far as possible?—Yes, on the conditions that the right would not be interfered with under the Land Act, or any other Act.

217. Is it your view that they should have to pay one-fourth of the town rate whatever that may be?—I think it is very fair.

218. Do you think they derive, as compared with the man in the town, benefit to the extent of one-fourth?—I think the people outside derive nearly as much benefit as I do.

219. Have you thought at all whether the rate should be divided between the landlord and tenant?—Yes, that the tenant should get half from his landlord. I think he is entitled to it.

RICHARD CREIGHTON, examined.

230. CHAIRMAN.—You are clerk of the Gorey Union?—Yes.

231. You live in the borough at present?—I do.

232. Are you a rated occupier?—Yes.

233. How much land do you hold outside the boundary?—About twenty-four statute acres.

234. What is the valuation of the twenty-four acres?—Upwards of £30 a year.

235. Do you pay a higher rent for that on account of your proximity to the town?—I am very doubtful on the point, I hardly think I do; my land is considered a farm, and has always been considered such, and not a town park.

236. Don't you pay more for the same quality of land having regard to its being so close to the town, than you would pay for the same quality of land out in the country?—Not myself, as I am situated.

237. But suppose that land was in the market, and that you were not tenant of it at all, don't you think that the landlord would get more rent for that farm on account of its being so close to the town than if it

203. Then you would not increase the boundary at all?—No; I would not be for the extension at all; I think things are very well as they are.

204. Would you suggest that the boundaries should be lessened?—I would leave them as they are.

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William
Graham.

William
Webb.

220. Because the landlord gets a larger rent on account of his land being close to the town?—He does.

Cross-examined.

221. Mr. O'Dempsey.—You have no land yourself?—No; there are not many farmers within a mile of the town; there are a good many gentlemen about who derive benefit.

222. What benefit does the man who lives a mile away derive over the man who lives three miles away?—In the first place he has not so far to come to the town.

223. Is that the only thing?—No, he has other things, if a man lives three miles away he would not come in at all, if there is a wet day, but the day may clear up and he can then come in if he lives near the town; then there is the extra wear and tear on his cart, and the extra time occupied in coming in and going out.

224. How do you arrive at the estimate that one-fourth is a proper charge?—I think the land is already charged one-fourth, and that I think is fair.

225. Do I understand you, that you would form a different estimate of the amount a man should pay according to the distance he is from the town?—The man outside doesn't pay anything at present.

226. You say that your rates as an occupier in the town are necessarily increased by the use the people outside make of your roads, and they should pay something?—Yes, and we have been obliged to keep up the roads for them up to the present time.

227. Might you not as well take in the barony?—No, because we would then have to have a chief constable and all that.

228. I believe there are a good many outside against extension?—There are a good many outside who are owners of land, and are in favour of extension, only they are afraid their rights will be taken away under the Land Act.

229. General Guise.—As to the disadvantages to the town by reason of this coal being assumed to go through the town, I should like to ask how many of those who will be brought in under the extension will be likely to use much of the lighting of the town in bringing in coal, because it seems to me, that myself, and a great many who would be brought in, don't derive any such advantage.

Richard
Creighton.

was three miles away?—Not as a farm; if it was cut up and let in small lots it would let for more.

238. But suppose it was put up for sale in the market, don't you think it would bring more on account of its proximity to Gorey?—No, I don't think it would. Land has been sold in the immediate neighbourhood of Gorey, at Mr. Ram's sale, for less than land three or four miles away.

239. Do you think that land within a mile of the town does derive advantage from its proximity to the market?—That all depends on the town. In Ennis-corthy and Wexford there are suburbs, and there is a tremendously large population, but there is really no market in Gorey for market produce. People three miles out get the same price for their potatoes as in the town, and there is no difference except the distance.

240. Do they frequent the town as a market town?—Yes.

241. Do they frequent the town after night?—Yes, on market days as much as the town people.

242. And isn't that a benefit to them?—Not more

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Richard
Creighton.

than to the people living three or four miles off, and when Lord Courtown is at home, or Lady Esmonde, they make as much use of the town as General Guise or Mr. Hamilton or Mr. Kirke. The boundaries of the townlands are all irregular, and unless you cut houses and land you will have to take the townland boundaries. There are only a few acres of Gorey Corporation lands outside the townships.

243. Mr. COTTON.—Why did they do that with the Gorey Corporation land?—I could not tell you. I think it was a mistake in making it so. Gorey is an old Corporation, and under the Irish Parliament it sent a member to Parliament, and I think these boundaries were fixed then.

244. CHAIRMAN.—Do the people living outside supply milk and butter to the town?—No, the people living in the town have nearly all fields of their own; the greater part of them are within the town at present.

245. Do they buy milk?—Yes, from shopkeepers.

246. Where do the shopkeepers get it from?—From the fields outside.

247. And don't they derive advantage in that way?—It is very trifling.

248. But there is a very large acreage to be brought in?—Take for instance the articles of butter and milk, there are people coming in for three miles and selling it for the same price as the shopkeepers, and they get no greater advantage than the man a mile off.

249. That admits they get some advantage?—Yes, they save half-an-hour in the transit, and they must have some one to send in with it and a horse and cart, but the people in the town must have the same. I would like to disabuse your mind about the sanitary act. Mr. Kirke made a great mistake about the sanitary act. There is no such thing as £15 saving at all. There is no sanitary expense here except the water rate, which is one penny in the pound on the average. It is twopence this year.

250. Mr. COTTON.—On what district is that one

penny sanitary rate struck?—It is on eight townlands of the electoral division in the town, and two outside it.

251. What are the names of them?—Ballyowen or Ramsfort Park, Clonattin, Lower, Creagh Demesne, Gorey Corporation lands within and without the town, Gorey-hill, Knockmullen, Ramstown, Lower, Gorey-bridge, and Mill Lands.

252. That rate was for the water supply?—Yes.

253. Water is not supplied outside the present boundary?—No, sir: I think water is supplied in one case outside the boundary. There is a fountain.

254. And many of these townlands though rated for the water are not supplied with water?—They are not.

255. Did the guardians fixed that rating?—Yes. With regard to the sanitary rate, if the Commissioners take the sanitary rate it will be altogether a new and additional expense. The cost of the staff in the union is at present less than one farthing in the pound. The Town Commissioners will have to pay a sanitary staff. They will have to pay three or perhaps four officials, and that will be an additional expense on the town rates just in the same way as county officers would have to be paid if they took up the Grand Jury rates. I suppose there is no use in my entering my protest against my rights being taken away.

256. Are you against extension of the boundary irrespective of that question?—I am.

257. Suppose there was an extension of a mile, what would be the increase in the population within the district?—It would be very little. It is very slightly populated.

258. Would there be many farmers brought in who are resident on small farms outside the present boundary?—There would.

259. That is persons not living in the town?—Yes.

260. About how many?—Fifteen about.

261. And there would be about eight or ten gentlemen's places brought in?—Yes.

General Guise.

GENERAL GUISE examined.

262. CHAIRMAN.—You live outside the town?—Yes.

263. You know the present boundaries?—I have a sort of vague idea of them; they are not very strongly defined; they went on the fact of townlands.

264. And we are directed still to keep as near townland boundaries as possible; is it your opinion there should be any extension?—I can't see the least reason for it. If any reason can be shown, I will be prepared to consider it, but I can't see any reason for it.

265. Take any market town in Ireland; is it your opinion that the lands within a mile or so of the centre of the town don't derive some exceptional benefit from their proximity to the town?—That depends on circumstances. I can well understand that in Ennis-corthy for instance they are getting a benefit from the town, in the sale of produce to the people in the town, but here it is different, and I can't see the benefit exactly.

266. With regard to your own residence, don't you use the town yourself?—I never use the town excepting it is for the benefit of the town. For instance, I come in to petty sessions once a fortnight, and I come to the poor-house, and I use the church in the same way as if I lived in one of these rural places; but I don't see what exceptional benefit arises from that point, for I would use the church the same if it was not in the town at all.

267. Do you use Gorey as a market town?—Well, there are markets all round; there is a market at Glenogue hill, and according to that view you should go there and extend the bounds too. Mr. Creighton has corroborated the view I hold, that there is no increase of value given by the proximity of the lands to the town. I certainly don't think there is, and I certainly

don't use this town much at night—I can answer for that.

268. Don't you use Gorey as a town for buying your marketing?—Very little, and whatever use I do make of it is because I wish to assist the people in the town, and it is only for that reason I come to it at all. I could get the articles in many cases cheaper down from Dublin, so that it is only for the purpose of assisting the people in the town that I deal in it. One likes to help one's neighbour when he can, and I think it is right that I should assist the town whenever I can; but in some cases I find the difference is so great it is better to get the goods from Dublin.

269. Have you much land yourself?—No. I don't attempt tillage; I have only about twenty-four Irish acres.

270. What is your valuation?—I believe it is £66.

271. Don't you think you derive advantage to the extent of half one-fourth the rate?—Well, that is very small, but what is there to stop this rate, or to keep it at that infinitesimal value? Suppose a liberal Town Council came in and began all sorts of improvements, where would the rate be then and what could we do?

272. According to their present power they can only go up to one shilling and not beyond it?—Well, I would not like to see it at one shilling.

Cross-examined.

273. Mr. O'Dempsey.—You have your own residence and a number of houses on your land?—I have my own house.

274. And under this scheme any house taken in would be rated at the full amount?—Yes.

275. And not one-fourth?—No, and as to the coal, none of us out there come under that objection. There might be something in the objection if it concerned us.

MICHAEL KELLY, examined.

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Michael Kelly.

276. CHAIRMAN.—You are a ratepayer in the town of Gorey?—Yes, sir.

277. Have you land outside the boundary?—No.

278. What is your valuation?—I can't tell.

279. Is it your opinion the boundary should be extended?—I think in a small place like this it doesn't require it. It is a very small little market town; it is not like a large place.

280. Do you think the people having farms round the town and living outside the boundary don't get advantage from the lighting of this town, and don't use it?—I don't think they get much advantage.

281. Do you think they get any advantage?—They might get a little, but I don't think it could be any great advantage to them.

282. Do you know of your own knowledge whether some of these farmers close to the town sell milk and butter?—Yes; and they sell it four or five miles away as well.

283. But the people near the town sell them too?—Yes; and the people far out sell them too.

284. But the people far out don't get the same advantage?—Yes, to a great extent; the first markets are not so early, and they have more time to come in.

285. Doesn't it take more time, for instance, for the man who lives several miles away to come into the

town than the man who lives outside it?—Of course it does.

286. And the man whose time is occupied must be paid?—Of course, but the difference is nothing.

287. Is it your opinion that the fact of bringing in anybody would lessen your rate, and do you still believe, after what you have heard, that they should not be brought in?—I am quite willing to pay the rates I am paying in the town.

288. Do you think these people outside should not pay something to help you with the rates?—I think what they would pay would not make a great difference.

289. But no matter whether it only made a difference of £2 or £3 a year?—I don't think they get much benefit from it. There is not one here after night.

290. Having heard the matter explained, are you still of opinion that this extension is not necessary?—Yes.

291. And that the people around derive no substantial advantage from the town?—No.

292. General Guise.—We have to pay for the light we use, and as to flagging, it appears to have been half paid by the county, and we are entitled, therefore, to half of the flagging, but the town is getting the extra value out of it, yet they only paid half of it.

WILLIAM REYNOLDS, examined.

William
Reynolds.

293. CHAIRMAN.—Are you living in the town?—Yes.

294. Are you a rated occupier?—Yes.

295. Have you land outside the present boundary?—Some.

296. How much have you outside the present boundary?—Three and a half acres in one place, and five in another.

297. Would the land be brought in by the mile radius?—One part of it would, and the other would not.

298. What is the part that would be within the radius valued at?—£4 10s., and I pay £9 for it.

299. Am I right in thinking you pay that larger rent because the land is so close to the town?—I think it is on that account, or rather the improvements I have made on the land.

300. Would that land be as valuable suppose it was three miles from the town?—Not quite.

301. Then it derives some advantage by being near the town?—Yes.

302. And it is more valuable to the landlord because he gets the larger rent for it?—He gets a larger rent.

303. And it is more value to you because it is so close to the town?—It is not so very close, but it is within a mile.

304. Do you sell produce?—No.

305. You use that for your family purposes?—Yes.

306. Is it your opinion that there should be extension or not?—I believe it would be injurious to the whole inhabitants of the town to have any extension.

307. Do you mean that, as confined to the ratepayers who have no land, or to those who have land?—I have heard a great deal about reduction of the

rates; they are small now, and I think that instead of a reduction they would be increased by the increasing of our boundaries.

308. Why do you think so?—Because there would be a staff of officials employed that is not now employed, and then their salaries would come out of our rates.

309. What staff do you allude to?—The sanitary town inspector, and all that.

310. At present, taking in a mile, or whatever you would take in, would not make you the urban sanitary authority?—No, nor give power to take in the roads.

311. But they may have power over the roads if they apply for it?—Then there would be about eleven miles of road about the town to be repaired by us.

312. At present they have not the roads, nor can they get them without what is tantamount to an Act of Parliament?—But they intend to look for the sanitary power.

313. With regard to the existing state of facts, what is your opinion as to extension, leaving the other questions about roads and sanitary matters out of sight for the present?—My opinion is it would be injurious to the inhabitants; they would suffer from it.

314. That is, that in the future they would suffer?—Yes.

315. You are, I believe, one of the largest business men in the town?—I have a large business in the town; my poor law valuation is £35.

316. Is this land a mile away more valuable than land two miles off?—Just the difference there is in carting manure or bringing in a cow.

317. It would cost you more if it was two miles off?—Yes.

THOMAS MULLIGAN examined.

Thomas
Mulligan.

318. CHAIRMAN.—You are a rated occupier in the town?—Yes.

319. And have land outside the town?—Yes; about 170 acres.

320. Would it all be within a mile from the town?—Yes. I have some within the township boundary; about two and a half acres.

321. Do you think this land you have round the

town is not more valuable than if it was three miles off?—Well, I have made it valuable to myself. I have land far away that was more valuable. It was no value to me until I made it valuable.

322. How did you do that?—By my own labour and manure. I have a farm some two miles away, and I could have made it valuable nearly as cheap as this.

323. Take the land you have at present within the

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Thomas
Mulligan.

township boundary. Does it cost you less to manure that than land further off?—Well, the two and a half acres within the boundary, I had no way of getting manure to it unless on a man's back, until I cut away four and a half feet of rock.

324. In reclaiming land can you not reclaim land close to the town for less than land further off?—No; because I can get labour cheaper out there than near the town.

325. But you can draw manure easier to the place that is close to the town?—But I could keep a horse cheaper out there than in the town.

326. Then you have no advantage. Is it your opinion that your two and a half acres should be taken off the town?—I paid only £6 for that when I got it,

and now I pay £13 for it, and that is all owing to my own labour on it improving it.

327. Is it your opinion that we should put that field you have in the town outside the boundary?—It doesn't matter where you put it; but I know it would be a great injury to the people of the town to have the boundary extended.

328. That is that it would be injurious to the people in the town who have land outside?—We would have no protection of our rights. My opinion, and, as far as I know, the opinion of all persons outside would be against being taken in on any terms if they are to lose the benefit of the Land Act. I have lost my right under the Land Act in respect to this small bit of land.

Bernard Flood.

BERNARD FLOOD, examined.

329. CHAIRMAN.—Are you a ratepayer in the town of Gorey?—I am.

330. And you have land outside the town?—Yes, and inside also, and I have about five landlords.

331. Are you for or against any extension of the boundary of the town?—I am against any extension; no matter how it goes I am against it.

332. How much land have you outside the boundary of the town?—About thirty-eight acres, and I am afraid they might lay the claw on it too.

333. What is your valuation?—£30 a year.

334. Don't you think you pay more for it because it is near the town?—I don't know.

335. Where is the land that is outside the boundary?—It is a good distance off.

336. Then, except what you have in the town, your land is a mile and a half away?—Yes.

337. Is there any of it within a mile?—No.

338. Do you think this extension would be any substantial benefit to the town?—No; I think it would be more harm than good.

339. Suppose any gentleman in the neighbourhood was to make the town a present of £25 a year in aid of the rates, would that be any benefit?—I don't think it would. He would want something in return for it.

James Doyle.

JAMES DOYLE, examined.

340. CHAIRMAN.—Are you a ratepayer in the town?—I am.

341. And have you land outside the town also?—Yes.

342. Within the mile radius?—Yes.

343. How much land have you outside the town boundary?—About three acres within a mile of the town.

344. What is the rent of that land?—£6 17s. 6d. a year.

345. Do you think it is more valuable by reason of

its being close to the town?—It is more for accommodation than anything else we have it. I have a house in the town, but I don't live in it; I live within three miles of it.

346. Don't you send your produce from this three acres into the town?—I never got 4d. out of it these three years, only what I brought into it.

347. What is the value of the three acres?—£6 10s. or thereabouts. I think it is better to leave us as we are.

John Doyle.

JOHN DOYLE, examined.

348. CHAIRMAN.—Do you live in the town of Gorey?—I do.

349. Are you rated in the town?—My father is, but he is not able to attend here to-day.

350. Has he any land outside the boundary?—Yes.

351. Within a mile of the town?—Yes, and outside a mile.

352. Within a mile of the town how much land has he?—About 20 acres.

353. Does he pay more rent for that 20 acres of land because it is so close to the town?—He has to pay for it on account of improvements he made in it himself. It was worth nothing when he got it.

354. But suppose your father had liberty to assign it or to sell it?—He has not liberty.

355. Is it more valuable to the landlord through being so close to the town?—To the landlord it is, but to the tenant it is not.

356. Don't you think if your father was out of that farm, and the landlord wanted to set it, he could get more from a good tenant for it?—He could not have better than my father.

357. But isn't it more valuable by reason of its proximity to the town?—No, it is more value further off. The land near the town is bad on account of vermin of all sorts.

358. The land further off is better?—Yes. There is some of my father's land inside the town, and what was inside was raised from £6 to £13, and the land outside was not raised at all.

359. The outside land was not raised?—No, what was inside the corporation was raised, and what was outside was left as it was.

360. Your opinion is that at all events taking even a mile radius round the town the land is not more valuable in the market than land three miles off?—I think it is as valuable outside the town.

361. But is it more valuable?—I can't exactly say. I know we have land four miles from the town, and it is more valuable than land that is inside the town, and as to the milk, if it was as dear as whiskey it would not pay the rent.

362. Mr. COTTON.—Would you be in favour of having the boundary lessened?—I think everyone is satisfied with it as it is, gentry, farmers, and shopkeepers.

363. And you don't want anybody to come in to help the town?—No, the town is very well satisfied to pay their rates, and I think the farmers who are coming into the town have rates enough on them outside the mile—more than they are able to pay.

Mr. CLIFF OWEN, examined.

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Cliff Owen.

364. CHAIRMAN.—Are you at present within the town boundary?—No, I am outside it. I live at Knockmullen.

365. Would you be brought in by the mile radius?—Yes. I am about an eighth of a mile outside the town.

366. How much land have you?—I have a very old leasehold on it. A great deal of money has been spent, and it is very cheap.

367. Suppose that land was in the market would it bring more on account of its proximity to the town, than if it was three miles off?—It might, as villa residences, but I don't think the land would be anything more.

368. For instance would not the farmer have facilities for getting manure from the town?—He would, but two or three miles off he would have the same facilities. There is no daily market, it is only a weekly market.

369. But the man who is closer to the town saves time, and he must have similar advantages in other respects?—I think the advantages extend to a certain area for those who use Gorey, and I think these people improve the town, and if they did not come in the shopkeepers would not be able to live.

370. Still they use the town and the shopkeepers get the advantage from their coming in?—Yes.

371. And you also have the advantage of having close at your door the opportunity of buying under more advantageous terms than if you were three or four miles off?—Not sufficient to cause us to be brought in to the boundary.

372. Do you think you ought to pay anything, let it be the smallest coin you can imagine, towards the lighting and keeping up of the town?—My idea is that that argument would just as well apply to an area of three or four miles, and to all the people who use the town.

373. Yes, but it would be very hard to increase the town out to that distance?—I think the circular line has attracted a good many people; it looks a compact and nice boundary. If the boundary was extended a mile it would be as irregular, for it would go by townland boundaries.

374. Mr. CORROX.—You think that in the extension of any town it would be advisable to keep to townland boundaries as much as possible?—I think it would be much more convenient for the collection of taxes. I am a tax collector myself, and I know it is very inconvenient when townlands run into one another.

375. It would be an advantage to adhere to the townland boundaries?—Yes, I think the boundaries should be the same; it would facilitate the collection of rates if the town boundaries and the townland boundaries were the same. We have no guarantee

that we will not be contracted out of the Land Act, and as to the railway, it benefits as much by the town as the town by the railway; if I was owner of Knockmullen in fee, I would vote for the extension of the boundary to Knockmullen.

376. What would be your reason for that?—I would get more for it if let to a tenant, but there would be a chance of doing away with the goodwill of it, if the boundary was extended, at present; I have a certain goodwill of the lands, and if they were brought in I would be jeopardising that.

377. But suppose you were absolutely protected against anything of that kind, would you be for extension, particularly if you would only have to pay one-fourth of the valuation, and half of it should be paid by the landlord?—It would be for my own good, but it would not be for the good of the town?

378. Why do you think it would not be for the good of the town?—Because I don't think there is any reason brought forward why these boundaries should be altered.

379. Except that these outlying districts would have to pay something to the town?—I think the town has got sufficient property to tax, for they have a valuation of £4,000, and why do they want another £1,000?

380. Because if you give the other £1,000, you give that in aid of the present rates, and you are relieving the ratepayers in the town, and throwing that amount of responsibility on the country, which it is said gets some little advantage from its proximity to the town?—Who are the townspeople who have said so? There was only one resident of the town examined here in favour of it, and I have heard a great many townspeople who were against it; it is not like a daily market, if you send in produce here on ordinary days, the chances are you will not be able to sell it; it is not like Wexford, where you can send in garden produce daily, but here you are in the same position as the person living four or five miles off, and in fact I am not certain it is legal to send in farm produce, except on market days, however, if you do send it in, the chances are it will go back to you unsold.

381. Is there not any appreciable advantage to the man within a mile, as against the man within three miles?—He must save in the time occupied in coming into the town—that is the only advantage.

382. Mr. CORROX.—If there were two farms, one within a mile, and the other within three miles, would there be any difference in the letting value of the farms?—I could not tell; I am not sufficiently acquainted with land to know that.

383. Do you think the advantage would be infinitesimal?—I don't think it is sufficiently large to alter the present boundary.

Mr. JOHN REDMOND, examined.

John Redmond.

384. CHAIRMAN.—Are you a ratepayer in the town?—I am.

385. Have you land inside?—Yes, and outside too.

386. Outside how much have you?—Three acres inside, three acres outside, and five acres besides.

387. Are the five acres within the mile?—No.

388. You have three acres within the mile?—Yes.

389. What is the value of the three acres within the mile?—£5 10s.

390. What makes you pay more for that land than the other, is it because it is close to the town?—No, it is because I made it more valuable myself.

391. Take it as it is now, suppose it was to be let in the market, do you think it would bring more on account of its being so close to the town?—I think it is bringing plenty as it is.

392. If you had three acres of land of the same quality three miles from the town, would it be valued as high?—I can't say.

393. How far from the town is the five acres?—About a mile and a half.

394. Is that of the same value?—I am paying more for that, than what is near the town.

395. What is the valuation of that?—The Government valuation is £9 10s., and I pay £13 for it.

396. Is it as good land as the three acres?—No; I don't think it is, for I made that better. I think the whole thing is unnecessary; you would not get a farmer within a mile, or a mile and a quarter of Gorey, who has land, and would be in favour of extension; every gentleman round here has land up to three miles from the town, and so I don't see what advantage it would be to them to have taxation put upon them, as they are satisfied to remain as they are.

397. Nearly all the people outside, within a certain distance, are taxpayers already, you say?—Yes.

398. And therefore you say it is no advantage to them to have any alteration?—Yes.

399. Because what they would have to pay on one hand would be lightened on the other?—Yes.

400. Do you apply that to Mr. Kirke's land?—It is suited to all the people round here, except what he holds himself.

401. Do you not think he should pay for what he holds himself?—What he holds himself goes away out too far.

The inquiry then closed.

WATERFORD.—MARCH 7TH, 1879.

Before Mr. EXHAM, Q.C., and Mr. COTTON, C.E.

WATERFORD.
Mar. 7, 1879.Mr. Joseph
Howard.

Mr. JOSEPH HOWARD, Town Clerk, examined.

1. CHAIRMAN.—You are the Town Clerk of Waterford?—Yes.

2. And have been so for a long time?—Yes, several years.

3. What is the extent in acres of the municipal area of Waterford?—499 acres 2 roods 15 perches.

4. And the population?—About 24,000 inhabitants.

5. And the present valuation?—£38,739 5s.

6. I believe there has been a little increase in the population?—Well, nothing material. We are just under the figures that would entitle us to take advantage of the provisions of the Artizans' Dwellings Act.

7. How many wards is Waterford divided into?—Five.

8. And are these the same for poor law purposes?—They are not coterminous, but they have all the same names except one. What we call the Centre Ward in the municipal district is called St. Patrick's in the poor law; the other four are the same.

9. Can you give the valuation of those wards for municipal and poor law purposes?—Only in the city. For the Centre Ward for municipal purposes the total area is 20a. 2r. 5p., and for poor law purposes it is 80a. 3r. 23p.

10. What is the valuation of the Centre Ward?—For civic purposes £5,011 10s., and for poor law purposes £6,776 10s. The area of the Custom House Ward for civic purposes is 25a. 1r. 8p.; for poor law purposes 69a. 0r. 39p.; valuation for civic purposes £5,933, and for poor law purposes £6,170 15s. The South Ward area for civic purposes 116a. 1r. 39p., for poor law purposes 103a. 1r. 16p.; valuation for civic purposes £6,869, for poor law purposes £6,010 10s. Tower Ward, civic area 190a. 1r. 6p., and the same for poor law purposes; valuation for civic purposes and poor law purposes £9,740 15s.; and West Ward 146a. 3r. 37p.; for poor law purposes area 55a. 0r. 32p.; valuation for civic purposes £11,185, and for poor law purposes £10,040 5s. West Ward comprised £3,600, the tolls of the Waterford bridge. Although there seems to be an apparent difference in the areas, that is only an error in calculation.

11. Can you tell the number of burgesses in each ward?—In Centre Ward the number of burgesses is 128.

12. How many are qualified for the office of town councillor?—I could not say exactly. Our lists only give the name and description of the property they are rated for. But by going over the names and from the rate book I could get it. It is hard, for this reason, that there are two qualifications for town councillors, that is to be rated at £25, or to be a burgess at any rating, and to be worth £1,000; therefore I could not tell except by repute. I can only give you the rating of those at £25 and upwards. In Centre Ward there are 128 burgesses, 34 being qualified by rating; in Custom House Ward 156, 20 qualified by rating; in the South Ward 151, 7 qualified; in the Tower 177, 49 qualified; and in the West 136, 36 qualified.

13. Each of the wards has two aldermen and six councillors?—Yes.

14. That is 40 altogether?—Yes.

15. And how many guardians are returned for each ward?—Two guardians.

16. Is the whole of the municipal area within the one electoral division?—Yes.

17. And that electoral division extends much beyond the municipal district?—Yes, as shown on the map before you.

18. Well, the Parliamentary boundary, I think we have it, is larger than the municipal?—Yes.

19. How much actually does the Parliamentary

boundary contain in acres?—9,446 acres, and the population is 29,199.

20. And the electoral division?—It contains 7,368 acres, and the population is 28,959.

21. Do you know what is the registrar's district for the registration of births, deaths, and marriages?—It is 17,209 acres, and has a population of 30,626.

22. And we have it that the municipal and poor law wards are not coterminous?—No, the wards for municipal purposes are not coterminous with the others.

23. Is the entire area within the five wards for poor law purposes in the aggregate the same as the municipal?—They include the municipal, but they contain a larger extent of land.

25. Then they are not coterminous?—No. Take the Centre Ward in the municipal area, it is included in St. Patrick's Ward in the electoral division.

26. Mr. COTTON.—Take the Custom House (municipal) Ward does it go to the north side of the river at all?—No, not for municipal purposes.

27. Then, in point of fact, they are not the same?—No, except in the case of the Lower Ward, which is the same for municipal and poor law purposes.

28. At present you are under the Municipal Corporation Act of 1840?—Yes, the 3rd and 4th Victoria, chapter 108.

29. Have you adopted the Towns Improvement Act at all?—Only one or two clauses.

30. Which are they?—Those with reference to hackney cars, and some very trifling things.

31. Now, as to the rates, you have never levied in Waterford any municipal rate?—No, never. We did formerly, the old lamp tax, which was under an old local Act called the Waterford Police Act, but that has been discontinued; but we have the power of levying it still. It has been discontinued, however, for some time.

32. Then there are no municipal rates at present?—None at present.

33. Now, as to the poor law rates, can you give us the poor law rating for the past two or three years?—I am afraid not from memory, but I can get it.

34. Can you give the county cess, the city grand jury cess?—Yes, I can give the average—from 1s. to 13d. in the £; it averages about 2s. 1d. in the year. The cess levied is about that.

35. The cess levied in lieu of grand jury cess has averaged about 1s. 1d. each half year, or about 2s. 2d. in the year. Then the only other rate that would be levied here is the water rate?—Yes. There is no water rate, however, at present. There is a water rate collector, but no rate levied.

36. What is it contemplated the water rate would be?—It is limited by Act of Parliament to 3d. in the pound.

37. Then the lighting—how is that paid for?—It is paid by the Corporation out of the borough fund.

38. Not the borough fund, for there is no borough rate?—Out of their property.

39. What are the debts of the Corporation at present?—Well, the water debt, that is about £50,000.

40. I thought it was only £25,000?—Oh, there was a mistake in the report in the printing, perhaps, of the report of the Committee of the House of Commons, in which it was put down at £20,000. The original amount was £50,000 borrowed from the Board of Works, and that sum has been expended.

41. The whole of it?—Yes, and at present an application is pending before the Local Government Board for a further loan of £15,000, to complete the works, and distribute the water through the city. We are informed by the Secretary of the Local Government

Board, that the provisional order has been prepared. I should say that the other side of the river has been exempted. It has been exempted from the operation of the local act, and won't have to pay any water rate.

42. Is it the opinion that any alteration ought to be made in the present wards, or is it believed that they are fairly divided. Is there, in fact, any feeling expressed with reference to the subject?—I have not heard much feeling expressed with reference to the matter, or as to any alteration, but there is no doubt the area of the wards is very unequal.

43. Here is the Centre Ward with only twenty acres, and the Custom House with twenty-five acres, whilst the others are six times that—seven times that, in fact?—Yes, but these two are the most densely populated of the five.

44. Yes, but would the property be more valuable in proportion?—Yes, much more, for they are situated just in the very heart of the city.

45. I see the smallest number of burgesses is in the Centre Ward, 128, and the largest is in the Tower Ward, 177, could there be any better or more desirable division made than at present, in your opinion?—Well, I could not suggest anything that would be an improvement.

46. Was it discussed at all, to your knowledge?—Well, the division of the wards was not. The extension of the boundaries was, but the division or alteration of the wards was not discussed by the Town Council.

47. In the bill proposed by the Corporation a few years ago here, was there any suggestion about the alteration of the wards?—No, not that I remember.

48. With reference to the queries we forwarded to you, the question was asked whether or not the present municipal boundaries were regarded with dissatisfaction by the ratepayers generally, or by any section of them?—Yes, that matter was considered by a Committee in charge of the matter, and they thought the ratepayers were indifferent whether the extension took place or not.

49. Has the matter been considered by the Town Council here, in consequence of the queries we sent to them?—Yes.

50. And was the consideration of it referred to a Committee?—Yes, to the Finance Committee of the Corporation.

51. To report on it?—Yes.

52. When was it referred to then, about what date?—It was first referred to the Finance Committee, so far back as when we first received your queries, that was last November, or about that time.

53. The Finance Committee then, I take it, considered the matter?—Yes.

54. Was that at a full meeting of the Finance Committee?—Yes.

55. How many were present?—Well, there were ten members of the Committee, and when first it was considered, I think there were five members present.

56. Did they afterwards come to any formal decision, or make any report on the subject?—Merely to the conclusion that it would be desirable to extend the boundary in accordance with this map (produced), following the black line you see marked on it.

57. That is, they considered it would be desirable to extend the boundary to the extent proposed by the Parliamentary Committee, the Committee of the House of Commons?—You see it marked.

58. Mr. CORROX.—Could you let us have a copy of the Parliamentary plans lodged?—Yes. In 1875 the Corporation proposed a bill by which they sought amongst other things for an extension of the municipal area, and making it coterminous with the electoral division. That bill was opposed in Parliament, and a compromise was offered by the Corporation to have the boundary extended to the limits shown, but in consequence of further opposition that was not accepted by the Committee. The Finance Committee then adopted an intermediate area between these two, and which is

also shown on the map, and this was submitted to the Council. That is how the matter stood.

59. When that was done by the Finance Committee was it brought before the Corporation?—It was.

60. And what was then done?—It was referred back to the Committee for further report.

61. When was that?—On the 26th of February. The resolution referring it to the Finance Committee was on the 20th December—it was as follows:—

“Resolved,—That the letter of the Boundaries Commissioners, dated 15th November, 1878, be referred to the Finance and Law Committee to prepare a draft report.”

And their further report was as follows:—

“COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL,

“WATERFORD, 3rd March, 1879.

“Finance and Law Committee.

“As to the extension of the Borough Boundary, we beg to submit for the information of the Council the valuation of the additional area proposed to be included, the acreable extent thereof, the estimated cost of repairs of the roads, and the cost of lighting said roads.

“Borough Boundary. Valuation of Additional Area.

	£	s.	d.
Tower Ward,	2,421	0	0
Customhouse Ward,	170	0	0
Centre Ward,	1,030	0	0
West Ward,	791	0	0
South Ward,	1,474	0	0
	£5,886	0	0

Value of Electoral Division outside Borough Boundary, £13,249 0 0

	A.	R.	P.
Area of Electoral Division outside Borough,	6,868	1	12

“Borough Extension—additional Area and Roads.

	A.	R.	P.
Tower Ward,	464	2	30
Customhouse Ward,	116	2	18
Centre Ward,	274	0	21
West Ward,	190	0	1
South Ward,	359	3	25
Total,	1,405	1	15

“Roads.

	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
193½ perches at 20 0,	0		193	15	0
1030 ” 2 6,	6		128	15	0
1672 ” 1 8,	8		139	6	8
593½ ” 1 6,	6		44	10	7
			£506	8	3

“Additional Roads for Lighting Borough Extension.

“9 miles and 92 yards.—10 lamps to each mile equal to 90 lamps at £4 4s. per lamp—£378.

“Sanitary Expenses.

“About £100 per cent. per annum additional.”

62. Now, what action did the Town Council take upon that?—On the 4th of March they held a meeting, and the question came up for discussion, when the following resolution was agreed to:—

“That, believing the extension of the Borough Boundary would entail additional expenditure on the Borough without any corresponding benefit, we consider that no extension should be made.”

63. Mr. CORROX.—Was that adopted unanimously?—Well, there was no division, but I don't think Mr. Fisher agreed to it, and perhaps there were one or two others who agreed with him.

64. Did the Finance Committee consider anything about the ward boundaries?—No, they did not go into that subject at all.

65. How far does the county of the city of Waterford extend?—For Parliamentary purposes it extends five miles.

WATERFORD.

Mar. 7, 1879.

Mr. Joseph Howard.

WATERFORD.

Mar. 7, 1879.

Mr. Joseph
Howard.

66. I mean how far does the county of the city extend for taxing purposes under the Grand Jury?—It extends to the municipal boundary.

67. This proposed extended district is under the county Grand Jury?—Yes, under the county Grand Jury.

68. Can you tell me what the cess outside the borough is at present?—About the same as the city Grand Jury cess. The cost is about the same; there might be a penny in the £ difference, but practically it is the same.

69. CHAIRMAN.—In what baronies are the proposed extended lands situate?—In Kilculleheen, Gaultier, and Middleton.

70. What was the Grand Jury cess for these three?—Well, the average would be, taking last year, about 1s. 4d. There was for Kilculleheen 1s. 5d. Gaultier 1s. 3½d., Middleton 1s. 6½d.

71. That is for the half year?—Yes, I have taken it from the July Assizes of last year.

72. I see then that the inhabitants of the district proposed to be taken from the county and added to the city are paying about 6d. in the £ or 7d. in the £ more than the people in the municipal district?—Yes.

73. They would appear to pay more than the people in the municipal part?—Yes.

74. But at present they are getting no lighting?—No.

75. And they would not have to pay public water rate at present?—No, it is not levied, and they do not pay any public water rate.

76. That is in the municipal area?—Yes.

77. They gain 6d. on the one hand, and it would be an actual saving of 3d. about?—Yes.

78. But at present they have no lighting?—No, and they derive all the benefits of the city—of using it.

79. Then, if they were brought in and had no lighting to pay for, the city would make money on bringing them in, in fact, and they would save about 3d. in the £?—Yes.

80. They would get one-eighth of their threepence towards the public water rate?—Yes.

81. And the roads would cost them about the same?—In the estimate we have given in we only give it for repairs of the roads, we have not taken anything into account for sweeping.

82. But you add on about £100 for sanitary expenses?—Yes, but we don't mean sweeping of the streets, that is kept separate.

83. Would you not be able, for say about 2s. 1d. in the year, to keep the roads of the city, if your Grand Jury cess in the city is sufficient to enable you to repair, renew, and scavenge the streets?—Yes, but there is a misapprehension—the Grand Jury does not do anything about the roads in the city. The Corporation does the entire thing with the Corporation income. The Grand Jury does not use a penny on that, with the exception perhaps of £12 or £20 a year on the roads.

84. What then?—On the Lunatic Asylum salaries, what we call "imperatives"—all the streets within the municipality are done by the Corporation, but the Grand Jury have nothing to do with the repairs of the streets or roads, except the boundary road around the city, one half of which is kept in repair by the county and the other half by the city.

85. Mr. CORTON.—But it is all within Waterford?—Yes, the county and the borough of Waterford kept that road between them, and that is the only road the Grand Jury has anything to do with. All the streets are kept in repair, scavenged, and so on, out of the Corporation income. The boundary wall is kept by the Grand Jury of the county and the Grand Jury of the county of the city. The Corporation attends to everything else.

86. Why does not the municipal body instead of the county of the city Grand Jury keep up that one-half road?—By the Improvement Bill of '75 we tried

to transfer the fiscal powers of the Grand Jury to the Corporation; but that bill failed.

87. CHAIRMAN.—What are the other fiscal powers of the Grand Jury?—They present, they contribute towards the support of the lunatic asylum, till recently they paid their quota for the maintenance of jails, a number of officers, they are charged with the payment of reformatory schools, weights and measures, and, in fact, very little else.

88. There is, in fact, what is called the county at large charges?—Yes. There is a guarantee of which we have to pay our proportion—that is a sum of about £1,300 a year. Here is the only road I see here in the Spring Assizes of '78. It is recorded there is a sum of £11 11s. paid to Thomas Power for repairing it—for half-year's contract for keeping in repair for 6½ years 390 perches of road from Waterford to Portlaw, including 386 perches of the footpath between the borough boundary at Pooleberry and the borough bounds at Summerland.

89. Out of what is that £11 paid?—Out of Grand Jury cess, and the rest goes to pay the County Grand Jury charges. If you take in Kilculleheen, portion of which we propose to take in, the valuation of that barony is £3,626; the barony charge on that is £195, and the proportion of the county charge is £63. In Gaultier now the county charges would be about £497 on a valuation of £28,558; and in Middleton the county at large charges would be £704 on a valuation of £40,400. Therefore, if we are correct in our estimate of the valuation of the proposed extension, you can easily see what the county at large charges on the whole would be. The total amount of the charge on the county makes about 4½d. in the pound on the total valuation of the county. Therefore, 4½d. on £5,886 gives the amount of the county at large charges which would be thrown into the city. We have made a calculation of £506 as being what it would probably cost the city for the repair and maintenance of these roads, £506 8s. 3d.

90. £506, and say £100 for sanitary purposes?—Yes.

91. It would then cost you £600 a year?—Yes.

92. Additional expense?—Yes.

93. And the taxation you would get then would be what?—The taxation would be, say, 2s. 2d. on £5,886, it would be about £600. That would be exclusive of lighting, and it would be about the same to the outside people—they would neither lose nor gain by it; indeed they would get a profit. Take the average of the sums here—2s. 8d. in the pound, Grand Jury cess at present, we would only ask them to pay 2s. 2d., and by the addition of the 3d. water rate it would be 2s. 5d., so that there would be a gain. They would gain that 3d. in the pound.

94. Yes, they would gain that 3d., and be better off on the score of lighting?—They would have a better chance.

95. I believe it is a fact here that the municipal boundary is right through the centre of some of the streets?—Yes.

96. That is, portion within and portion without the boundary?—Yes; in some places one-half is in the county, and the other half in the city.

97. Well, now, don't you think it would be desirable, at all events, that the houses on one side of the road or street should be brought into the city?—Most decidedly.

98. So that taking this boundary road you will have to lay the water pipes along it?—Yes, we have done so.

99. So that the people on one side are paying water rate, and those on the other side are not?—Yes. In one of the most populous districts part is in the city and part is in the county—that is in Barrack-street. One side, or half, of Barrack-street is in the city, and the other half outside it.

100. And the pipes are laid up to the extremity of the boundary?—Yes. I may add that one of the barracks—the Artillery—is outside the boundary,

and the Infantry, which is just a few yards further on, is inside.

101. Mr. COTTON.—Do you think that if the effect of extending the boundary was to bring the population over the 25,000 necessary for the purpose, the Artizans' Dwellings Act would be put in force?—Yes, I do.

102. And it would be a great public advantage?—Yes.

103. CHAIRMAN.—Independently of the point you have mentioned of the boundary going through the centre of some streets, is there any of it, and, if so, any large portion of the district proposed to be brought in by the Finance Committee of the character that you would call an urban district?—Yes, a large portion of it is immediately adjacent to the city. Not only a large number of small houses, but large public buildings, the Lunatic Asylum, St. John's College, the Poor Law Workhouse, the Presentation Convent, the Ursuline Convent, several private dwelling-houses, like Mr. Harvey's, "John's Hill," Newtown House, would be included, and, in fact, a large number of places which are practically in and form portions of the city, though nominally they are not in it.

104. And are there rows or terraces of small houses?—Yes.

105. And what would be the valuation of these?—Well, the greater number of the houses are small.

106. And they would be below the burgesses' qualification?—Yes.

107. But have you made any calculation of the number that would be added to the burgess roll by the extension suggested by the finance committee?—Well, we have not made any calculation of that, for I did not believe that the number would be very much. A large number of these have the franchise from their premises elsewhere.

108. At present that district is under the rural sanitary authority?—Yes.

109. Do you think it would be an advantage to these people living in that district outside, and to the present inhabitants of the municipal district, that they should be brought in to you as the urban sanitary authority?—Yes, for I think the urban sanitary authority has greater facilities for working the Public Health Act than the Board of Guardians, for we have a staff—a larger staff, and so on. We have the executive sanitary officer, the sanitary officer, the consulting medical officer, and eight sub-sanitary officers within the municipal boundary.

110. And would that be sufficient to work the district you would bring in?—We calculate that it would be necessary to have two additional officers.

111. About £100 a year more?—Yes.

112. At present do they contribute that £100 a year to the rural sanitary board?—I may say they do, under the poor rate.

113. Then it would cost them no more, and for them and for you it would be better that they should be attached to you as the sanitary authority?—Yes.

114. Is there a sanitary rate levied on the city?—No, we don't levy any sanitary rate under the Public Health Act.

115. Then you say that if you levy £100 a year on them, it would be no more than they pay at present?—Very little, I should say.

116. And that would amply compensate you for the increased advantages conferred?—Yes.

117. Mr. Delandre, Solicitor.—There is the public water rate of 3d. which would be levied. There is the domestic water rate of '71, "not exceeding 1s. in the pound," that is a further liability that has not been mentioned yet.

118. CHAIRMAN.—Yes, but I understand it is not the intention to extend the water beyond the municipal boundary.

119. Mr. Delandre.—I would ask Mr. Howard is it not the fact that the Corporation are in extreme pecuniary difficulties at present?—No.

120. Is it not a fact that they have had a writ

served on them for a large sum of money?—Yes, one for a sum of £207 4s. lent.

121. Is it not a fact that the sum of £15,000, if granted, will not be sufficient for the purpose required by the Corporation?—No, it is not.

122. Is it not a fact that the income derived from this water rate, in whatever way it may be levied, will be insufficient to pay the interest on that loan, amounting in the gross to £60,000?—No, if we levy a sufficient tax.

123. You will be obliged to have recourse to the borough rate?—No, not necessarily, the valuation of the present borough is £38,739 5s.; of course that is not all available for the purpose of water tax. In round numbers the amount that would be subject to water rate would be £36,000, nearly £37,000, £32,000 for the domestic water rate. That would be about £1,600 a year.

124. I understand in our loan at present, it is to be repaid by annual instalments of about £3,040?—Yes.

125. Then there would be a deficiency?—The deficiency would be £300 a year, but we have to take into account the large sums we would receive for the sale of water.

126. Mr. COTTON.—Have you any water salaries?—Yes, we have a paid superintendent at £100 a year; I receive, as secretary, £60 a year, and there are besides that two men in charge of the reservoirs at £1 a week each, labourers required to look after the turncocks, &c.

127. Taking all that together, and also the interest on the loan, what would be the deficiency after a full supply, the domestic and public water supply, and the supply factories?—Do you mean supposing we got the £5,000?

128. Yes?—Well, the charge on the whole sum would be, on £65,000, would be estimated at about £3,000, or £3,100 a year, the tax at 1s. 3d. would be in round numbers, about £2,000, that would leave £1,100 to be made up; there would be a charge of about £400 a year for expenses of maintenance; that would be £1,500 a year; well, at least from sales of water we anticipate from £800 to £1,000 a year to commence with—possibly it would go to much more than that.

129. CHAIRMAN.—Then if you only got that it would leave a deficiency of £700 a year?—Well, under the Water Act we have power to levy the whole water rate. It is not anticipated it will be required, but it could be done.

130. Mr. Delandre.—What I want to know is, why people outside who don't require water would incur liability to this water tax?—It was never proposed by the Finance Committee that the domestic water rate should be levied on the additional area, unless the people asked for and obtained the water supplied to them.

131. Is it not a fact that the £15,000 you have applied for will not be sufficient?—I think it will.

132. Have you not shown that the absolute outlay to carry the matter out would be more than this. £15,000 would cover?—Yes, £17,000 odd.

133. Then there is that deficiency?—Besides that was on prices calculated as they were at the time, but since then they have gone down.

134. There would be a deficiency at any rate, as has been shown, of close on £800?—Yes.

135. And how do you propose to make that up?—We have power—6d. in the pound additional water rate would make that up.

136. Then in order to make up that deficiency you would impose a greater chargeability on the outlying districts?—No.

137. CHAIRMAN.—As I understand it, the outside district is only to be made liable for the public water rate, and not for the domestic?—Mr. Howard says: we don't propose to carry the pipes further than the existing boundary, except to the barracks, which are distinct, and who will pay for it specially; we don't propose to charge domestic water rate upon the county, but we think they should pay the public water rate of the city, because they make so much use of the city and of the public water when they come in, for their

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horses, &c., and they have the streets watered, and derive in fact as many advantages in that way as the inhabitants themselves, and therefore they should pay 3d. in the pound." That is what they say, and what I understand is this: there is no suggestion that if any outlying district is to be brought in it should be charged with domestic water rate at all, nor have put on it the incubus of this £65,000.

140. Mr. *Delandre*.—Is not this £75,000 a charge on the borough rate?—Yes, if there was such a thing. The first charge on the Corporation property is £75,000, that is the debt of the old Corporation, and some sums borrowed since. That is charged on the Corporation property, and a borough rate if levied. The £65,000 is further charged on the Corporation property, and on the rates to be levied under the water rate.

141. That £75,000 is exclusive of course of the £65,000?—Yes.

142. And I take it the included district would be liable for that £140,000?—Yes.

143. Well, they have no burthen whatever now?—I don't understand. The Corporation property is liable, that is how it stands.

144. Mr. *Cotton*.—Is the property of the Corporation fully secured?—It is.

145. Then, I presume any persons brought in, though they partake of the liabilities, partake also of the assets?—Yes.

146. What do the Corporation assets amount to?—To over £10,000 a year.

147. Is not part of the borough excluded from water rate?—Yes.

148. Would there not be the power of getting this part exempted?—Yes, the legislature will have the power.

149. That is the proposed extended part?—Yes.

150. But if it was brought in, and no exemption made by the legislature, would not the Local Government Board have the same power as they had with reference to Ferrybank?—Yes.

151. It was never contemplated to put the water rate on them at all?—Yes, like Ferrybank.

152. Mr. *Delandre*.—There is great difficulty, is there not, in getting through the Corporation business?—Well, I get through a great deal of it from time to time.

153. Is it not a fact, beyond doubt, that a great many roads within the municipal boundary have been for the past four or five years in a wretched condition?—It is not.

154. Do you know the road out to the Leper Hospital from Catherine-street?—I do.

155. Was it not in a very wretched condition?—No, I don't think so. I went over it for four or five years.

156. Was it not full of ruts?—There were ruts in it, but it was not full of ruts.

157. Are not the county roads better taken care of?—No, there is not the same amount of traffic on them as in the city, and therefore they don't require the same amount of repair.

158. CHAIRMAN.—I suppose the roads within the boundary get a great deal of hard usage from the people outside?—Yes, a great deal. The farmers do more damage to our roads than we do; we spend about £2,500 a year on them.

159. Was there damage done by the road engine?—Yes.

160. And does not all the traffic from the railway go along your roads?—Yes.

161. Mr. *Delandre*.—I certainly know of one road within the municipality which is, as I say, full of ruts, or was so, and it was not until within the last four or five months that they put down stones, and did something to improve its condition. It was impossible to travel it. There is, and was, however, a marked change for the better when you got outside the boundary.

162. Mr. *Fisher*.—Did you receive a return from

the Government about the burial ground, Mr. Howard?—Yes.

163. The Corporation is made the burial board?—Yes.

164. What burial grounds are there?—There is the Friends', Ballybricken, and the French Church burial ground, close off the Quay, where there is not a burial once in five years.

165. Do you know of any site within the city that can be got for a burial ground by the Corporation?—No, there is not a single place in the city that could be made available.

166. And we are appointed the burial board, without the chance of getting a burial ground within the city?—Yes.

167. Are there burial grounds outside the city quite close?—There is Ballynahasha.

168. Would that come within the proposed extension?—No.

169. How far is that out?—It is outside the proposed extension, it is about a quarter, or from that to half a mile, outside the proposed extension.

170. Mr. *EXHAM*.—Would it be within the electoral division of Waterford?—Yes.

171. Is it largely filled by citizens, is it much used by them?—No, there has sprung up a prejudice against it, on account of the interment of paupers. It was intended to be the burial ground for the county of the city of Waterford.

172. With whose money was it made?—Waterford at large—the county of the city of Waterford. They spent £1,800 on it, and the Board of Guardians were made Trustees, and they made it a paupers' burial ground. In the proposed extension we take in the Protestant cemetery.

173. Mr. *Fisher*.—We are only paying £10 a year for sanitary officers?—Yes. I doubt if in the large district to be taken in two additional officers would be enough. I think that in a large district like there would be even more expenses than in the city.

174. If this district were brought in would it be unreasonable to continue the Grand Jury cess as it is?—No.

175. Would it be a hardship on these people brought in to ask them to contribute the same rate as they do at present?—No.

176. Mr. *EXHAM*.—Yes; let them be subjected to the same liability, but would it be fair to add the public water rate, 3d., if you said, "Give them credit for the 3d. out of the whole 2s. 9d., and let them pay 2s. 6d.?" You would be getting the benefit of that.

177. Mr. *Fisher*.—I am asking Mr. Howard whether, in his opinion, considering the advantages derived by the people outside, it is unreasonable or unfair to ask them to pay the 3d. in the pound—whether he would consider that an excessive demand?—No.

178. Mr. *Cotton*.—What is the poundage in respect of the guarantee?—3d. in the barony of Gaultier, and 8½d. in the city.

179. For how many years?—Thirty-five years.

180. From the present date?—From August last—from the time the loan was opened.

181. Mr. *Fisher*.—As to the water rate, you seem to have the opinion that we can levy more than 1s. in the pound?—Yes.

182. Are you aware that Mr. Purcell says we cannot?—No.

183. I can produce his opinion?—Well, perhaps Mr. Exham would advise otherwise.

184. Mr. *EXHAM*.—Is there anything special in the Act enabling you to levy it?—The public water rate is limited to 3d. in the pound, but the act also provides that the Corporation shall have power to levy a domestic water rate of 1s. in the pound (reads section of Act).

185. Mr. *Cotton*.—Suppose an extension was made, do you think there would be any advantage derivable from having it guided by townland boundaries, instead of a straight line through fields and

gardens?—Of course it would be easier by townland boundaries.

186. I see that the Finance Committee did not adopt them?—They took prominent points where buildings were being made, and so on.

187. CHAIRMAN.—Suppose that we were inclined to recommend an extension of the boundary here, what suggestion would you make about the wards—would you suggest that there should be an increase in the number of wards, and the number of town councillors?—Well, I have not considered the question as to whether the wards ought to be increased or reduced.

188. Mr. COTTON.—Would you throw portion of the extended area into each ward?—Yes.

189. What would be the increase to the population by the increased area, would you say?—Well, we have only considered that very cursorily. I think about 3,000 or 4,000, there is a densely populated district immediately outside that would be added.

190. Mr. COTTON.—Do you see any objection to Ferrybank being divided for municipal purposes in the same way as it is now for poor law purposes?—No.

191. That is, portion of Ferrybank would be thrown into Custom House ward, and portion of Ferrybank thrown into the West ward?—There would be no practical difficulty or objection.

Mr. THOMAS NEWMAN HARVEY, examined.

200. CHAIRMAN.—Do you live inside or outside the boundary? My place of business is inside, my residence is six miles off.

201. Have you considered the question of the proposed increase of boundary of Waterford?—Yes, to a certain extent I have. There was only one point I wished to make an observation upon, and that is with reference to the question of jurors. The present jurors are anxious to get an increased number on. There are at present only about 200 jurors on the jury list, but if the limits of the municipal district were extended we would have an increase, approximately made up, of jurors to the number of 40 or 50. This would be a very great advantage and relief, and would give extra liberty to those already on the roll.

202. That is a very proper subject to mention, but it would seem curious if that was your only reason in favour of extension?—I wish also to state that I have made out a return which I think may be considered to be of some importance, of the various towns, their population, acreage, and so on, and I find that, with the exception of Dublin, Waterford has the smallest area for its population. I find that Dublin, with a municipal population of 246,326, has a municipal acreage of 3,808, and the number of acres to 1,000 persons is $15\frac{1}{2}$; Belfast, municipal population 174,394, municipal acreage 5,992, acres to 1,000 persons $34\frac{1}{2}$; Cork, municipal population 78,382, acreage 2,266, acres to 1,000 persons 29; Limerick, municipal population 39,828, acreage 2,075, acres to 1,000 persons 52; Londonderry, municipal population 25,242, acreage 1,933, acres to 1,000 persons $76\frac{1}{2}$; Waterford, municipal population 23,337, municipal acreage 533, acres to 1,000 persons $22\frac{3}{4}$; Drogheda, municipal population 14,389, acreage 454, acres to 1,000 persons $31\frac{1}{2}$; Kilkenny, municipal population 12,664, acreage 921, acres to 1,000 persons $72\frac{3}{4}$; Wexford, municipal population 12,077, acreage 483, acres to 1,000 persons 40; Clonmel, municipal population 10,112, acreage 331, acres to 1,000 persons $32\frac{3}{4}$.

203. Would you consider it to be an advisable thing that there should be an increase in the Waterford area for the purpose of bringing the population up to 25,000, to enable them to obtain the benefit of the Artizans' Dwellings Act?—Most certainly.

204. Can you say of your own knowledge that the people in the district outside make as much use of the town of Waterford as the people inside?—Yes, it

192. Mr. Fisher.—Are you not aware that on this side of the river the boundaries of the wards for municipal and poor law purposes are not the same except in the case of the Tower ward? Morgan-street, for instance, is in one ward for municipal purposes, and in another for poor law purposes. That is between the South ward and the West ward?—But they are nearly identical.

193. Mr. Fisher.—I know that they are not identical.

194. Mr. COTTON.—According to the map, Morgan-street is in the same ward for both divisions—according to this map, which I understand is called the Parliamentary map.

195. Mr. Fisher.—Morgan-street is in the West ward for poor law purposes, and in the South ward for municipal purposes. One side of Morgan-street is in one ward, and the other is in another?—The 3rd and 4th Victoria, cap. 108, gives the description of West ward.

196. Does not the boundary you propose cut across Kilbarry, and not bring it in?—It does.

197. That is it does not bring it in?—No.

198. Mr. COTTON.—I take it there is a slight difference between the boundaries of the wards on this side of the river—between the municipal and poor law wards?—Yes.

199. And is there, in point of fact, any reason why they should not be identical?—No.

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would bring in a great many persons who have places of business in the town.

205. So far as keeping the roads outside in repair as compared with the streets, is it your opinion that they would be as well done by the Corporation as by the Grand Jury contractors?—I am not very conversant with those matters.

206. Yes, but you would have an opportunity of knowing from what you have heard others say?—I have no reason to doubt there would be any difficulty about it, or to think there would be any difference.

207. Mr. Fisher.—Do you know the borough boundary going to John's Hill?—Yes.

208. And you know the poor house and lunatic asylums?—Yes.

209. They are outside?—Yes.

210. And if you take a car to, say, the lunatic asylum you cannot bring him across the boundary, so that you really cannot take a car to the asylum or workhouse?—No.

211. Would it not be an advantage to have the area extended to that; is not that district a rather populous one?—Yes.

212. Ought it not to be lighted?—That would depend, I think, on the wish of the people who live there.

213. Your father, for instance, lives outside, and would it not be an advantage to him to have the place lighted?—Well, yes, it would be an advantage to some.

214. Do you know the end of the town going to the railway?—I am not quite sure.

215. Well, then go to Strangman's brewery—would it not be an advantage to have that place lighted?—It would be an advantage.

216. And don't you think the hackney car arrangements ought to enable a man to take a car to the station?—I thought the railway was coming into the town.

217. Not for 20 years—along the river side is in a very dangerous condition, is it not?—Well, it is very much broken in places.

218. CHAIRMAN.—I see the boundaries at present actually go through portion of the railway station?—Yes.

219. And the station, the part of it this side would be outside?—Yes.

220. So that you cannot make a person amenable to

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the city magistrates who commits an offence there?—No.

221. Would it not be a great advantage to persons who have to frequent these stations and other public places that any offence committed at those places could be tried by the magistrates here, and not brought to petty sessions to a place some miles off, perhaps?—Decidedly.

222. Now, Mr. Harvey, do you know of your own

knowledge is there any objection amongst the people outside to the extension proposed by the Finance Committee?—No, I heard of none. My father and several friends live within the boundary that would be annexed. So far as the jurors' question is concerned, I think it would be a great advantage. Some of the persons now summoned in the town would be exempt, and the number altogether available would be increased.

Mr. THOMAS SMITH HARVEY, examined.

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223. CHAIRMAN.—Mr. Harvey, do you reside within the present municipal boundary?—No. I reside within what is called the old boundary, virtually in the county.

224. Is it your opinion that the present municipal boundary should be extended?—Most decidedly it is. The present boundaries of the city are most irregular and unsatisfactory. Although almost trespassing on the city, I am quite willing to submit to extra taxation, because I will get the benefit of it in being included. In other parts of the city I am agent for a good many houses, a good deal of house property. In some places I have the city on one side and the county on the other, and it is the source of great expense and annoyance to me to look after it under the present state of things.

225. Do I understand that in some streets where you have, or are agent for, house property, you have the city on one side and on the other the county?—Yes.

226. Do they light up that road or street where that happens?—Not at all.

227. Don't the Corporation light it?—No; there is not a single lamp in the Long-lane, one-half of which is city, and one-half county. Where I live myself several of us pay. We individually subscribe for a lamp to make the road decent.

228. Mr. Fisher.—But that is outside the boundary?—Yes. We pay for a lamp specially there amongst us. My argument is that for whatever small taxation there is put on those who are brought into the boundary under the extension they will get value for. The property will become more valuable, and building will be more readily carried on. It is far better to be within the municipal district than to be outside and on the edge of the county, and I consider it far better for any city to have room to extend itself, and not be cramped.

229. As I understand it, there is no means by which the present municipality can acquire a burial ground within the city?—No, there is not.

230. Nearly all the burial grounds in the city are closed up?—I believe so; except the Society of Friends' and the French.

231. So that if a person dies his friends have to bring him for burial outside the city, although the Corporation are the burial board, because they have no burial ground?—Yes. There is a burial ground outside the city, and there is a burial ground that is private property to a certain extent—every person choosing to pay for a grave there can get it for a pound or so.

232. But at present it is under the control of the

rural sanitary board?—No; it is private property, vested in a number of trustees.

233. Do you, with others, suffer inconvenience from the hackney cars in consequence of the municipal boundaries being as they are?—Yes.

234. That is from their being outside of the control of the magistrates here when they bring you a certain distance?—Yes.

235. Would it be desirable, in your opinion, for that purpose that the boundaries should be extended?—Yes; I have no hesitation in saying so.

236. You think it would be more convenient that offences committed within a short distance of the boundary should be decided or adjudicated on in the town instead of waiting and going to the Petty Sessions?—Yes. We have sessions in the city every week, and only every three weeks outside. In every point, no matter how I look at it, I think it would be of great advantage, and for the public good, to have the boundaries extended.

237. Do you think that those outside the borough would object to the taxation if the bounds were extended, and they would be taken in?—Certainly not any one I am concerned for, or that I know of.

238. Mr. Delandre.—I am concerned for persons outside, and I certainly do object, and everyone consulted on the subject objected. The difference can be very, very little.

239. CHAIRMAN.—Mr. Harvey, do you find any difference from the way the county Grand Jury keep the roads, and the way they are done in the city?—I think our road is very well kept—rather better than the city.

240. I suppose the traffic over the city roads is ten times greater?—Yes; our road is not a great thoroughfare.

241. Do you think the sanitary arrangements would be better in the hands of the Corporation as the urban sanitary authority than in the hands of boards of guardians?—Yes; I would rather have it in the city a great deal. I have no doubt the work would be better done—certainly better attended to.

242. Do you know of your own knowledge that other ratepayers situated as you are would prefer being in the city—do you know that from speaking the matter over with them?—Well, I did not. I have not been able to take much trouble in it, but I may say I have heard different opinions.

243. I suppose the persons who are opposed to it are opposed to it on the ground that there might be increased taxation?—Yes; I don't think they go into it generally.

Mr. THOMAS F. DELANDRE, Solicitor, examined.

Mr. Thomas
F. Delandre.

244. CHAIRMAN.—I am residing at the verge of the city bounds, and am rated for it, and I am concerned for some property a short distance out. I consider that the taxation would be very much increased—that it would be rendered liable to the city incumbrances, to the borough rate, a domestic water rate, unless exempted by provisional order, and to that rate of 3d. in the pound. I can say that the state of repair of the different streets and roads within the city is far worse than the county. I traverse the city streets in dif-

ferent vehicles every day of my life, and I also travel a deal about the country, and I speak, therefore, from my actual knowledge of the facts. I have seen accidents occur through holes and ruts in the streets of the city. A serious accident occurred no later than Saturday through want of repair of the city streets. I believe the city affairs to be badly conducted. I am aware from conversations from outside ratepayers, several of them within the district proposed to be brought in, that they are strongly opposed to it.

245. On what grounds are they adverse to it?—On the ground, firstly, of the increased taxation it would entail. They are perfectly satisfied with the management of the Grand Jury, and they do not wish to be under the control of the Corporation. I was present when the Improvement Bill of '75 came before the Committee of the House of Commons. I heard the various reasons advanced in favour of an extension. I heard also the reasons against it. I heard the discussions and arguments raised by the Grand Jury of the county of Waterford, supported as they were by, I believe, the feeling and general opinion of the county. All were opposed to the extension, even to the compromised district, as I may call it. And for the reasons then given, the Committee refused to extend the boundary, and they passed a bill having reference to the city only within the present limits.

246. Well, but were there any reasons given, as far as you know, by the Committee for refusing to extend the boundary?—I am afraid there were. The aspect, if I may so term it, presented by the Corporation was such as not to induce the Committee to intrust them with further or extended powers.

247. Were you there yourself?—Yes, I opposed the bill.

248. Was the fact presented to the Select Committee that the municipal bounds went to the middle of streets as has been described?—Yes, it was. I was present when the alleged compromise was made, and when this map was initialed by the County Surveyor. That was, I believe, done without authority, and I may here state it was afterwards set aside by the Grand Jury. I may mention, too, that it was proved before the Local Government Inspector that the income derivable under the water rate would be insufficient to meet the charges, and that recourse should be had to the borough rate, and also that, in addition to a sum of £15,000 borrowed, a further sum would be necessary, in fact, that in order to complete the works, and render them valuable at all, a further sum of £2,000 or £3,000 would be required. I have also to state that the condition of the lighting of the streets is defective in the extreme. Going through the streets at night at any time after nightfall, in fact, they are rather a hindrance than an advantage.

249. To the traffic?—Yes.

250. Then I see the two objections you and your friends have to the proposed extension are: firstly, fear of taxation, and, secondly, the mismanagement of the Corporation. Is that so?—Yes.

251. *Mr. Fisher.*—Are you aware the water rate cannot be levied on the borough rate?—Well, you see that is opening up a whole lot of questions.

252. Are you aware there is an express provision against it in the Act?—I believe there is, but what is to be done.

253. *CHAIRMAN.*—Do you not think houses so very close, the Artillery barracks, for instance, should not pay its quota towards the town, the Infantry barracks being in the borough, and the Artillery barracks outside?—I would certainly think it fair that the Artillery should pay a contribution.

254. Then you think there should be some extension?—Yes, in some parts I do think so. But at the same time—

255. We have the fact, however, as I understand it, that you do think there ought to be some extension?—I am very averse to come under the Corporation, but if you hold that buildings adjoining the town should be brought in, of course the Artillery barracks ought to be included.

256. But what about buildings in a street, one-half of which is in the city, and one-half in the county?—The Artillery barracks is a very strong case.

257. The boundary it seems comes across a street between the Infantry barracks and the Artillery barracks in Barrack-street, I believe that is the name of it. Now, do you think that such a state of things as that is right or proper?—Well, as an interested person, I will answer you in this way. As an interested per-

son, I object to the extension on the grounds I have mentioned, but looking at it in another capacity I do think that a slight alteration should be made.

258. Yes, but your objection would appear to be only to the management of affairs by the Corporation, for it would be fair that the portion brought in should pay some taxation?—I think the extension here proposed is very ill chosen, ill conceived.

259. *Mr. COTTON.*—Which extension do you refer to?—The Finance Committee.

260. *CHAIRMAN.*—Do you think that in such a large city as Waterford, the lands, as in the case of other large places, the lands close to the city are exceptionally valuable from their proximity, and that the larger the city and the greater the business done the more valuable that land is?—Of course it is, but that would embrace a far wider area.

261. Yes, but you must stop somewhere. In some places a mile or a mile and a half was suggested. In Kilkenny, two miles, I think?—Well, I am aware that the rents of some of the land just outside the city are not larger than on lands far outside. They are simply pasture grounds.

262. Do not the people holding these pasture lands supply the town with butter and milk, and so on, and are they not more valuable to them on account of that?—Well, the distance is so small between the Finance Committee's report and three or four miles, there is much difference. Taking this map here, I think I, on the part of my clients, assented to an extension.

263. *Mr. COTTON.*—To the proposed compromise?—No. I opposed the compromise, but thought it expedient not to include the portion towards the west of the compromised district, but conceived it advisable to include the portion of the district at the Kilkenny side of the river.

264. What were your reasons for that?—Well, I did not consider it advisable to include the western portion, but I considered it advisable to run the boundary up to the goods terminus of the railway, and then that it should cross the river from the old goods station, including Dobbin's Park, Clashrays, Browley East, the Artillery barracks to Johnstown House, on the municipal boundary, and then there was no resistance to alter the municipal boundary to that.

265. *Mr. Fisher.*—Are you aware that the present county surveyor is also city surveyor?—I am.

266. Are you not aware the roads proposed to be taken in are under the care of that surveyor?—Yes.

267. And as city surveyor that they would still remain under his care as now?—I am not aware that the roads in the city are under his care.

268. But they are; at present the extra municipal roads are under his care?—Yes.

269. And he is paid as city surveyor?—Yes.

270. Now do you think, and, if so, on what grounds, that these roads would be taken from under his care or be worse managed than they are now?—Well, they would come under the same management as the city roads are now.

271. They would be managed under the Grand Jury, as has been stated in the evidence, and the surveyor is paid, as you know, as city surveyor.

272. *Mr. COTTON.*—That is, he is surveyor to the county of the city; he is not surveyor to the Corporation?—He is paid as surveyor to the city.

273. What I wish to know is, what are his duties as surveyor to the county of the city?

Mr. Fisher.—I wish to convey that until the Grand Jury of the city is abolished, if this addition takes place, the roads would be under the care of the Grand Jury of the city, and not of the Corporation.

274. *Mr. COTTON.*—What has he to do, what has the city surveyor to do if he is paid as city surveyor, and, as I understand, the roads and streets are looked after by the Corporation?

Witness.—He looks after the one road round the city, part of which is in the city and part out of it.

275. *CHAIRMAN.*—And what is this the maintenance of that costs?

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Delandre.

Mr. Howard.—£11 a year.

276. And how much does the City Surveyor get for superintending this work?—£10.

277. So that he gets £10 a year for looking after the expenditure of £11?

Mr. Fisher.—Yes; and in addition to that there is the city court-house which is the principal thing. The objection of Mr. Delandre that the roads would deteriorate by the extension is wholly unfounded.

278. What Mr. Delandre says is this, "I don't want to come into the city, because of the Corporation management, for we have no confidence in them."

Witness.—Quite so. You asked me my opinion generally, and I think the boundary I stated there would embrace fairly what should be taken in.

279. Would it take in the convents and other large buildings?—No.

280. Mr. Fisher.—Do you not appear for Mr. Morris?—Yes.

281. Did you not appear for him at the Parliamentary Committee?—Yes; I appeared for the barony of Kilculhiheen, and he is there.

282. Did not all assent to the extension proposed but Mr. Morris?—No.

283. For the compromise?—No.

284. Did not Mr. Bloomfield initial the change proposed?—He did initial it, but if he did so it was afterwards repudiated by the county.

285. He is a ratepayer?—Yes.

286. And he got up a meeting, did he not?—Yes.

287. And took the chair?—Yes.

288. And he initialed the change proposed on behalf of both parties?—No; only on the part of the county, and his authority was repudiated.

289. CHAIRMAN.—Suppose the legislature were to say we will take care that none of the existing debt is thrown on the portion brought in, would you say then that the people outside should not be brought in to contribute something to the city. Do you think that the people outside for a given distance should pay something towards the public water rate of the city?—No, for they pay in the town very largely.

290. Yes, but suppose there were gentlemen living outside not having places of business in the city, should they not contribute something in ease of the city towards the public water-rate which is a thing for the public benefit. Is it not well that Waterford should be kept as healthy a place as possible, the streets to be kept well watered, and so on; don't you think that for this, the people outside who derive the benefit of it should contribute something towards it. They come into the town, get the advantages of the water supply; now, suppose there was a Corporation here with which you were satisfied then considering that

those people derive the benefits of having the city properly watered, and kept in a healthy state, of being enabled to send their children into schools in the town, attending places of worship there, having the railway and all that, should they not contribute something towards the gas, the lighting of the town the sanitary arrangements and the water?—Well, assuming these advantages to be derived by them they do.

292. Do they not derive these advantages I have mentioned?—No, for in the first place treating of sanitary matters, go into the town and you will find it disgusting, wretched sanitary arrangements. That is not so in the county. The portions adjoining the city are much better kept than the streets and places in the charge of the Corporation. I believe the Corporation duties are very curiously discharged. A case within the last six months occurred in which through the neglect of the Corporation officials or employees, a wall belonging to the Corporation was allowed to fall into such a bad state of repair that an unfortunate man was killed, and a summons was issued against the Corporation officials but it was found impossible to fix them with liability. That is encouraging to anyone who would wish to entrust them with further powers.

293. As I understand from your evidence you would agree to an extension, but you believe the extension proposed is too large?—Far too large.

294. Mr. Fisher.—It would be unfair if Mr. Delandre's statement about the accident and the Corporation should go unexplained. I may be allowed to state that with regard to the old house in question, the Urban Sanitary Authority issued a summons on the party for having the wall in a dangerous condition and the law officer of the council advised that the Corporation as Urban Sanitary Authority have no power with reference to these dangerous walls, that we were put out of court with regard to that matter under the Act.

295. CHAIRMAN.—What I understand Mr. Delandre to convey was that the Corporation allowed this wall their own property to fall into such a state of disrepair that a man was killed by it, and that therefore it cannot be expected that people outside would be anxious to give them further powers when they cannot keep their own property in proper repair.

Witness.—Whether rightly or wrongly the matter was the subject of magisterial investigation.

296. Mr. Fisher.—And the magistrates dismissed the case as against the Corporation officers and if they were not to blame, how can it be said that the Corporation were to blame?—I only say that it was in consequence of neglect the thing occurred, some officer should have been appointed who was not or some neglect decidedly existed.

Mr. JOSEPH FISHER, T.C., examined.

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297. Witness.—My opinion, as to extension goes a great deal further than the Corporation of which I am a member. In support of my opinion I would refer to the bill of 1875, and state that it was adopted unanimously by the Corporation at that time.

298. CHAIRMAN.—The boundaries at that time were adopted unanimously?—I think the division was twenty-nine to four.

299. But there was a large majority at all events?—Yes. I was one of the committee appointed to go over to London about it. I never assented on the part of the Corporation to the diminished boundary.

300. Did the Corporation by a large majority seek for an extension?—Yes.

301. And the committee of the house did not give it?—Yes, but if you are taking the reasons of others it is fair for me to state that if a limited extension is taken we will take the roads on which there is the largest amount of traffic and the greatest expense, whereas if we take the largest one we take roads where

the traffic is small and a tax being levied on the district at 2s. 9d. in the pound, if you were to take the roads that come near the city and tax the townlands in which it is these rates would probably be 4s. 6d. instead of 2s. 9d. for that is arrived at being the charge for the whole barony. The evidence of Mr. Howard is that that is the average of the whole barony.

302. Are you in favour of an extension?—Yes, of one that will take in the whole of the electoral division of Waterford. I would take in the whole of the electoral division of Waterford and I base that on this ground that from the reign of Charles I., down to 1846 the civic authority of Waterford administered the whole of this district and the additional part shown on this map. The area they administered was 9,700 acres, and the area I propose to be taken in is 7,300 acres.

303. Then that area that you propose to take in comprises the entire of the electoral division?—Yes. The charter of Charles I., describes the boundary

of the county of the city of Waterford—which district still forms what is called the Parliamentary borough of Waterford—it comprises an area of 9,446 acres, and has at present a population of 29,979 persons. It formed the county of the city of Waterford for Fiscal and for Grand Jury purposes. The principal roads, bridges, and footways therein were made by the city Grand Jury and it was recognised as the county of the city of Waterford by the Grand Jury Act of 1835, but was curtailed in its extent by the Corporate Reform Act, which was intended to deal solely with municipal matters, but which effected important changes in Grand Jury and social arrangements.

304. Do I understand you to say the area you propose taking in is 7,000 and odd acres?—Yes, that is what I propose. The electoral division in fact.

305. If the whole electoral division was taken in that way—that would not include all those baronies?—I will show you. I will take first Gaultiere. It will take from the barony of Gaultiere to the value of £4,253, it will take from Middlethird £53,295, and it will take the whole of the barony of Kilculliheen, or a valuation of £3,626.

306. Then the total valuation that would be taken in would be £13,174 extra?—Yes. It would make the total valuation about £51,911.

307. And the population?—The population would be about 28,959, which would bring us under the operation of the Artisans' Dwellings Act.

308. I find the baronial charge, taking the charge for the whole barony, for Gaultiere is £203 15s. 9d.?—The baronial charge on the portion of Gaultiere which we would take would be £203 15s. 9d.

309. That is on a valuation of £4,000 and odd?—Yes.

310. Middlethird—how much?—£303 7s. 2d.

311. Kilculliheen?—£203 11s. 3d., being a total from the outlying district of £710 14s. 2d. Taking the expenditure of the city from the last half-yearly return I find the sum of £2,129 7s. 9d. which added to the former sum would give the Grand Jury cess for the year £2,839 1s. 11d., which would be 1s. upon the whole district for the half-year.

312. There is another charge which is the county at large charge that is 4½d.? I don't know if the county would claim that towards their county at large charges, or whether it would go into the city, and as to the question of the repairs of the roads my view was that the present presentment sessions would go on for the repairs of these roads that are extra municipal.

313. That is the Grand Jury?—Yes, until it becomes the pleasure of Parliament to transfer to the city their functions. The presentments would have to be fixed in the ordinary way, they would pass through precisely the same ordeal, and it would work so that these people outside would not be made liable for any merely municipal tax. The county of the city of Waterford was authorized by the 40th George III., cap. 93, to close up the burial grounds within the inhabited parts of the city of Waterford and to purchase a burial ground in the extra-mural portion, and a piece of land was purchased at Ballynameelagh under that Act and was enclosed. The Corporate Reform Act divided the county of the city into two districts, some parishes are wholly within the city, some are partly within and partly without the city, and some wholly without it. This has required special legislation in the Burial Board Act, 1854, and in the Public Health Act of 1878. The latter makes the Corporation the Burial Board for the city of Waterford, and hands over to it some burial grounds closed by order of the Lord Lieutenant and Privy Council, but leaves the burial ground purchased by the city and out of the Grand Jury rates in the hands of the board of guardians. Now an extension of the boundaries of the county of the city would give the burial ground to its rightful owners, and would vest it in the council selected by the citizens who purchased it.

314. With reference to the water supply, your idea is not that the Corporation should be obliged to extend pipes to all the added district?—No, but that they

may simply be at liberty to do so whenever an agreement or arrangement is made for the purpose. My idea was not to make them liable to any lamp tax or water tax but to leave the lighting and watering to be done by arrangement with those who would want the accommodation. The gentlemen who got frightened about the taxation did so from not calculating the exact amount they would get; it would give £825 at the present rate of taxation where they only calculated on getting £600 from it. I don't know that it is necessary to say anything about sanitary matters, but I think it would be better managed by the Corporation.

315. Your idea is that there would be better sanitary arrangements made and that the work would be better done by the Corporation as the urban sanitary authority than by the rural sanitary authority?—Decidedly better. I may say that upon the passing of the Poor Law Act, 1 & 2 Vic., cap. 56, the Poor Law Commissioners proceeded to define the electoral division of Waterford, and, for a considerable portion of the circumference adopted the boundaries of the then county of the city of Waterford, but included a small portion not within those boundaries and excluded a portion which was part of the county of the city of Waterford. The electoral division contains an area of 7,368 acres and a population of 28,959, being about 2,000 acres less than the former county of the city of Waterford, but having a population of only 1,020 less than that of the Parliamentary borough. The electoral division was divided into five wards, the area and valuation of which has been stated by Mr. Howard. Each ward elects two guardians, but there is a provision in the Public Health Act enabling the Local Government Board to divide the extra-mural portion into other wards for the purposes of that Act. The electoral division is divided into two dispensary districts, with separate physicians, but the entire cost under the Medical Charities Act is controlled by one committee, which meets at the dispensary, in Lady-lane, in the city of Waterford. These physicians are sanitary officers under the Act, but their salaries as sanitary officers are partly paid by the inter-mural portion of the electoral division and partly by the extra-mural portion. The Corporate Reform Act, which was made to remedy municipal abuses, formed the municipal borough out of the Parliamentary borough. The boundary lines were chosen in an arbitrary manner, running in some cases in the middle of streets, and by a strange regulation it altered the Grand Jury laws and made the municipal borough so found the county of the city of Waterford for judicial fiscal and Grand Jury purposes. That portion of the county of the city which lies at the north of the river Suir was formed into a new barony in the county of Waterford, and is called the barony of Kilculliheen; it contains only 2,183 acres, and is valued at £3,216, yet the expenses of one of the arterial roads approaching the city is thrown upon it. This district is essentially suburban and ought to be under civic, either by the City Grand Jury or the Corporation. The other portion of the county of the city which was excluded from the existing county of the city was added to the baronies of Gaultiere and Middlethird. The effect of this has been to necessitate the holding of a county petty sessions, called St. Patrick's Hall sessions, for the districts thus excluded from civic rights; and as the portion thus transferred from the city to the county is mainly urban, and the sessions are only held monthly, considerable inconvenience has arisen. Such buildings as the lunatic asylum, the railway stations, the poor-house, the proposed dry docks, and other public buildings, are outside the civic bounds. There is no legal provision for lighting these roads, nor does the Hackney Car Act apply.

316. You consider that considerable inconvenience arises from the fact that, when you drive on a hackney car to any of these places, the drivers are outside the city jurisdiction?—Decidedly, there are many instances of that; take the case too of wages, if a dispute as to wages arises in vessels which go up to

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the old terminus to discharge; they are outside of the boundary, and a delay follows of three weeks, till the sessions occur or the vessel goes away. There is in fact no summary jurisdiction in cases of the kind. If it was in the city the case would be disposed of without difficulty, and with expedition at the Police Courts which sit every day. I observe that the two mile and two mile and a half area has been discussed, and it has been, I note, considered a reasonable area. Following the electoral division, if a circle were struck with a two mile radius, all that would be left outside it would be portion of Kiloteran, and curious to say, the whole of that property up there is corporate property.

317. So that any portion that would be outside two miles would be corporate property?—Yes, the corporation property runs up for five English miles; with regard to the electoral divisions, there is this community of purpose between the whole of them; we all pay the same poor rate, and my idea would be, that there would be an equality of county cess, it would probably increase on the city 1*d.* in the pound, if we made an equal rating over the whole; Waterford stands different from other places in this way. In the addition we propose we don't want to saddle the outsiders with any taxation, and the reason Waterford citizens are averse to an extension, is, because they fear that portion of the taxation on outlying districts will be thrown on them.

318. That so far from their deriving any benefit from it, they will be worse off?—Yes, that is what they apprehend.

319. Can you say whether amongst the people you propose to take in, is there a difference of opinion on the question?—The only way after all we have of testing it is this; at the time the Improvement Bill was proposed there was a great outcry against taxation got up by the barony of Kilculliheen, and a meeting was held.

320. Can you say is there a difference of opinion entertained?—Yes, the feeling out of doors is this, you may take it that both parties are apprehensive of an increase of taxation being the result of any increase of boundary.

322. Then, opinions are divided within the city boundaries and without?—Yes. You were asking about the boundaries of wards. I was about to mention that I have gone through the list. Now, the average valuation for each voter in Centre Ward is £38; for the Custom House Ward, £38; for the South Ward, £45; for the Tower Ward, £55; and

for the West Ward, £66. Now, in any change that would take place the Centre one is the one that wants to be increased, and the way is to diminish the Tower Ward, add to the Custom House, and diminish the Custom House by adding to the Centre Ward.

323. In your opinion would there be any difficulty in adopting the Poor Law Wards as wards for municipal purposes?—None whatever; I think it would be a great convenience. If the Poor Law boundaries were adopted it would be a great convenience to the Commissioners of Valuation.

324. Have you any idea how it would affect the constituency in each ward?—The average number of burgesses in the South Ward is 151; in the Tower Ward, 177; in the West Ward, 136; in the Centre Ward, 128; and in the Custom House, 156. I think you would add to the West and Centre Wards, but the Tower Ward would remain the same.

325. Mr. Delandre says that to a great extent at present the town is not lighted at all; that there are several roads in which there are no lights at all?—Well, I could not say; of course there must be places where there are no lights, but, as a matter of fact, I think the town is as well lighted as any town I ever was in. He might be right speaking, perhaps, of a short time ago, for at the north side of the city it was not lighted until within the last month or two. Ten new lamps have been erected at Ferrybank. Under the old Act people beyond a hundred yards from a lamp were exempted from payment, and the Corporation at that time only put up a lamp where they would get sufficient to pay for it. Since then, however, they have been extending them. It is a preposterous thing to run the boundaries in the middle of a road as they do now. If the proposed extension took place I have no doubt the populous places would be lighted. Mr. Delandre has spoken about the Corporation finances. It is right to say that the general debt of the Corporation has been within a few years reduced very considerably. I may mention that they spent over £1,200 in widening two new streets.

326. Is there any probability of an increase to the Corporate property by leases falling in?—No, not any immediate prospect. The principal increase has fallen in, and there will not be any great increase until 1924. Since the year 1870 we had an increase of about £2,000 or £2,200 a year.

327. There will be an increase of at least £20,000 a year, and probably it will be worth a great deal more in the year 1924.

Mr. Howard.

Mr. HOWARD re-called.

328. CHAIRMAN.—It appears we cannot get the members of the Corporation to come here to express their views on this subject, but Mr. Fisher says what would simplify matters entirely would be to bring in the whole electoral division, and he says that in other places the proposal has been made to extend the boundaries from a mile to two miles, or two miles and a half. He says that in this particular case to adopt the boundary he proposes it would only in one spot be beyond two miles or so, and in that part it would be Corporation property. What do you say to that?—Well, I don't go as far as Mr. Fisher, but my own individual opinion is that an extension ought to take place.

329. But what about the electoral division?—It is a moot point if we should go for the whole electoral division.

330. In asking you your opinion I do not ask you to speak as town clerk, but simply to give your own private opinion as to whether you agree with Mr. Fisher?—I would go very near agreeing with him. One great advantage is regulating the boundary by townlands.

331. Suppose we adopted the poor law divisions of the wards, how many burgesses would be in each, and how many would be qualified for the office of town councillor?—I could not say. The clerk of the union might be able to tell you that.

332. Mr. Fisher.—It would be of great further utility to define the bounds in such a way that the terms, the County of the City, the Parliamentary Borough, the Electoral Division, and the Registrar's District, should mean and convey the same idea.

Mr. JOSEPH CLAMPETT, examined.

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333. I am a member of the Town Council, and of three of the standing Committees. I am opposed to any extension. At the last general meeting of the council, I moved a resolution which was carried with one dissentient, to the effect that no extension was necessary. I did it on the ground that it would cost the town at present, at least, £200 a year extra, if they did not light the district proposed by the Finance Committee, and £600 a year extra if they did light it. I could see no correlative advantage to make up for that additional outlay by bringing in the people of the district proposed to be brought in. I am, myself, strongly opposed to any extension. This place is not like Cork or Dublin, because there are no new buildings here, and I may say there have not been any extensive building operations for the past fifty years. In that way it is unlike Dublin and other places. I do not see any reason on account of the boundary running along roads or across public streets for enlarging the boundaries. On one side of the places so divided, the work is in charge of the county, and in the other, of the city, and Mr. Duffin, the County Surveyor (who is here), takes charge of these parts of the city of Waterford.

334. Are you aware that all that is paid by the city towards the road that is partly in the city and partly in the county, is only £11 each half year, and that Mr. Duffin gets £10 a year for looking after the expenditure of that?—That is a question for the Grand Jury to see after. If the Grand Jury see fit to give 1s. in the pound to one man, while another gentleman might do it equally efficiently for 6d., that is the fault of the Grand Jury, if they continue such an abuse.

335. There is a street called Barrack-street, and it appears that the Infantry barracks and the Artillery barracks are in this street, and that the infantry are in the municipal boundary, and the artillery outside it?—Yes, that is the case.

336. Now on what principle is it that the entire of that street—one continuous street—should not be within the municipal boundary?—I believe, if you wanted to extend the municipal franchise, you would not get two persons outside the city, qualified to be burgesses of the city of Waterford, who live convenient to the Artillery barracks. With reference to the borough rate—there is no borough rate. Now we find that even with an income of £10,000 or £13,000 a year, we cannot get on without exceeding by our expenditure, something like £2,000, our present income. Our present income won't do, and we must go in for a borough rate. In fact, it is at present contemplated to have a borough rate. There is, in fact, notice given to levy a borough rate for lamp tax; to re-levy lamp tax in the shape of borough rate. We have a 2s. rate, and we are looking forward to a 3s. water rate.

337. Mr. COTTON.—What is the lamp tax?—1s. in the pound. It will be for them to consider if it is to be levied.

338. CHAIRMAN.—Suppose it is struck, and the legislature think that the rate to be paid outside to be one-fourth?—I think it would be very unfair to charge anybody, to make them pay one-fourth or one-eighth of what they don't derive any benefit.

339. Take the gentry outside, do they not derive great benefit from the lamps in the town driving to the railway stations, coming into places of worship, using the streets of the city, and the lights in the winter evenings and so on. Do they not in fact derive great advantages in every way from the town?—They do not. In the first place they have all their parish churches outside.

340. But suppose, they come in to the Cathedral, suppose they come to the theatre, and to the railway, and so on?—Well, if people come for their amusement and pleasure, or convenience, I do not see why their

poor neighbours and tenants should be mulcted to pay for it.

341. According to present principles, if this town was under the Towns Improvement Act, it is only land, market gardens, and so forth, that the legislature has mentioned that would pay one-fourth, owners of houses would pay the full amount. Do you think, that any extension of the borough boundary—do you think that any heavier impost would be imposed on the farmer than at present?—Yes; well, we all know the state of the country at present, as a landlord and tenant, I know from experience of tenants who do not live very far from Waterford, that some of them cannot pay their rent. To impose additional taxes upon these people, no matter what the advantages, would be a hardship. Our trade is depressed, and under all the circumstances it would be hard to saddle on those people additional liabilities when they really cannot meet their demands.

342. There would be the railway station, and the artillery barracks, and there would be about twelve gentlemen's houses?—Well, as to the railway station, with trucks, and waggons, and all sorts of vehicles cutting up the roads, what benefit we would derive from them would not pay one-fourth of what we would have to pay for them.

343. Tell me, are there not market gardens in the neighbourhood of the town?—No, their lands about the town is not one bit more valuable in that respect. We have not a garden round that can get 6d. more than they do twenty miles away.

344. Where is all the supply of milk, that is daily used by the people of Waterford—where is the supply of milk and eggs got for all those 24,000 people?—Just as it comes to any other place from the country.

345. Does it not come from the district just outside the boundaries?—I can tell you the price of milk, we took a very large contract to-day of 140 gallons, and the present price for new milk as we took it at the poor-house is 6d. a gallon.

346. Mr. FISHER.—If the boundaries were extended, would not building operations go on around the city?—I do not believe it. There is not a demand for houses in Waterford. In fact, I think the circumstances of extending the boundaries would rather have the effect of preventing building going on. There would then be the anticipation of taxation to impede it.

347. CHAIRMAN.—Were you in the Town Council in 1875?—Yes.

348. And on what principle did you approve then of the proposed extension of the municipal area?—I opposed it then and now, because I believe it to be an imposition on the city. I was only one of four. I may mention here, that there was incurred a sum of £3,950 costs, and in order to cover that, as a sop they said we want to regulate the butter market, to get that £3,950 to be put on the city of Waterford. I may also mention, that gentlemen who proposed or aided this movement, like Mr. Slattery J.P., became afterwards its most strenuous opponents.

349. You are aware that the population at present is about 24,000, and that that is just 1,000 below the limit for application of the Artisans' Dwellings Act, would you not think it of advantage to be able to put that measure in force?—I think we have all the powers we require.

350. You cannot put the Artisans' Dwellings Act in force?—Well, one gentleman seemed to give it as a reason for extension that it was a miserable thing to have the population of Waterford only 23,000 or 24,000; "and for the sake of making it 30,000," I said to him "would you go merely for figures, and for the sake of figures saddle the city with £500 or £600."

351. Mr. FISHER.—But it would not saddle the city with that, on the contrary, it would lessen the taxation.

352. Mr. COTTON.—Supposing the population, by the extension, is increased beyond 25,000 would the

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Mr. Joseph
Clampett.

Artisans' Dwellings Act be used?—I am quite sure it would not.

353. CHAIRMAN.—Is there ample room for the poor people now?—There is. There are plenty of small houses idle. I have some idle myself. There are a couple of hundred of small houses. I have some, and I can't let them, ranging in rent from 2s. 6d. to 3s. a week.

354. Where are they?—In Castle-street.

355. Mr. Fisher.—Are you not the owner of houses set in tenements?—Yes, large houses rented up to £20 a year, and houses from £4 to £14, and houses from 2s. to 4s. a week idle.

357. CHAIRMAN.—When I was here before I remember Mr. Hamilton brought me down to the manure depot—to Miller's marsh—and he showed me houses, places built upon the very walls. I was horrified to see these. I understood him to say that the poor people had no other place to live.

358. Mr. Fisher.—They are living in filthy dens in the city.

359. Witness.—All I can say is that these people would prefer living there.

360. CHAIRMAN.—In 1875 the Corporation went forward with this bill. There were only four dissentients then, of which you were one, but all the rest were in favour of the extension proposed. I wanted some of the gentlemen to come here and tell us what was the reason they changed their minds. You are the only one to come and give any single reason. You are consistent, for you say—I did not go in for an extension then and I do not go in for it now. Mr. Delandre says:—"I am opposed to extension, to the extension proposed, but I certainly think there should be some extension, a considerable extension, but not the one proposed by the Finance Committee." There were five members, according to Mr. Hamilton, of the Finance Committee recommending an extension of these boundaries. The Corporation then referred it back to the Finance Committee, to see what was suggested. They prepare their figures, and the moment their report goes back it is all but unanimously thrown out. So that four years ago we have the Corporation, with thirty-six or thirty-four members, going forward for this extension, and now we have them, with thirty-nine against it, asking that there should be no extension. Now, what we would like to know is what made the thirty-six who were for it before go round and say, no, we won't have any extension. These thirty-six gentlemen are found going to Parliament, to the expense of that bill; and if it goes

to the House of Commons every one of these men being against the extension now, what claim would they have, it being represented to the Committee of the House of Commons that these gentlemen were for it, with only four dissentients out of forty, whilst now twenty-five actually voted against five. Now, as to the burial-ground question, at present you have not any burial-ground in the city of Waterford. There is the Society of Friends' and the French burial-ground. We know the tendency of the law is to close up every intra-mural burial-ground. It is now stated to us that there is not a bit of ground in the city that you can get, and yet you are the burial board. Would you not think it advisable to extend the boundary a short bit in order to get a piece of ground for the purpose?—When the graveyard here was closed, the Protestants went outside and bought a burial-ground. There is no necessity for a burial-ground. There was one splendid one paid for—several acres were paid for out of the rates.

361. Mr. Fisher.—And it was turned into a paupers' burial-ground.

362. Witness.—The guardians reduced the charges, but it is very extensively used.

363. CHAIRMAN.—Do you think now that it would not be desirable—with reference to the regulation of hackney carriages and police arrangements at the railway station and elsewhere—that the boundaries be extended in order that the Corporation have the management of the hackney cars?—We have that.

364. Only within the municipal boundaries; but, as has been said, why should a man not have the benefit of the police regulations up to his hall door? Why should not the police regulations be enforceable, why not applicable to, say, the artillery barracks? And, as to the fare, you must give him 6d. to the borough boundary, and 6d. to, say, the workhouse?—But that might apply if you extended the boundary to three miles.

365. In the one street, if there were two cabmen, one in one spot and the other in another, the one man may be as uncivil and as extortionate as he likes, and may say to me bring me up to petty sessions in three weeks if you like—would it not be better to extend the boundary to three miles than to have that state of things?—But would not that apply if you extended it three miles?

366. Of course, but we must have regard to the streets and places that have a continuity of houses?—My argument is that if you went to Kilculliheen the same thing would apply.

Alderman
Ryan

ALDERMAN RYAN examined.

367. CHAIRMAN.—You were on the Finance Committee I understand?—Yes, and I suggested that boundary.

368. And do you abide by it still?—When we met on the Finance Committee we considered that anything we would take in would be more or less loss to the city, and we determined on taking in nothing but what ought really to be brought in as part of the city. My view of the extension is that whatever addition we take in ought to be treated just the same as the city at present, as regards water and sanitary works, and that we should not keep a special account at all. The streets at present are repaired out of the Borough fund, and I would have the new roads or streets paid out of the same. This and sanitary expenses would amount to about £606, giving credit for amount we would receive out of the Public Water rate, and the saving that would be effected in our Grand Jury cess both amounting to £400—it would leave a loss of about £206 per annum. As I would treat the extended district as part of the city any borough rate to be levied, I would levy on all. The council, however, did not see their way to approving of the proposed extension. I made out the Grand Jury cess, the present Grand Jury

cess payable by the city of Waterford at present as £4,225, which is equal to 2s. 2d. in the pound, that is on the valuation of £39,000, with the proposed increase the valuation of the city would come to £45,000 that is by adding the proposed increase of £6,000 to the £39,000. The additional charges to be put on the present Grand Jury cess would be 8½d. for the railway guarantee which would be equal to £212 10s., and collection, &c., £30, bringing it up to £4,467 10s. That would then be the gross presentments. Now the effect would be if you spread that £4,467 10s. over the £45,000 to reduce the Grand Jury to 2s. in the pound, and that would be a saving of 2d. per pound, so that if the proposed of extension of £6,000 valuation were agreed to, and that the only charges are the only additional charges on the Grand Jury cess were the railway guarantee of 8½d. per pound, and collecting additional cess it would effect the saving I have mentioned of 2d. in the pound on present city cess, and that would be equal to £325. The public water rate of 3d. in the pound would be £75, and that with the £325 would amount to £400; but the loss would be in this way. Cost estimated of maintaining the roads of proposed extension payable as existing streets are

out of the borough fund £506. Sanitary expenses £100—total expenditure £606 from which abstract the £400 and you have the net loss of £200 exclusive of lighting.

369. The view you took then was this, that in justice and fairness, and having regard to the proximity to the town of these outlying parts they ought to be a portion of the town, but at the same time you thought it would be a money loss to you and a gain to them?—Yes.

370. In your opinion is it right that a line should be drawn across Barrack-street dividing the boundary?—No, it is absurd.

371. The railway station should be taken in if for nothing else than police purposes?—We could not take an acre less than the black line on the map.

372. Supposing there is any extension, or even if things were left as they are, do you consider that it would be better to have the poor law division and the Municipal wards alike?—Most decidedly.

373. Whatever extension be made?—Yes.

374. And even if no extension were made?—Yes.

375. Do you think even if there was no extension that the Municipal and Poor Law wards should be the same?—No, I see no objection, I come quite unprepared.

376. You think that the Artisans' Dwellings Act should be put in force?—Certainly. The reason the poor people live in the places they do, is because there is a scarcity of small houses. You will see where the Corporation are building the cottages the poor people are leaving their tenement houses and going to the cottages.

377. The advantages of the Artisans' Dwellings Act will not apply unless there is an extension, and consequent increase in the number of the inhabitants?—We built a certain number of labourers' cottages, and we owe the contractor something like £200, and that contractor was compelled to serve a writ on Mr. Howard who has to borrow the money from private individuals to pay that £200.

The inquiry then terminated.

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Alderman
Ryan.

MARYBOROUGH.—MARCH 5TH, 1879.

Before Mr. C. P. COTTON, C.E.

Mr. PATRICK O'REGAN, examined.

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BOROUGH.

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Mr. Patrick
O'Regan.

1. Mr. COTTON.—You are the Town Clerk?—Yes.

2. Maryborough, I understand, is under the Towns Improvement Act?—Yes.

3. When was it put under it?—In December, 1854, shortly after the Act was passed.

4. Is Maryborough under the Towns Improvement Act for all purposes?—Yes, I think so.

5. It includes lighting?—Yes, lighting and watering.

6. You received the form of queries from us?—Yes.

7. But you did not send us the replies back to those queries?—No. I did not.

8. Can you fill them in now?—Well, the Commissioners have not approved of them, and I would not like to take on myself to give the answers.

9. What is the population of Maryborough?—2,731.

10. What is the area of the municipal district?—The area is a radius of one half an English mile.

11. And the acreage?—The acreage of that is 503 acres, but that includes the town and acreage under assessment—the acreage liable to assessment is 450.

12. That is the area given in the rate book?—Yes.

13. And the other fifty acres?—That is that portion which is not included in the streets, the part not occupied by houses.

14. What is the valuation?—The entire valuation is £3,076.

15. You have no wards?—No wards.

16. Is the town entirely included in one electoral division?—It is.

17. How far does that electoral division extend north, south, east, and west?—It would average about a statute mile—in some directions it would exceed a mile.

18. Have you a map of the town showing the boundary of the town itself?—Yes, I have; and I have made a circle showing what a radius of half a mile would extend to.

19. Where is the town itself marked on this map?—Within this circle (indicating circle marked red on the map).

20. Surely the boundary of the town is not a circle?—Yes, it is, and it is a radius of half a mile.

21. Where do you get this, what is your authority for saying it is half a mile radius, this town boundary?—That is what the Town Commissioners adopted when they were adopting the Act.

22. Have you got the resolution adopting that?—I have not, but I have seen it.

23. Have you the Gazette?—No; I lent it, and I have not got it.

24. Is it not entered in the record of the first proceedings of the Town Commissioners?—Yes; but I have not that book.

25. I ask you because it looks very different indeed from what I saw at the valuation office. It strikes me it is not the same at all. It is about a half mile radius, you say?—It is a half a mile exactly.

26. What is the centre point you adopted—can you describe it?—It is the old Rampart or Fort.

27. Is that marked on the ordnance map?—It is.

28. How many Town Commissioners have you?—Nine.

29. How many people are on the books eligible for the post of Town Councillors?—About fifty.

30. Fifty persons qualified?—Yes.

31. And how many are qualified to vote in the town?—136 or 137.

32. What are your receipts during the year?—At a one shilling rate we received £160.

33. First of all give me the rates for the last five years, '74 '75 '76 '77 and '78?—In 1874 1s., in '75 6d., in '76 10d., in '77 10d., and in '78 we made no rate.

34. Have you any other source of income except the rates?—We have the public oussel.

35. Can you give the amounts brought in by these other sources?—Yes; the oussel, averaging £9 10s.; the dog tax, averaging £7 or £8, and we get half the fines at Petty Sessions Court—about £25.

36. You have no landed property?—No.

37. Can you tell me in '78 what your income and expenditure was?—I could not tell for 1878 from re-collection. I have the account of it, of course.

38. You can give it to us afterwards?—Certainly.

39. Can you tell me what the poor rate was for those five years?—In '74 the poor rate was, I think, 2s.; in '75 3s. 6d.; in '76 2s. 4d.; in '77 2s. 3d.; in '78 4s. 2d. I think that is it.

40. If you are not sure you had better not give them. What was the poor rate in '78?—4s. 2d.

41. Was any portion of that sanitary rate?—Yes.

42. How much?—1s. 4d.

43. What was that raised for?—For sewers through the town.

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O'Regan.

44. And on what district was that rate raised?—It was raised on the townland adjoining the town.
45. Can you give the names?—Belad.
46. What I want is the number of townlands that were subjected to the sanitary rate of 1s. 4d.?—Well, I don't know if Belad was subjected to the sanitary rate, but it is within the boundary of the town.
47. You don't know then on what district the sanitary rate was struck?—No.
48. Is there any debt on the town—do the Town Commissioners owe anything?—No.
49. Have the Board considered this question of the extension at all as a body?—Well, they have, it was before them.
50. Have they come to any resolution?—No; they thought it would be better to leave it as it is.
51. Well, that is a resolution—did they come to that resolution?—They did not come to that resolution, but that I consider to be the feeling.
52. All the sanitary works in the town now are under the control of the Board of Guardians?—Yes.
53. Have the Commissioners ever considered the question, whether they would wish to be formed into the Urban Sanitary Authority, so as to restore the sanitary powers to themselves?—The matter was under consideration, but no resolution was passed on the subject.
54. They have not passed any resolution?—No, but the feeling that I could gather or glean from them was that they thought the area of taxation being more extensive under the Poor Law Board than with us, we had better leave it so.
55. That is that the Local Government Board had the power of putting the sanitary rate on a larger area?—Yes.
56. Is there any expenditure for sanitary works required in the town?—I could not answer that question. I believe the Commissioners think there have been sanitary works enough done.
57. You have placed on that map, I see, some larger circle—what is that?—That would be supposing the boundary were extended another half mile.
58. If it were so extended, would it take in many gentlemen's places?—It would not.
59. Would it add much to the number of voters?—It would not.
60. Would it add to the number of gentlemen qualified to be Town Commissioners?—I am sure of two; I am not quite certain about two more, that is all.
61. You don't know how many voters it would add.
62. What are the lands, what class of lands lie between the present boundary and the additional half mile—are they townparks?—Not exactly townparks they are average middling fair lands.
63. Would it take in any public buildings at present outside the municipal boundary?—No; only the lunatic asylum and jail. They are exempt.
64. I suppose all the land within that mile radius you have there derives great benefit from the town, on account of its proximity to the town?—Yes. There is no doubt of it.
66. As regards markets, these lands are exceptionally well off?—Yes; and as regards the value of land.
67. Having facilities for disposing of their produce is a great advantage?—Yes.
68. Are there schools in the town to which children come from that distance?—Yes; and outside that.
69. How far beyond that half mile extension would you say the benefit of having the town adjacent ex-

tends as making an increase in the value of the land?—Well, I don't think the Commissioners would be inclined to extend it much beyond half a mile further.

70. Do you then mean that the Board are in favour of extension at all?—Well, my impression is that they are not.

71. Do they intend to come to any resolution about it, is any meeting to be held to give expression to an opinion about it?—No meeting is fixed.

72. What is the opinion, do you know, of the people living within that half mile circle—what is their opinion, do you happen to be aware?—If it decreased the rates they would be very glad it would be taken in.

73. Who would be in favour of it?—The people of the town.

74. What is the opinion of the people within that extended half mile?—I don't know that. I have not consulted any of them.

75. Of course, as you have never considered the question of being Urban Sanitary Authority, you never considered the question of whether the Town Commissioners should take up the roads—the maintenance of the roads—instead of the Grand Jury?—Yes, some of them have expressed a feeling to that effect, that is, they have become contractors for some of the roads within the town for the Grand Jury.

76. You are aware that they cannot become the authority over roads and bridges, except they first become an Urban Sanitary Authority, and take up the sanitary work?—I am aware. They have become private contractors for these roads.

77. But they have not come to any resolution about any of these matters as a Board?—No. We presented a petition to the Grand Jury on one occasion under the Local Government Act for the privilege, and we were refused it.

78. The Grand Jury refused it?—Yes.

79. Well, are you aware that if you become the Urban Sanitary Authority, the Local Government Board could give you a Provisional Order to take the roads and bridges, whether the Grand Jury consented or not?—Yes.

80. But you have not done anything?—No.

81. What is your own private opinion as to this question of the boundaries; do you think it would be better for the town to be extended or not?—I think if they became the Urban Sanitary Authority it would not benefit them at all.

82. It would not benefit them, you think?—No; provided they take up the management of the roads and bridges.

83. Why would it not?—Because the additional income would not be equal to the outlay.

84. Do you think not, if they had the power, and got the same rights the Grand Jury now possess for the same purpose?—Oh, if they had that power it would be different.

85. Well, suppose they had that power?—That would make a great difference; I did not calculate it in that light. I think it would do very well if they had that power. I was calculating for the one-fourth.

86. If they were made the Urban Sanitary Authority to take up the powers of the Grand Jury, they could settle the rates to be paid; it would be left to the Local Government Board to determine. Have you any observations you would like to make?—Nothing further.

Mr. William
Fitzsimons.

Mr. WILLIAM FITZSIMONS, Solicitor, examined.

87. Mr. COTTON.—Can you tell us, Mr. Fitzsimons, what the feeling of the Commissioners is regarding an extension of boundaries?—No; I don't think there has been any meeting on the subject. There has been, in fact, no solicitation of their feeling on the subject. They don't really understand it at all.

88. Are you a Town Commissioner yourself?—Yes.

89. You are aware, perhaps, what is the general feeling amongst them?—Well, my own impression of their feeling is, that there is a feeling of doubt as to what would be the result of an extension.

90. In what way?—For my own part I should say that we don't know, supposing the boundary is extended, we don't know what sanitary work the town may be

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called on to pay for, what the town rates may be required to pay for. At present there has been a very large outlay from a sanitary point of view in the town, and I doubt if the town rates could afford with the proposed increase any additional outlay. For instance, if additional drainage were required within that half mile radius, I doubt if the town could afford it, or if the ratepayers would be prepared to assent to it. As I understand that half mile extension proposed that is my view.

91. But that half mile radius, as it appears to me, does not take in many, if any, buildings at all; in that way, therefore, what sanitary work—what drainage could there be?—I think the feeling is that we were rather groping in the dark, taking a leap without knowing exactly what we were doing—what we were to get—what compensation we were to get for the extension, for the liability.

92. Well, suppose you have not made any application to become the Urban Sanitary Authority, or taken any steps to take up the roads, suppose you simply remain Town Commissioners as you are, would it not be an advantage to you to have the area extended?—Well, we have taken steps to take up the roads within the present municipal boundary—we have become, in fact, private contractors.

93. But that is not taking steps as a Board?—Not as a Board, but it has the same effect. Steps have been taken by members of the Board to take up the contract within the streets, and I doubt if the boundaries were extended and the same state of things would apply, I don't think the extended district of roads would enable the Commissioners to do it with any profit, or satisfactorily at all.

94. Whatever you may agree to do as private contractors you know would not apply or be obligatory upon you to perform if the area were extended—you would not be obliged to do the same thing outside?—Well, there would be no necessity for taking up the roads outside; it was simply for the convenience of the town that the Commissioners took it up at all.

95. Would it not be an advantage to you now to have an additional area of taxation contributing to the lighting and cleansing of the town?—Well, I would be personally inclined to doubt if the new rates to be afforded by the additional radius would compensate for the additional expenditure on the extended radius.

96. But suppose you don't touch the roads at all, you have no power at all, you know?—Except as private contractor.

97. But leaving the roads aside altogether, would it not be an advantage to have an extra area contributing to the paving, cleansing, and lighting?—Well, putting it on the principle that that were extra rates sent in to us, it would. If I was certain the compensation for extension would not put the Commissioners or the ratepayers to loss, I would say "yes" instantly. But we have not discussed it—there has been no sense of the ratepayers taken on it.

98. Is there any intention to do so?—I would say it would be very desirable. I am informed by Constable Gregory, and I believe it to be the fact, that the ratepayers of the town hold to a very large extent the lands proposed to be comprised in the new area.

99. Yes, so that the increased taxation would fall upon residents in the town to a great extent?—Yes.

100. How is the town lit?—At present by gas. There is a gas company that supplies us.

101. Is there any water supply?—No, not any water-works.

102. There are wells?—Yes; plenty of wells, but no possibility of a supply being laid down. The town lies on the flat, and from the circumstances it would be impossible to bring water to the town.

103. Can you tell me what would be the feeling of the residents within this proposed extension of say half a mile sketched out by Mr. O'Regan, the feeling of the owners of land within that district?—I cannot, for the reason I tell you; no sense or feeling of the ratepayers has been taken. I am sorry there have been no steps taken. Mr. Turpin is here, and he can give you more information than I can.

Mr. GEORGE VANSTON, examined.

Mr. George
Vanston.

104. Mr. COTTON.—Are you a Town Commissioner now?—No, not now.

105. But you were, I understand?—Yes, for six years.

106. So that you are intimately acquainted with the feeling of the town?—Yes.

107. And can let us have statistics and other information?—Yes.

108. Well, give your opinion as to the advantages or disadvantages to be derived from an extension of the boundary?—My opinion is—and I believe I have spoken to a great many people on the subject—

109. Give your own opinion?—My opinion is that the electoral division of Maryborough as it stands would be best to select for a radius. On the north side you could reach about three quarters of a mile (Irish), on the south it would be about a quarter of a mile, on the west on one road about three quarters, that is the Mountrath road, and on the north-west three quarters of a mile. On the north-east it would reach about a mile and a quarter, and on the south-east about a mile and a quarter.

110. Can you tell me what the area of the electoral division is?—I could not tell you; I have not taken the trouble to find that out.

111. I asked already, you may remember, with reference to the rating of one and fourpence struck in 1878, the sanitary rate, over what district was it levied?—Borris Little, Clonminan, and Kyle-Kiproe and Maryborough; I was one of the parties who struck out that rate myself. I was a guardian.

112. That I understand was for the purpose of sewerage?—Yes.

113. And that was considered a fair district?—Yes.

114. Have you any further observation you would wish to make?—Another point I wish to bring before you is this—I have spoken to parties in the town, ratepayers, and I have heard the matter spoken of, whether it could be done or not I don't quite know, but we have three very large public institutions, an asylum, a jail, and an infirmary; well, there are the servants of those institutions, who, more or less, use this town, who get the benefit of the lighting of the town, and so on, and if those institutions could be rated it would I think be a very useful and proper thing. I don't know if I am right in bringing this before you?

115. Well, it is out of the limits of our inquiry. It would form the subject of legislation, but is beyond the scope of our inquiry.

116. There are a great many parties in our town who would like to have them brought in if it could be done. The Government at present gives us portion of the rates in respect of the barracks.

117. How much is the Government contribution?—

Mr. O'Regan.—The valuation is £53 12s., and Government gives us whatever the amount of the rating we make.

118. Mr. COTTON.—Do you think the advantages of being in the neighbourhood of a large market town extends to the limits of the electoral division you have suggested as a boundary?—

119. Mr. Vanston.—It does, decidedly, and beyond it, for the farmers come in and take men out of the streets and employ them. There is this advantage to them in that way, that they have not to keep cottiers, but come in and get the labour they want.

120. And they derive advantages from the streets being lighted, when they come in or go out in the

MARY-
BOROUGH.
Mar. 5, 1879.
Mr. George
Vanston.

winter mornings, or evenings?—Yes, certainly they do. I may say that some of the people outside object *in toto*.

121. They object to having any additional rate put upon them?—Yes, I have spoken to a number of them.

122. You are not a guardian at present, are you?—Not at present, but I will be one. I had been for a number of years, but I had to resign on taking up the clerkship.

123. What would be the feeling of the guardians as to your becoming the Urban Sanitary Authority?—I have an idea that they would, at least a section of them would, like to keep the reins in their own hands.

124. Is there anything else you wish to add?—Well, I think the county roads, looking at them in one sense, it would be perhaps as well to be left as they are, for we have a very efficient county surveyor who is doing his best to save in a great many ways. We might improve our footways, but not our roadways much.

Mr. Thomas
Turpin.

129. What is your opinion as to the extension, Mr. Turpin?—I am clearly of opinion, that the area ought to be increased. I have always been of opinion that the people in the suburbs derive nearly as much benefit from the town as the people in the town themselves.

130. In having markets for the sale of produce, and from the lighting, watering, &c.?—Yes; they send in all their fowl every Thursday, an immense quantity of fowl. They sell their produce here on Thursday; they bring in their potatoes, and they get a deal of corn and sell it, and the turf from the bogs around the town every day of the week is carted away.

131. Well now, how far from the centre of the town would you say it would be fair to ask the people to contribute?—Well, I think, Clonreher ought to be taken in, for a great source of traffic comes from Clonreher. I think the boundary should certainly take in Clonreher.

132. Tell me are you aware what the general extent of the electoral division is?—No, I am not. I think the poor rate collector would be able to tell you.

133. Would you say the people who derive exceptional advantages from the town live more than a mile from the town?—Not much.

134. You would consider a mile a fair area?—Yes; there was an old charter, the charter of Elizabeth, and under it the town extended from this spot—the old

125. Do you think if the Town Commissioners had as much money at their disposal as the county has, they would be able to do the work better, living as they do on the spot and meeting once a week to look after it?—Well, I don't think they would. They might do it perhaps, but I scarcely believe it. They would have to get a regular staff to work them up, and you have a staff in the county.

126. Do you think the county contributes towards the roads in the town a fair amount of work for the money they get?—Yes, for the past four or five years they have contributed very liberally.

127. Have you any other observation to make?—I agree with Mr. Fitzsimons about the water—you would have no way of bringing in water except you brought it from four miles. The Sanitary Authority is giving them a fair supply of pumps now and a very large supply of water.

128. By pumps?—Yes, by pumps.

Mr. THOMAS TURPIN, examined.

fort—to a boundary of 8,000 yards, and that is a mile and a half. That was exactly the boundary under the charter of Elizabeth.

135. You think then that a mile would be a fair distance?—Yes; I mean an Irish mile.

136. The *Town Clerk*.—It would require two miles (English) to take in Clonreher.

137. Mr. Turpin.—My impression is that it ought to extend to that. It is right for me to say that, when first we established this Commission, we were under the impression that we had made a mistake in not applying to have it further extended in the first instance. I think there was a memorial sent up. It was refused then. But we wanted to extend it.

138. Under what Act was the town before that?

139. Mr. O'Regan.—It was not under any Act immediately before that.

140. Mr. Turpin.—It was a borough originally. Maryborough returned two members of Parliament, and a large circle of land was attached to it. In 1802 the burgesses divided it into three parts, one part for the burgesses, and one part for one member, and another part for another, and they made leases for themselves for 900 years.

The inquiry then terminated.

KILLARNEY.
Dec. 28, 1878.

KILLARNEY.—DECEMBER 28, 1878.

Before Mr. EXHAM, Q.C.

Mr. HENRY DORAN examined.

1. You are the Chairman of the Town Commissioners of Killarney?—I am.

2. Has the boundary, marked on the map before me, always been the boundary of the town?—I am not very certain, that it has, I do not know if it was the same as that when the town was under the old Commissioners, that is, up to three years ago. Up to that the Commissioners were appointed, and acting under the Act of the 9th George IV. c. 82, and in December, 1874, the town adopted the provisions of the Towns Improvement Act of 1854.

3. Since I sat here before in September, 1876, have you had a new set of Commissioners?—Yes, there have been some who have gone out by rotation, and others elected.

4. Are you in working order now?—Yes.

5. How was the present boundary as marked on this map, fixed?—Mr. Downing who is our Solicitor drew up and prepared a map, to go before the Local Government Board, in order to get their sanction to the boundary.

6. Did they sanction this as the bounds?—Yes they did in 1874. They were approved of by Mr. Horsley of the Local Government Board, who was sent down to inquire into the matter, and he approved of them, all that time we were under the impression that we could not travel outside of the parish here, and there were some few townlands, such as Cleeny, which is very close to the town; that was omitted; Gortroe was also omitted, on the ground that we could not travel outside the parish.

7. Is the present boundary all in one electoral division?—Yes it is, the electoral division of Killarney.

8. How far does that electoral division extend?—It extends in some directions four miles from the town, and in others only one mile.

9. Did you answer the queries which were sent to the Town Commissioners here from our office in Dublin?—Yes, on last Friday week.

10. Do the Commissioners of the town think it desirable to extend the present area of the town?—

They considered the question, but not as to the full extent of the extension, I think that they consider it would be desirable to extend the boundary of the town, but they are not agreed as to the extent.

11. Do all agree that there should be some extension?—Yes, but some propose an extension, which would bring in some townlands, that I myself, and I think several others are of the same opinion, consider should not be taken in. A good many are of opinion that if you take a radius of two miles from the centre of the town, that would be a reasonable boundary.

12. What is the present valuation of the town?—£7,145 10s.

13. And its acreage?—1,736 acres, 2 roods, and 19 perches.

14. What addition to the acreage and valuation would an extension to a radius of two miles give?—I don't know but I would be able to get that information for you. It would be only mere guess-work on my part if I gave it to you now.

15. Is it your opinion that the lands outside the town—to the extent at all events of a two-mile radius, derive exceptional value and benefit from its proximity to the town?—I think so; I certainly think so.

16. To that extent at the least?—Yes.

17. Do the occupiers of the land within that radius use the town for all purposes that they require, such as coming and going to the train and as a market town, and attending their places of worship?—Yes; the present township in some places extends two miles, and in other places—and that is a great cause of complaint—not half a mile from the centre of the town, to the east and west the town at present extends about a mile and a half, while to the north and south it does not extend more than half or three quarters of a mile.

18. How many gentlemen's residences would be taken in by the proposed boundary, supposing it was about two miles?—About ten or twelve in addition to those within the present boundary.

19. Are there any of the small farming classes, valued at £4 and upwards—that would be taken in by the proposed boundary?—Very few, the people who would be taken in are mostly gentlemen or substantial farmers.

20. How many substantial farmers would be comprised within the proposed area?—About twelve substantial farmers in addition to the gentlemen's residences.

21. Would the proposed extension take in any of the hotels near the lakes?—The only hotel it would take in would be the Lake Hotel.

22. Would it be considered reasonable to take in the other hotels towards Muckcross?—They are three miles away.

23. Then this proposed boundary would not take in any part of Muckcross?—No, it would not.

24. What is the meaning of the blue line that is on the Ordnance map now before me?—In sending back the queries the answer had reference to the blue line on this map and that was the proposed boundary.

25. Is the two-mile boundary that is proposed shown by the whole of the blue line boundary on this map?—That was not the unanimous conclusion that was come to. It was merely that some were for extending the boundary so much further than others.

26. I ask you as Chairman of the Town Commissioners is it your opinion merely, or are you expressing it as the opinion of a good many other Commissioners, that the boundary should not be extended more than

two miles?—That is the opinion of a good many—my own and others.

27. Can you say anything as to the feeling of the towns people on the subject of the proposed extension of the boundary?—They would be willing to have as large an increase as possible.

28. The larger boundary as shown on this map would only take in Lord Headley—that would be the only one?—Yes.

29. Taking the point at Killeenalougha, and the townland boundary then up to the road, and then following the townland boundary again on to the wood at Aghada Round Tower—would that be as you consider the best boundary on the western side?—Yes.

30. As far as you know, within the boundary that you now suggest, are there any residents outside the town, and in that boundary, that as far as you know would object to the extension?—I believe there are two of those residents at present here before you, Mr. Coltsman, and Mr. O'Reardon.

31. The only ones you know of that would have any objection are Mr. Coltsman, and Mr. O'Reardon?—Yes.

32. Can you tell me how many electoral divisions it will take in, the proposed two-mile boundary?—I think it will be all in the electoral division of Killarney, with the exception of a small portion of Muckcross.

33. One of the recommendations of the Select Committee of the House of Commons that we are desired to follow, is to take care that towns shall as far as is at all practicable be conterminous with electoral divisions, therefore if there was only a very small bit, that would come in of the electoral division of Muckcross, I do not think we could put that in. We wish to keep all the town as much as possible within the electoral division of Killarney?—Yes. There are parties who use the town very much in the portion of the boundary that would be in the Muckcross electoral division, that is a portion from which people use the town most largely on account of the tourists frequenting the Lake Hotel.

34. There are other hotels also in the same locality, and it would be very easy to make lines that would take in those other hotels if we think it right to go outside the electoral division. How many hotels could be brought in besides the Lake Hotel supposing you went down to Muckcross?—Two others.

35. Are there any other houses that could be included, because my recollection is that there are houses there?—Nothing to speak of.

36. Are those two hotels both on the same side of the road?—They are adjoining each other, in fact joined to each other.

37. Is there any boundary between them, and the Muckcross demesne wall?—The public road divides them.

38. Supposing you drew a line, bounding the road on one side, and taking in those two hotels, or the townland boundary on which they stand—how do you think that would answer?—They both stand on the townland of Dromrourke.

39. Is that a large townland?—A very poor and small one. The only thing in reference to the suggestion you make is that it would almost stand like an island, because you leave a lot on the Killarney side that you do not take in. The only reason you could see, and that would be urged for bringing in that property is, that the people who go there substantially use the town much more than a good many people who live in the town.

KILLARNEY.
Dec. 28, 1878.
Mr. Henry
Doran.

Mr. SAMUEL MURRAY HUSSEY examined.

40. You are agent to Lord Kenmare here?—Yes.

41. And I believe about nine-tenths of the area sought, to be added to the municipal boundary, is his Lordship's property?—Yes.

42. And that would be taken in by the proposed new boundary?—Yes.

43. Do you approve of the proposed boundary, taking in townlands as nearly as possible and with

a radius of two miles from the centre of the town?—I do.

44. Would you be in favour of, as nearly as possible, following the townland boundaries for the municipal boundary as a rule?—Yes.

45. Lord Kenmare would have no objection to that?—No.

Mr. Samuel M.
Hussey.

KILLARNEY.

Dec. 28, 1878.

Mr. Daniel
Cronyn.

Mr. DANIEL CRONYN COLTSMAN examined.

46. The proposed boundary, would take in part of your property?—It would; the distance to my place by road, either way is over two miles and a half to my house, and as the crow would fly it is a mile and a half exactly, but that is going by the river boundary which no man could pass, and my demesne runs out a long way, and a distant part of it is three miles and a half from the town.

47. Do they propose to take in the whole of your demesne?—If they go by townlands they should do it, and that is the reason I object, because I am three miles from the town.

48. As far as you are concerned, would you object to the boundary going out to the proposed extent of two miles, in your direction?—I would not object to that; but it is nearly three and a half miles by road, by any road you take, to the distant part of my demesne.

49. Taking it in all the other directions, you think that that would be a fair boundary, following the townlands as nearly as possible?—Yes; I certainly think that the Lake Hotel ought to be taken in. It is only a mile from the town—an Irish mile, for the distance has been measured.

Mr. Francis H.
Dowling.

Mr. FRANCIS HENRY DOWLING examined.

50. What is your opinion with regard to the proposed boundary?—I think it is almost the unanimous feeling of the town that the proposed two-mile boundary would be a fair and equitable one.

51. And do you think the people to be taken in would object to it?—I do not think any person could possibly object to it; they may if they are to pay a little of the rate; but substantially everyone derives—

I mean those sought to be included within the boundary, as much benefit from the town as the townspeople do themselves.

52. Do you think that the Lake Hotel should be taken in notwithstanding the fact that it is in a different electoral division?—Yes, I do, because they get twice as much benefit from the town as anyone who lives in the town.

M. Edmond
Carey.

Mr. EDMUND CAREY examined.

53. You are one of the Town Commissioners?—I am.

54. The gentlemen who have been examined before me up to the present all appear to think that an extension of the boundary to two miles would be enough?—I think that would be fair. I would like to go further, but I think the two-mile extension would be very fair.

55. On this map before me it is proposed to go out further?—Yes; I was one of the persons who proposed that.

56. Do you now still propose that?—Yes, I do.

57. Why would you suggest that you should go that distance out?—I would suggest it for the purpose of

relieving the ratepayers of the town, of getting an increase to the rates, of getting more money, of course, for the relief of the town, for the cleansing and lighting of the town, and for the expenses which the Commissioners have to go to for all these things.

58. There is no gentleman's place, as I understand it, except Lord Headley's, that would be taken in by the immense extension of the boundary that you suggest?—No; I think not. Lord Headley's place is not more than two miles, I think.

59. Yes it is. Measure it on the Ordnance map, and you will find that it will be over three miles?—But I was taking it from the nearest point of the town to Lord Headley's.

CASHEL.—11TH MARCH, 1879.

Before Mr. EXHAM, Q.C.

CASHEL.
Mar. 11, 1879.

Mr. CORNELIUS HANLEY, Agent for the Corporate property of Cashel, examined.

Mr. Cornelius Hanley.

1. What is the area of the town at present?—About 350 acres.

2. What is the valuation of it?—We don't know the valuation in consequence of levying no rates.

3. Is it all in one electoral division?—Yes; the electoral division of Cashel.

4. When was the Towns Improvement Act adopted?—It was in 1855.

5. And I believe the Act was adopted for all purposes?—Yes; the whole Act was adopted.

6. Do the Town Commissioners think it would be desirable to have any alteration in the boundaries?—The Town Commissioners had a special meeting convened for the purpose, and they unanimously agreed it would be no benefit to the town to have any extension of the municipal boundary.

7. Are there no villa residences at all outside the present municipal boundary?—Only very few.

8. Nor any gentlemen's places?—There is only one outside within a radius of half a mile.

9. I believe the Commissioners manage the roads, and that they take the contract from the Grand Jury themselves?—Yes; that is only within the last four or five years.

10. And they think no extension would be of any benefit?—Yes; that is the prevailing opinion with the Commissioners, and a good many of the townspeople think it would be no benefit to the town.

11. You are not the urban sanitary authority?—No; but we will be. The necessary proceedings have been taken to have us made the urban sanitary authority.

12. That is you have applied to the Local Government Board?—Yes.

13. What is the population of Cashel?—At the last census it was 4,562, but I think it has decreased since. The staff of the militia was taken away, which with men, women, and children numbered about 100; so that the population is about 4,500.

14. Would it be desirable for sanitary purposes to take in any of the outlying districts, or do you prefer to leave them with the rural sanitary authority?—I don't think it would be the least use to us. There is a main sewer running in the middle part of the town, and there is nothing to hinder us from having an outlet to the river which is a couple of miles away.

15. Then neither the people inside nor the people outside wish to have any extension?—I don't know about the people outside.

Mr. JOHN DAVIS WHITE examined.

John Davis White.

16. You are one of the Town Commissioners?—Yes.

17. You are living in the town?—Yes; about forty-seven years. The Chairman of the Commissioners would be present but for a death in his family, but he deputed me to speak for him.

18. In your opinion would it be desirable there should be any alteration in the boundary?—My private opinion is that for ulterior reasons there might be an extension, but it is not the opinion of the townspeople. It is possible if our boundary was enlarged we might get a restoration of the franchise.

19. But as far as the municipal matters are concerned, you do think it is desirable, or do the Commissioners think there should be any increase or diminution in the area?—No, except this. That there are two gentlemen at present who have property in the town who are resident within six miles or so of Cashel, and on account of that distance they are not qualified to become councillors.

20. You could not extend the boundaries six miles?—No; but if there was any remedy in a case like that.

21. You are about to get the management of the sanitary matters?—Yes; but it requires an Act of Parliament, I believe.

22. You have the management of the roads at present?—Yes.

23. You contract for the roads under the Grand Jury, and you are able to effect a saving?—Yes; so I am informed, and it is well done.

24. Would you think it desirable to go in for getting the management of the roads entirely to yourselves?—No; because we get money from the county.

25. Have you considered at all with the view of increasing the voting power the advisability of bringing in the Commons lands?—That was my idea; my own opinion was that every man in the electoral division of Cashel ought to be within the bounds of the town—everyone who is helping us to pay the rate. We are paying very heavy poor rate in Cashel, and every man is helping us ought to have the privileges we have.

26. How far does the electoral division extend?—It extends about three miles with a valuation of about £11,000.

27. What is the poor rate in Cashel?—It is 2s. 6d. It is at present 2s. 4d., but the average is 2s. 6d. It has been 3s. 4d., and in the bad times it was 10s. 6d. in the pound.

28. Then the whole electoral division helps you?—Yes; the whole of the electoral division helps us, and I think the electoral division has a right to some of our privileges.

29. They have power to vote for the Poor Law Guardians?—But I think if our member was returned to us, they should have a right to vote for the Parliamentary representative. We are a very small constituency, and that is one of my reasons for it.

30. There are no wards here?—No.

31. The ratepayers of the entire electoral division elect the guardians?—Yes.

32. Then in that way both are represented on the Poor Law Board?—Yes; town and country alike. There are twenty-eight persons eligible to be Commissioners, and there are eighteen Commissioners.

33. The only question is whether you would have a larger constituency by extending the boundary, and whether it is desirable to have it extended?—You would get Mr. Eyre of Hoar Abbey. Mr. Murphy has property if he wishes to become a Commissioner, and Mr. Hare, or whoever would be resident in Deerpark, and Mr. French the resident magistrate. There are not five houses within a mile of Cashel that are valued at £12.

34. Is every good house within the boundary at present?—Yes; you would not get three houses qualified unless you went six miles out of the town.

35. You never had a sanitary rate?—No.

36. And when you become urban sanitary authority you will not have to strike a rate?—No, we have too much money.

The inquiry then closed.

KILLINEY AND BALLYBRACK.—22ND APRIL, 1879.

KILLINEY AND
BALLYBRACK.
April 22, 1879.

Mr. Andrew
O'Brien.

Before Mr. C. P. COTTON, C.E.

Mr. ANDREW O'BRIEN, examined.

1. Mr. COTTON.—You are the Town Clerk of Killiney and Ballybrack?—I am.

2. How long have you filled that office?—Since May 1872.

3. Killiney and Ballybrack are under the Towns Improvement Act of 1854?—Yes.

4. At what time was that Act adopted?—In July 1866.

5. Was it adopted altogether or only in part?—In part, at that time.

6. Was it afterwards adopted for water?—Yes, in 1870. For water and lighting in 1870.

7. In 1874 your sanitary powers all went to the guardians?—Yes; the guardians of the Rathdown Union.

8. And in fact your work is now restricted to lighting only?—Yes, to the lighting only.

9. What is the population of the township?—According to the last census 2,290.

10. Do you know whether it is increasing or diminishing?—I cannot exactly say.

11. What is the area and valuation of the township?—The area is 1,006 acres, and the valuation, £9,733 15s.

12. What is the number of Commissioners?—Twelve.

13. How many of the householders in the township are entitled to vote for Commissioners—do you know?—I don't exactly know.

14. Have you ever had an election at which you have had reason to know that?—We have had no opposed elections.

15. Do you know how many would be qualified to sit, if they were elected as Commissioners?—I do not know.

16. Could you make out a return of that number also?—Yes, I could.

17. In the queries submitted to you from the office of the Municipal Boundaries Commission, you have given a return of the rates. You have had no rate since 1874?—No municipal rate since then.

18. And then a rate of 1s. 6d. in the pound was struck?—Yes.

19. Will you give me the Poor Law rates in each year—take 1874—the Poor Law rate in 1874?—12d. in the pound.

20. What was it in 1875?—13d. in the pound, with a special sanitary rate of 8d., and a general or burial rate of 1d. In 1876 the Poor Law rate was 13d. in the pound, with a special sanitary rate of 1s. 6d., and a burial rate of 1d. In 1877 the Poor Law rate was 10d., and the special sanitary rate 16d., and there was in that year no general rate. In 1878 the Poor Law rate was 11d., and the special sanitary rate 10d.

21. With regard to those special sanitary rates, can you tell me what district they were struck on?—On the township of Killiney and Ballybrack, which was taken in with the contributory district marked on this map.

22. And it was the same contributory district each year?—Yes.

23. Can you describe that district, and give the names of the townlands?—Yes, the names of the townlands are, Ballinclea (part of), Rocheshill (part of),

Rochestown (part of), Scalpwilliam (part of), Ballybrack (part of), Kilboggett (part of), Hackettsland (part of), Killiney (part of),—those are all in the electoral division of Killiney—Loughlinstown (part of), Loughlinstown (Commons), and Shangana (part of), and these last named are in the Rathmichael electoral division.

24. As these replies to the queries have been altered since they were sent to us, I may consider them cancelled?—Certainly, yes.

25. The township of Killiney and Ballybrack extends into two electoral divisions?—Yes, Killiney and Rathmichael.

26. Do you know, at all, how far the boundaries of the township are continuous with those of either electoral division?—They are not continuous at all, I think.

27. Do either of the electoral divisions extend very much beyond the boundary of the township?—They do, very much.

28. Are they pretty equally divided, or is there much more—say of the electoral division of Killiney in the township than of the other?—I cannot exactly say.

29. You don't know the boundaries of the electoral divisions?—I do not.

30. They are not marked on the map?—They are not.

31. How is the township supplied with gas—do you contract?—It is from the Alliance and Gas Consumers Company.

32. You have a yearly contract?—Yes.

33. How much do you pay per lamp?—They charge at the rate of 5s. a thousand cubic feet.

34. You pay by meter?—Yes, the same as ordinary consumers, by meter.

35. Can you tell me what those special sanitary rates in the different years were for?—They were struck by the Poor Law Guardians, I dare say for the purpose of carrying out the sanitary arrangements.

36. What were the special ones for—sewerage?—No, for water.

37. How is the supply of water to the township regulated now?—The supply is taken from the Rathmichael reservoir as formerly, and was paid for by a water rate.

38. And that water rate was portion of this special sanitary rate?—Yes.

39. How much does the rate amount to?—The water rate that the Corporation charges is 4d. in the pound on the valuation of the township.

40. Well, as regards the rest—what does the special sanitary rate come to?—I don't exactly know.

41. Have the Commissioners ever considered, as a body, the question of whether they would like to have the powers and the control of the sanitary matters restored to them?—They have; but at present they have decided not to apply for the restoration of those powers.

42. Is there any resolution on the minute book to that effect?—The question is only in abeyance pending this inquiry.

43. The township has no debt connected with it at present?—None.

Mr. ROBERT WARREN, D.L., examined.

44. You are the chairman of the Commissioners of the township of Killiney and Ballybrack?—I am. I wish at once to say with reference to the reservoir which Mr. O'Brien referred to in his evidence—he said that we get our water from the Rathmichael reservoir. I wish to mention, with a view to a further inquiry which I have in my mind; and it is very important

that you should be aware that we are the only township that gets water from the Rathmichael reservoir, and we get it from that place on application to the Corporation, on the ground that it would be totally impossible for us to get it anywhere else, as on account of the high levels of different places in the township the reservoir commands a supply 340 feet above high-

Mr. Robert
Warren, D.L.

water mark, but in the highest portion of the township here, the high level excludes them from the benefit of the water supply, but we are able to supply the water to almost all the other portions of the township, and any interference with that supply would be very injurious to Killiney. My observations are now made in reference to any attempt, in the future, at annexation.

45. I suppose you are aware that in reference to Dalkey, it is stated to be the wish of the Commissioners there to seek to include the whole of Killiney and Ballybrack within their township, and, of course, if you like to give evidence now, as to why that should not be done, you are quite at liberty to do so; but it would be a question for you to consider whether it would not be better for you to reserve any evidence you may have to give on that point, until the Dalkey inquiry is held?—Well, sir, I am desirous of reserving any evidence I may have to offer on that subject, until a future time, as you suggest.

46. With regard to this extension, I understand it is the wish of the Commissioners now, that there should be no extension whatever?—They have passed a resolution this day, to the effect, that there shall be no alteration whatsoever in the existing boundaries of Killiney and Ballybrack.

47. I cannot help telling you that when I read the answers to the queries you sent us, and looked at the map, that I could not see any reason for not taking in a portion of Scalpwilliam. We are naturally looking forward now, in defining the boundaries, to make them as much townland boundaries as possible, and it strikes me that that portion of Scalpwilliam to which I refer, should be included within your boundary—but perhaps you would not wish to say anything as regards that now?—I had some objection to the original formation of the township to that—as to not taking it in. I objected as strenuously as I could, and I am of the same opinion that it should be in Killiney. The reason I put before my brother Commissioners for not seeking for it now was, that it was so small, and that we would be involved in litigation with Dalkey, consequent upon our applying for it now, inasmuch as Dalkey is under a special Act of Parliament. That is, under their portion, and under their Act of Parliament. We are under the Towns Improvement Act of 1854. We have taken advantage of that lower road (referring to the map) that divides that small portion there, and that is in the parish of Dalkey, and I am not sure that the Grand Jury would not oppose any seeking to have it placed upon the Grand Jury accounts, and in the face of those two oppositions, we thought it more prudent for the present, seeing that Dalkey was looking for power to annex Killiney, not to take any steps, if you think it right to recommend the annexation. Therefore, I have

some hesitation in pressing it on you; but it would be a matter of great benefit to two or three of us if it was taken in, but we don't wish to go to any expense in the matter. It is not only a townland boundary, but it is also a parish boundary.

48. As we are on this subject—do you know also, whether it is the boundary of the electoral division?—I think that is the electoral division of Killiney.

49. The boundary of it?—Yes.

50. Is the whole of that road in the Dalkey township?—The whole of it is in Dalkey. It is all repaired by Dalkey. The Grand Jury repudiate any connexion with it at all, and I think it is included within the Dalkey Act, but I am not sure of it. The road is kept in very bad repair; that is one reason why we are anxious to have it under the Grand Jury again. We have no power, under the Act of 1854, over roads.

51. Do you know whether the Grand Jury pay half of that?—I don't know whether they do or not.

52. Up to the present the Commissioners have taken no steps to become an Urban Sanitary Authority?—Not yet; but I have no doubt we will as soon as your inquiry is over.

53. Supposing you became an Urban Sanitary Authority, have you considered the question whether you would wish to go further, and would wish to have the control of the roads—to take under the control of the roads from the Grand Jury, as if you were under a special Act?—We have not actually come to any conclusion on the subject yet.

54. You are aware, I suppose, that you can get the power?—I am perfectly aware of that, and I think, perhaps, that opinion is divided upon it. I have not formed my own opinion on it yet, to tell you the truth.

55. With reference to these queries, is it a thing that the Commissioners have come to a unanimous conclusion on the point, I may say, I suppose, that the conclusion they have arrived at is that they seek for no alteration whatever?—Yes, they seek for no alteration whatever.

56. That resolution was passed at a meeting of the Commissioners—consisting of how many?—Seven, and two absent, whose consent I have—Mr. Green and Mr. Jameson. It is only Mr. Exham who is not present.

57. I had better place it on our notes that the resolution adopted by the Commissioners wishing to include a portion of Scalpwilliam, and the Glebe house and ground of Killiney Church, and the house belonging to Captain Shuldham, and the portion of Scalpwilliam that lies in the township of Dalkey that they wished to include—that that resolution was rescinded by the one just referred to and passed today?—Yes, quite so.

Mr. O'BRIEN, Town Clerk, re-examined.

Mr. O'Brien.

58. Have you the accounts—the expenditure and receipts—for 1878 made up. I don't want the items; I merely want the amount of the expenditure and receipts—what was the amount of the receipts?—£205 15s. 6d.

59. What do those receipts come from?—From balance on foot of account, 15th of October, 1877, in Treasurer's hands £47 5s. 9d., from balance in Clerk's hands £2 9s. 8d., and from cash on deposit, £150.

60. That cash on deposit is cash that is the balance of the former rate that was struck, I suppose?—Yes.

61. What was the expenditure in 1878?—The total expenditure was £108 13s. 1d.

62. Leaving a balance of £97 2s. 5d.?—Yes.

63. Has any rate been struck for 1879?—No, sir. The Commissioners have struck no rate since 1874.

64. I presume a rate will be necessary in 1879?—Yes, it will.

65. Have you considered what it will be?—A rate of three pence in the pound will defray the expense of lighting, and the other expenses attendant upon it in the township at present.

The Rev. ROBERT STAVELEY examined.

Rev. Robert Staveley.

66. I believe you wish to tender some evidence?—Yes. It was with regard to the sanitary arrangements of Killiney and Ballybrack. I have, perhaps, made myself a little officious on the subject occasionally, but both in my personal capacity as a ratepayer and also as a clergyman I need not say the subject of sanitation

comes very much under my own eye and I have very grievous reason to complain of the way in which sanitary matters are carried on under the Board of Guardians. The Board of Guardians, you are aware are the sanitary authority now and they are a very large body and they have a great deal to do indeed, and the result

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Staveley.

is that the sanitary work I have no hesitation in saying is a mere farce in this neighbourhood. I have lately written to one of the Guardians complaining of a nuisance as I don't think it appears to be the business of the paid sanitary officers to attend to such communications. I have a fear that the danger and disagreeableness of the present state of things will increase and my belief is, that as long as the Board of Guardians are the sanitary authority, I do not think we can look for decent sanitary supervision. They are too large a body and they have too much to do.

67. You think it would be a benefit to the township if the Town Commissioners were to resume the sanitary authority?—I am most decidedly of that opinion. I am of opinion that no one will have any safety or comfort in Killiney or Ballybrack until they resume their sanitary authority. I don't know how they are to do it, but it seems to me that if they could extend their boundaries so as perhaps to get in a greater area of taxation and to make it more worth while levying a rate—I think if that could be done it would be a source of great benefit, but as things are at present, I have no hesitation in saying that the Act is a perfect farce, the way it is carried on.

68. As regards the boundary, do you think that they have not a sufficient area of taxation to enable them to take up the sanitary business if they became an urban sanitary authority?—I speak with considerable hesitation on that point, but I have reason to think that if they became the urban sanitary authority the taxation might press unduly upon the present township of Ballybrack and Killiney, but I am not quite sure on that point. I think, however, that our area is at present rather limited considering that the population is not numerous and that there are no such places as there are in Dalkey such as streets and terraces—and here we are a rather limited body.

69. I may tell you as a matter of fact that the area is very much larger than in most other townships—it is probably the largest in Ireland?—Yes, very likely. I speak, as I said before, with regard to the extension of the boundary. There is another district that contributes to the so-called sanitary rate. There is a large district that does not get any benefit now from the water and yet it has to pay for the water. I am quite at liberty to be corrected by Mr. Deane and Mr. Wilkinson who understand the matter much better than I do. But I do not understand why if there was an extension of the township it should in any way injure the sanitary prospects.

70. Well, with reference to the extension of the township—you think the township should be extended for the purpose of bringing in more rates to enable the sanitary work to be carried out in a more satisfactory manner than at present, but you don't know whether they would have sufficient over the present area?—I do not.

71. Because that would be at the foundation of the question?—Yes. My principal object is simply to bring forward what I know to be facts and that is as to the scandalous condition in which the sanitary arrangements are at present.

72. In fact so far as it bears upon this present inquiry your opinion is that it would be desirable in the interests of the township that the Commissioners should become the sanitary authority again?—Yes, certainly.

73. And as a matter of course they would do their business if they undertook it?—Yes, they would. They are all on the spot, they would have a narrower area to look after than the Board of Guardians, and they have a strong personal interest in the matter.

74. You are not prepared to point out any other ground of complaint?—I am not.

Mr. George
Wilkinson.

Mr. GEORGE WILKINSON examined.

75. You are a Town Commissioner of Killiney and Ballybrack?—I am. I wish to remark that with reference to what Mr. Staveley has said as to the extension of the township, that I think it would be a mistake with regard to the matter of our finances.

76. For you to take in any extension?—Yes.

77. To expand the boundary all round?—Yes, what Mr. Staveley alludes to is this. At present there are two portions that join us—that are made into a sanitary district with us. They pay, perhaps with a great deal of injustice, a water rate, and get no benefit for it, but if they were brought in and made part of our township, we would have a very small valuation for a very large area, we would incur a large cost to supply the water-works to them which they would be entitled to, and we would be put to great expense.

78. I don't know why they should be more entitled than now, as they are paying in a contributory district?—But they get no water.

79. Would they be more entitled if they became included in the township?—Yes; the Board of Guardians levy a sanitary rate only, and not a township rate.

80. You only receive water as a sanitary district?—We get it by contract—by special contract with the Corporation for which we pay 4*d.* in the pound over a defined area, and we cannot go outside that without breaking the contract. We have had a great deal of difficulty in supplying the clergyman's house at Ballybrack.

81. You don't think it would strengthen the authority and powers of the Commissioners if they had included within the township this sanitary district?—It would saddle us with increased cost without a more efficient control, I think.

82. What is the valuation of that additional sanitary district?—£1,376—that is, the district outside our union formed into a sanitary district.

Mr. T. N.
Deane.

Mr. T. N. DEANE examined.

83. You are one of the Town Commissioners of Killiney and Ballybrack?—I am.

84. What are your views with regard to any extension of the boundary of your township?—I don't wish to say anything as to what has been brought forward very properly by Mr. Staveley, but I wholly concur with Mr. Wilkinson that any extension of the township to those lands where the valuation is £1,376 would be extremely prejudicial to us. At the same time I am one of those that have felt very strongly that the bringing the sanitary powers into our hands is a most impor-

tant and desirable thing, and we should not lose any time in doing all we can to get those powers restored to us. There has been a Committee of the Commissioners formed with a view of seeing what can be done, and I think we are rather holding our hands and waiting to see what the result of this Municipal Boundaries Commission will be.

85. The result of this Commission as regards any question affecting Dalkey?—Yes, or any question as affecting an extension or alteration of our own township.

The Rev. MAURICE DAY examined.

86. You are a resident of the township, I think?—I am not, and that is what I wish to speak about. My residence is immediately adjoining the township, and I am in this peculiar position that I am taxed for the water rate by the Poor Law Guardians, and at the same time not being actually within the township though the road which adjoins my house is the boundary of the township, and the water which supplies the township runs along that road in the water main. Consequently, as I say I have to pay the water rate being in the contributory townland just the same as a gentleman in the township, and at the same time not being in the township, I could not get the privilege of obtaining water from the Town Commissioners—they had no power to give it to me. I would be most desirous of having my church and house included within the boundary, and also if you thought it desirable another house belonging to Captain Shuldham, and that gentleman is away at present, or he would be here to state his own case.

87. I shall be glad to receive any suggestion from him?—Yes; it would be only including a small district—thirty or forty yards—on either side of the road, for a short distance. At present the Corporation of Dublin have very kindly given me a special grant and permission to use the water of the public main that runs alongside my house, and I have to pay extra for that, which I am quite willing to do, but I have to pay for water twice over. I pay 4d. in the pound for the use of the Corporation main, and —

88. And you pay the special sanitary rate at the same time, and to the same amount in the township?—Yes.

89. Are you in a position to say what is the feeling of your neighbours in that direction?—The only neighbour not in the township in my direction is Captain

Shuldham, because the others on either side of the road are included in the township, and it is only my house and his that are outside.

90. It is only on the water question that you would desire an extension?—I would be glad to have the benefit of the gas also.

91. Does not the gas go out as far as your residence?—Not; not quite as far as my house, although it ought to go to my church. We are not able to light the church with gas at present which is a great disadvantage, and the people coming to the church on winter evenings are put to great inconvenience in consequence of having a dark road to go along there.

92. Can you not get the gas by agreement?—I have been trying to make arrangements with the gas company, and I hope they will ultimately grant the convenience to us, as soon as we get the householders to get it into their houses, but they cannot light the road. It is only a question of expense not one of power. I think it is a great inconvenience being just practically in the township and yet not within it. It costs me £4 a year in addition to what I pay for the sanitary rate, and I am just alongside the boundary of the township. I do not want in anywise to ask for what you might call a large extension of the township, but only to include my house and the church, and the residence of Mr. Shuldham, if you think it desirable. The township does not go at present according to the boundaries of the townlands, and the reason my house was not included in the boundaries is, because it is just outside the boundary of the Ballybrack townland, and curiously enough in a short distance the township takes in part of the townland of Loughlinstown in which my house and church are situated, and yet it leaves out that little corner (pointing to the map).

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April 22, 1879.
Rev. Maurice
Day.

Mr. J. R. GARSTIN, J.P., examined.

93. You are one of the Town Commissioners of Killiney?—Yes.

94. Upon what point do you wish to give evidence?—I wish to point out in respect of Mr. Day's statement, as he must be aware that the Commissioners have withdrawn their application for the additions—

95. The Commissioners have come to the conclusion that they will not seek for any alteration of the township?—The Town Commissioners, as a body, had passed a resolution, asking the Municipal Boundary Commissioners to recommend—in fact to carry out Mr. Day's views; but they have thought it desirable to withdraw that resolution. But what I wish to point out is in reference to the two reasons Mr. Warren gives—namely, the special Act relating to Dalkey, and the fact of the road being in Dalkey. The case of being differently constituted as regards the township and the county would not affect Mr. Day's case; there would not be more difficulty.

96. The objection of the Commissioners did not hold

against what he desires?—Yes. I do not want to go into the case of Dalkey until it is raised, but it should, I think, appear on the notes in some form, in the most general shape, that there is a most decided objection to any extension or to anything that would extend Dalkey, so as to include the township of Killiney and Ballybrack. I have the resolution of the Commissioners here before me, in which it states that they would represent as strongly as possible the injustice and inexpediency of any such change. It would be most unpopular in this district and most injurious to it. The Dalkey rates are now at their maximum, and the management of the roads in that township is, and long has been, inefficient. The source of supply from which this township receives its water—the reservoir at Rathmichael is not sufficient for the requirements of Killiney, and if used for an outlying district the result would be that the places on the hill now supplied with water would be deprived of it. I do not wish to say more than that, but just so far to anticipate any claim made by Dalkey.

Mr. J. R.
Garstin.

The Rev. Mr. STAVELEY re-examined.

97. I think it is a matter of vital importance to the neighbourhood, and, as I think, at this inquiry the representatives of Killiney and Ballybrack are present, and as a good many of us would not be able to be present at the Dalkey inquiry, I think it right to say that certainly I, for one, would strongly reprobate the amalgamation of the township of Killiney and Ballybrack

with Dalkey altogether. I can answer for the mismanagement of the Dalkey affairs, and I should be very sorry personally to have anything to say to Dalkey. Let Dalkey manage its own affairs, and I think that Killiney and Ballybrack would do very well by themselves. I think it would be fatal to the interests of the Killiney township, such an amalgamation.

Rev. Mr.
Staveley.

The Rev. HENRY PERCIVAL examined.

98. You wish to give some evidence as to the water supply?—Yes; as regards the matter of the water supply, and concerning the glebe house, it would be a great personal consideration to the clergyman having an increment, however small, on his taxes, and £4 would be an enormous tax upon a clergyman, so much of this district is in that parish.

99. You think it would be very desirable that the

portion consisting of the glebe and house of Mr. Day should be taken into the township?—I think for that reason they should, assuming that the people of that district are in that parish. The division is I think, as well as I know, about the road near to my house—I think one looking forward ought to think of that—both that and the cost of lighting the church.

The inquiry then terminated.

Rev. Henry
Percival.

THURLES.—MARCH 13TH, 1879.

Before Mr. C. P. COTTON, C.E.

John Bergin.

Mr. JOHN BERGIN examined.

1. How long have you been Town Clerk of Thurles?
—Since 1861.

2. Thurles is under the Towns Improvement Act of 1854?—It is.

3. When was it put under that Act?—On the 19th March, 1861.

4. That is when you were appointed clerk?—Yes.

5. Was the town under any previous Act?—No.

6. How many Commissioners are appointed under that Act?—Twelve.

7. That map which you produce contains the boundaries of the town?—Yes, we got that (map produced) at the time, and we have also a newspaper with the details of the boundary.

8. The description of the boundary is in the Gazette?—The Gazette does not describe the boundary, it only contains the order giving the Commissioners a standing.

9. It must have been described in a previous Gazette?—I saw this newspaper (produced) at the time, and, as it contained a description of the boundaries, I preserved it since.

10. Have you not got on the minutes of the first meeting of the Commissioners a description of the boundaries?—No.

11. Was that map furnished to you by the Valuation Office in Dublin?—Yes.

12. You received queries from our office?—Yes.

13. And you filled up the replies?—Yes.

14. What is the population of Thurles; you say about 5,000?—5,008 is the population.

15. Has the population decreased since that census was taken?—It has increased since.

16. The area of the town you have not given in your replies?—I did not know it at the time. I could only take it from the map.

17. What is the area given at the end of the rate book?—1,258 acres 3 roods 33 perches.

18. That is the area of the town?—Yes.

19. And what is the present valuation?—£5,965 7s.

20. In what electoral division is Thurles?—In Thurles.

21. The Commissioners don't wish for any alteration?—No.

22. Has the subject been considered by them, as a body, at a regular meeting?—Yes, it was last week. They were talking over it, and I showed them the circular, and told them they should make up their minds if they wanted any change, and they considered the present boundary satisfactory.

23. Was that that there should be no alteration, and was that recorded by a regular resolution?—Not a regular resolution, but it was the opinion of the meeting.

24. The opinion of the majority?—Yes, of all who were here—five or six.

25. How many attended that meeting?—Six.

26. There were six present, and their opinion was that there should be no alteration of the boundary?—Yes.

27. Do you happen to know the opinion of those who were not here?—No, but they were invited here.

28. Purposely to discuss that question?—Yes, and I never heard anything to the contrary.

29. But there was no formal resolution?—No formal resolution.

30. The boundary extends about three-quarters of a mile from the town in every direction?—It does.

31. That is from the centre of the town?—Yes.

32. Do you know the statistics of the electoral division of Thurles—its size and valuation?—I don't know it.

33. What are the receipts of the township and the sources of income?—This year there was £234 for town rates at 1s.; last year it was 10d. in the pound,

but it is likely to be kept up at 1s., which would give £234.

34. What other sources of income are there?—We have the fines which, at the average of the last four years, are £56.

35. And the dog tax is how much?—It is £13 3s.

36. Have you any property?—No.

37. What was the expenditure in 1878?—For the year ending 30th April, 1878, the total expenditure was £275, but there is something to come off that because we had some flagging for which we are to be allowed £45 by the county. There is flagging and paving £72 5s., but that is larger than it should be, for the county gives us £45 for that, which will leave about £230.

38. That is the normal expenditure?—Yes. The average expenditure is about the amount of the rates.

39. Then we will take the average expenditure to be £275 a year?—Yes.

40. The rate in 1874 you have given as 1s.?—Yes, I believe so.

41. And in 1875 what was it?—It was 10d.

42. And in 1876?—Up to the 15th April, 1877, it was 10d.; April, 1878, and up to April, 1879, (this present year) 1s.

43. Can you give me the poor rates and the county cess for the same years?—The county cess, I believe, averaged 1s. 9d. in the pound for the maintenance of the roads.

44. What year was that for?—Taking it for the last three years.

45. You can't give it for each year?—No, I have not got it.

46. Have you got the poor rates?—No.

47. You did not fill up the rates column?—No.

48. Was the Act adopted entirely or only in part?—In part; they did not adopt the water clauses.

49. How is the town lighted?—With gas.

50. By a company?—No, a private individual.

51. The works don't belong to the Commissioners?—No.

52. You contract with the owner?—Yes, we contract with him for the lighting of the street lamps.

53. What do you pay him?—£3 each for thirty-four lamps for eight months in the year.

54. What do you bargain for in the way of time for light?—From dark until two o'clock for eight months.

55. And do you except it on moonlight nights?—Yes, but during the time of the moonlight if it becomes dark he must light the lamps.

56. How is the town supplied with water?—There are plenty of pumps and wells.

57. And good water?—Yes, good water.

58. There are no complaints about the water?—There are some complaints, but arising partly from neglect of the people themselves.

59. How is the town off in the matter of drainage and sewage?—Well, it is very well off at present. I have kept as good an account as I could for some years past, and I find the Commissioners have laid out about £1,100 in opening new sewers and repairing old ones.

60. That was before the Guardians became the Sanitary Authority?—Yes, and they do not bestow so much attention on it.

61. Is the town supposed to be as well lighted as it is required to be?—Well, indeed it is.

62. There are no complaints about the lighting?—No; sometimes there are complaints that the lighting is not as good as it should be, but it is generally improved when we look after it. On the whole it is very well lighted.

63. How many qualified voters are there in the township?—I could not immediately say.

64. Approximately how many are there?—I could not say. We had no contests here for fifteen years,

and, therefore, my attention was not called to the number.

65. How many are there in the town qualified to act as Commissioners?—I suppose there would be from thirty to forty qualified to sit.

66. Have the Commissioners ever considered the question of becoming the Urban Sanitary Authority and taking up the sanitary works from the Guardians again?—Well yes, they petitioned for it last week; they considered whether the shilling rate would be able to keep the town in order, should they get rid of the penny that is added to the poor rates for that purpose.

67. Then their memorial is before the Local Government Board now?—Yes.

68. Have the Commissioners ever considered whether when they become the Urban Authority (supposing they do) they would also take up the charge of the roads from the Grand Jury?—No, there is a good deal of talk about that latterly as some of the Commissioners are very much inclined to take them up. There is a road by the river which has become a nuisance—the road from the Castle round by the Mall—and the county surveyor seems to be able to do what he likes, and in five years this road was once with a contractor but there was a limit of a shilling a perch and of course no one would take it up for that and he did not trouble himself for the five years.

69. How much does the town pay to the Grand Jury?—£526.

70. Is it the opinion of the Commissioners they get a fair return from the Grand Jury for the money they contribute?—It is the opinion of the Commissioners they do not, and the way the roads are attended to is rather unsatisfactory. The contractor takes as much out of them as he can and one road was neglected altogether for five years and now it is impassable.

71. Has application been made at presentment sessions or elsewhere for works which have been refused?—Only for flagging the footways. It is very hard to drag anything out of them.

72. You say the Commissioners have been considering the question of taking up these works?—Yes.

73. But they have come to no resolution about it?—No, they could not see their way. They were talking about it and Mr. Corcoran said he would make inquiry about the matter.

74. But if they saw they could financially work it they would desire to have charge of these works?—Yes, they consider they would keep the town in better trim.

75. Being on the spot and having an interest in looking after it?—Yes, and I don't think it would require so much to do it, if we were in a position once to take charge of it.

76. Are you aware of the feeling of the people around the town. I don't suppose any of those living around would wish to be included in the town?—I don't think they would, there would not be much advantage. It is generally land you would get and there would not be any residences added worth while. It is chiefly small farmers who would be brought in and it would not be worth while.

77. There is only one-fourth charged on land for improvement purposes?—Yes, and when you go further out into the country there is nothing but land.

78. Supposing that there was an extension of half a mile say around the present boundary would it take in any gentlemen's places?—Well it would take in Turtulla House.

79. Half a mile extension would take in Turtulla House, are there any others it would take in?—I don't think there are any more. Our present bounds takes in the glebe and all from that part up, it takes in the poor house and the railways.

80. Half a mile extension all round your present boundary would take in no gentlemen's residences except Turtulla House?—No.

81. Then it would not add to any extent to the number of people qualified to be Commissioner?—I believe not much and they would not come in and would not be present.

THURLES.
Mar. 13, 1872.
John Bergin.

Mr. MICHAEL CORCORAN examined.

Michael
Corcoran.

82. You are Chairman of the Town Commissioners?—Yes, sir.

83. How long have you been so?—About six months.

84. Have you been long a Commissioner?—For nine years.

85. The feeling of the Board as far as you know it is unanimous against having any alteration in the boundary of the town?—Yes.

86. Either by increasing or decreasing it?—Yes.

87. You were not in the body when they were formed?—No, I was not.

88. Do you know the opinion of any of the immediate outsiders—whether they wish to be brought in or not?—No, I do not.

89. With regard to becoming the sanitary authority you have made application so that you are anxious to get it?—Yes, we think it would be better vested in ourselves, the only difference is that we of course only have power over the bye streets and lanes while the public streets are kept in a very bad and dirty state.

90. What works have the Guardians done of late years since they became the sanitary authority in 1874?—They have done nothing except a few pumps they have looked after.

91. Do you happen to know how much of the poor rate of 1878 was for sanitary purposes if any?—A penny was charged extra on us.

92. That was for sanitary purposes?—Yes.

93. What district was that charged on?—On the township.

94. On the township only?—I believe so.

95. Have you ever asked the Guardians to do work which they have declined to do?—We have.

96. What kind of work?—Several nuisances that turned up round the locality. We applied to the

Local Government Board first and the application was sent to the Board of Guardians, and they passed the matter over and gave us little or no satisfaction, and we also applied in reference to some nuisance that existed in the river and some that were smelling badly round the town and they did not look after them.

97. These are matters which you think you would have looked after if you were the sanitary authority?—Yes.

98. Do you consider that if you got the care of the town yourselves you would be able to do it with the shilling rate?—I think we would. We would be sure to do it better than they do it now.

99. You do not consider you want any extension of the municipality for the purpose of increasing the rates for sanitary purposes?—Some of the sewers are in very bad order, and I think it would take something to put them into proper order again.

100. Suppose you became the sanitary authority, how do you propose to get the money for that purpose?—I don't think we would require a great deal more than we have for that.

101. Of course that will be a question to be examined into when your memorial is being considered?—Yes; we did it always when we had the sanitary work in our own hands with the present rate.

102. Did you do more while you were the sanitary authority than the guardians have done since 1874?—Certainly; a great deal. We have plenty of sewerage if it was kept clean. It is the opinion of the Commissioners or a good many of them discussing the matter over here, and of a good many of the public round the town, that if we had a separation from the county altogether it would be better for ourselves seeing that we paid the county such an amount as over £500 a

THURLES.
Mar. 13, 1879.
Michael
Corcoran.

year, and that really we don't get more than £200 a year out of them.

103. You consider that if you got the same amount of money into your hands as the county draw from the town, you could keep the town and all the roads in better order?—Yes; and with a great saving in the rates to ourselves, about half the amount would do, and I have calculated it.

104. Have you gone into figures on the subject?—I have calculated the amount received by the contractors round the town, and I find the average cost would not be more than half what they are receiving—that is about £250 or £240.

105. I suppose there are several road contracts within the boundary?—Only three altogether.

106. Do you remember the names of the contractors?—James Hayes is one.

107. Which road has Mr. Hayes charge of?—The Main-street and the principal roads in the town. Mr. Alcock has another contract, he is deputy surveyor under the county, and there is no contractor but himself on the Turtulla-road.

108. Has he only that road?—He has got some other bye-roads.

109. Who is the third contractor?—James Harney.

110. He has the Johnstown road?—Yes.

111. You think that if you get all the county cess you would be able to keep the roads much better?—Yes.

112. You make due provision for a staff of overlookers and town surveyors?—Yes; I am certain the town would be kept in far better order if it was vested in the town itself.

113. But the Commissioners have come to no regular resolution on the subject?—Yes; they did. There are five or six of the Commissioners I have been speaking to, we had a public chat over the matter, and they did not all understand it, and did not believe we could get a separation, but it seems from the inquiries you have been making that applications of that kind have been made, and I think it would be better we should apply. A good many of the Commissioners agree with me.

114. Is there anything else you would like to add respecting the subject of this inquiry?—At the present time we are expending a lot of our own rates on county works.

115. That is flagging?—No, not exactly, but keeping some of the wall and public walks round the town. We go out as far as Turtulla-bridge, and that belongs to the county, and up towards the railway we put on gravel on the parts that belong to the county. In fact we are expending our private money on the county works. There is a contract up to the Pike-road, but so neglectful are they that the Commissioners have been obliged to spend money on it, and the same way with the Turtulla-road. We are obliged to spend money there too.

117. I see that the township of Thurles with the exception of one or two places consists of whole townlands, would there be any objection to throwing in the rest of these townlands that are not at present wholly included so as to make it a township of complete townlands?—I could not answer that. We have not made any inquiries about that.

118. There is no particular local objection to taking in the rest of the townland near Turtulla, for instance?—I know at the time the boundaries were being made in order to avoid a great deal of trouble, and to obviate any difficulty in carrying on the township measure they left out some people who really should be included.

119. That was done to obviate any trouble about the measure?—Yes.

120. Would there be any working difficulty in having the remnants of these townlands thrown in?—No, I don't think there could be.

121. Mr. Bergin (*Town Clerk*).—The reason they confined the boundary so much then was to avoid opposition. The opposition of those excluded would be to the taxation connected with it. Most of the trouble came from outsiders who hold bits of land. These people came in and said "We won't be liable to taxation or otherwise, do what you like with the town, but don't bring us under taxation," and the cry was "If you bring us in we will always be taxed."

122. Take that townland opposite Turtulla house, portion is included in the present township, but more than half is outside the township. Is there any objection of a local nature to putting the whole of that townland into the township?—Except what objection the persons in occupation would give. I am sure they would not consent.

123. But there is no other objection?—No; I think not.

124. *To Witness*.—Do all these people derive considerable benefit from being so close to the township, for markets and schools for their children, and so on?—Yes.

125. How far do you think does that advantage extend into a country like this?—I think it would be little or no advantage to us.

126. But the people within a certain distance of the town derive advantage from the markets and schools in the town, and so on?—They derive advantages within two miles, great advantages.

127. And the land lets at a higher rate on account of being so close to the town?—Much higher, it would go once and a half the value it is outside that distance.

128. Have you anything to add?—No, except that, I agree with all that has been said with regard to the town.

129. You told me that the railway and other buildings were increasing very much?—Yes.

130. Would there be any chance of the railway building on property beyond the present township?—No I think not. The new railway will come in by the side of the present workshop.

131. Then there is no chance of any of the new buildings extending in any direction beyond the present town?—I think not. The only thing I was going to add was, that if we could compel the county to do the work required for the benefit of the town, as they receive such a sum from it.

132. You would rather not have the authority if you could compel them to do the work?—Yes; at the present time, when we are putting in presentments we don't get any adequate amount. There are often complaints about the rates in the town. There is only one well in the town, and that would be in a very bad state, although it is supplying the whole of the town. The wells in the other parts of the town are very bad, and the water is bad, so that there is not a good drop of water in the town, except in the one well I refer to.

133. Where is that well?—In Quarry-street.

134. That is removed a long way from the centre of the town?—Yes; I have to keep an animal purposely to carry water to my house from that well.

135. Do the people get drinking water from the river at all?—The water of the river has been analysed by a gentleman in Cork, Mr. O'Keefe. It has been analysed for the convent, and they have been getting up some works to enable them to use it as it is far better than any other public water in the town.

136. Have any waterworks ever been projected here?—No; never.

137. Is it due to the fault of the Board of Guardians, that the other pumps are not kept in good order?—It is, that is one of the faults, but I really think the water is bad in any case, although we have a plentiful supply.

Mr. BERGIN, (Town Clerk) re-examined.

138. The pump in the street is not good for drinking purposes?—It is not sweet enough, there is no lift so that the water runs back always.

139. It is the duty of the guardians to keep these pumps in order?—Yes. I have searched the rate-book, and I find the number of qualified voters is 201.

140. How many are qualified to sit as Commissioners, if the chose to be candidates for the office?—About thirty. I look to their intelligence as much as any-

thing else, for there are some who are qualified and who would not be fit to act.

141. Does the twelve Commissioners include the Chairman?—Yes, but the number in Mr. O'Brien's report, namely, eleven, might be in consequence of a vacancy. There are about seventy occupiers who would be entitled to act as Commissioners, of which number about thirty or forty could act as Commissioners.

THURLES
Mar. 13, 1879.
Mr. Bergin.

Mr. THOMAS EVESTON examined.

142. You are one of the Commissioners of the town?—Yes.

143. How long have you been a Commissioner?—About nine months.

144. You agree with the other Commissioners, that no alteration is needed in the present township boundaries of Thurles?—Yes.

145. You also agree that it would be desirable to get this sanitary power?—Yes, I am quite satisfied with that.

146. Have you anything further to add?—No, except that I quite agree with every thing that has been said with regard to the town.

The inquiry terminated.

Thomas
Eveston.

ARDEE.—14TH MAY, 1879.

Before Mr. C. P. COTTON, C.E.

Mr. PETER HICKEY examined.

ARDEE.
May 14, 1879.

Peter Hickey.

1. You are Chairman of the Ardee Town Commissioners?—Yes, sir.

2. For how long have you held that post?—This is the second year of the second term. I was chairman from 1855 to 1857 on the first occasion, and from 1876 to the present year.

3. You were a Commissioner for a number of years?—For thirty-six years. We were first under the 9th of George IV.

4. At present the town is under the Towns Improvement Act of 1854?—Yes.

5. When was it placed under that Act?—In February, 1855.

6. Previous to that it was under the 9th of George IV?—Yes.

7. How many Commissioners are there?—Nine under the Towns Improvement Act. The number under the 9th George IV. was fifteen.

8. The Town Clerk has returned the population at 2,972?—That is correct.

9. What is the area of the town?—1,158 acres.

10. And the valuation?—£3,978.

11. The Town Clerk has given it at £4,040?—I think that is right.

12. The town is not divided into wards?—No.

13. It is altogether in the electoral division of Ardee?—Yes.

14. Are you acquainted with the electoral division boundary?—I could not describe it.

15. You could not tell me how far the electoral division extends from the centre of the town?—I could not. I should say it would average three miles from the centre of the town. I was chairman of the Commissioners in 1856, when they considered the question of extending the boundaries. The old boundaries were very circumscribed, and they then memorialized the Lord Lieutenant, Lord St. Germans, I think, for an extension. They wished a very large extension in 1856, and they got the present boundary then. That was in 1856 or 1857; but they asked for a far larger extension than the present boundary, which is marked red on the map, and which was fixed by Lord St. Germans in 1857. They asked for the boundary marked in black on that map (produced).

16. That was a circle of about a mile and a half?—Yes.

17. In 1857 the Commissioners applied for an extension of the boundary by a mile and a half, and they got an extension up to the present boundary?—Yes; the old boundary was very circumscribed.

18. On what ground, do you remember, did they ask

for the extension at that time?—Whatever it was it is here (produces book). It says here in the memorial:—

"That the boundaries of the borough being so very limited, as contained in the memorial to your Excellency this time twelve months, memorialists were obliged to lay on the highest rate of 1s. in the pound to meet the expenses of providing a water supply."

19. The income was not sufficient and they asked for an extension in order to get a larger sum?—Yes.

20. They applied in 1857 for an extension, on the ground that they had not money enough to carry out the Commission?—Yes.

21. And then the present boundary was fixed?—Yes.

22. Do the Commissioners now wish for any further extension?—Well, I think so.

23. Has the question been regularly brought before any meetings of the Commissioners?—I think so.

24. Do you remember any meeting at which it was brought forward?—I do not remember a meeting at which it was brought forward and regularly discussed.

25. Who authorized the Town Clerk to fill up the replies to our queries, for he says they wish the area extended in order to get their present income increased?—We were just talking of it at the meeting, and he was instructed by the Commissioners to fill up the replies.

26. From your knowledge of the Board as chairman, what do you think is the general feeling of the Commissioners?—I think the general feeling is for extension.

27. In saying that have you any particular extension in view; you have an area at present—an area of 1,500 acres?—Well, no; I merely fixed this boundary as it was in the memorial a good many years ago.

28. Would you propose as an extension the one applied for in 1857?—I think it would be rather large.

29. Do you think yourself it would be advisable to adopt it as the boundary?—It looks very large, and I think it would be much better to fix upon some distance from the court house. I confess the boundary then proposed looks on the large side.

30. Then you have no definite idea of what the extension should be when you propose extension, except that there is something wanted?—Yes.

31. How far does the town extend from the centre?—It is more than half a mile to the north side.

32. If the boundary was extended half a mile all round would it take in much property that is not agricultural land?—No. I think the present boundary is half a mile or more.

ARDEE.
May 14, 1879.
Peter Hickey.

33. But if the boundary was extended half a mile, a mile beyond the present boundary, would that take in much land that is agricultural and many gentlemen's residences?—No; not many.

34. Have you any idea how many voters there are in Ardee qualified to be Town Commissioners?—Seventy-four I think.

35. Have you any idea how many are qualified to sit if they were elected Commissioners?—There are seventy qualified to sit.

36. Surely all the voters are not qualified to sit?—I was surprised to see it.

37. Then there are seventy-four entitled to vote?—Yes.

38. Of those how many are qualified to sit at the Board?—Seventy qualified. The number rated at £12 and upwards is seventy; the number rated at £4 and under twelve is seventy-four.

39. That is, 144 qualified to vote, and seventy to sit as Commissioners?—Yes.

40. Can you tell me, suppose there was an extension of half a mile all round the present boundary, would it add many to the voters who are rated over £4?—I don't think it would. I don't think it would change the numbers much.

41. It would not add many?—No.

42. Then the land about must be all agricultural?—Yes; it is mostly agricultural land.

43. Is it principally held by people living on it or by towns people?—The land at that distance outside is held by people living on it.

44. Do the children of these people come into the schools in Ardee?—Yes, I think so.

45. And they use Ardee as a market town?—Yes.

46. There are fairs held here?—Yes; thirteen fairs in the year; one fair monthly, and one at Christmas.

47. From how far, do you think, do the children come into Ardee to attend school?—Some of them come nearly two miles.

48. What were the rates for the last five years in the town?—They did not exceed one shilling; they were always one shilling.

49. Do you know what were the poor rates during these years?—For the present year it is 1s. 5d. in the pound.

50. Is that for 1879?—No; that is for 1878.

51. Do you know what was the poor rate the year before that?—I do not.

52. What was the county cess in 1878?—I think it was 11d. in the pound.

53. That is for the half year?—Yes; that is one cess.

54. Then it is 1s. 10d. in the year?—Not so much as that—1s. 8d., I think.

55. How is Ardee supplied with gas?—By a gas company.

56. You contract with the gas company?—Yes.

57. How many lamps have you, and at what cost are they supplied with gas?—Fifteen lamps at £3 5s. each. They are lighted from the middle of September until the middle of April; they are not lighted during the summer months.

58. And they are not lighted during moonlight nights?—No; not on the two nights next before and the two nights next after full moon.

59. What do the gas company charge private consumers?—They charge very high; it is 8s. 4d.

60. How is the town supplied with water?—By pumps.

61. These pumps are repaired and looked after by the guardians as the sanitary authority?—Yes.

62. With regard to the sewage how does the town stand?—We are a long time about that, and it is only now active steps are being taken to make a main drain.

63. By the guardians?—Yes; by the sanitary authority. The Commissioners tried and they got plans from the county surveyor eight or nine years ago, but it was rejected by the presentment sessions. Then we began to press it on the Local Government Board, but it is only now anything is about to be done. There

is no town in Ireland looks cleaner, but the yards of the houses are in an awful state.

64. There is no main drainage whatever?—No; and it is impossible to carry out any sanitary arrangements, but by pressing it on the Local Government Board we have at last got the sanitary board to take it up in earnest. The reason for not acting sooner in the matter was, they said that the ratepayers were so badly off they would not go on with the work. I was speaking to Mr. Neville on last Monday week, and he tells me the work of making the main drain will be in full operation before the 1st of July.

65. Have the Commissioners considered whether they would desire to become the urban sanitary authority?—They have; and they do not wish to become sanitary authority, they would rather leave it in the hands of the guardians. The guardians made them an offer to transfer the sanitary work to them, but they would not accept it.

66. The guardians offered to consent to the Commissioners being made the urban sanitary authority?—They did, and the Commissioners wouldn't.

67. Have the guardians of late years spent any money in sanitary matters in the town, and have they struck any special sanitary rate in addition to the ordinary poor rate?—I really don't know. It must be a small rate they use for whitewashing the lanes in summer, 1d. or 2d.; but I am not certain.

68. What were the receipts of the Commissioners for the year 1878?—The rate at 1s. in the pound produced £130; there was £76 for rents.

69. From what?—From lands that the old Corporation held by charter, and which fell to the new Commissioners. The moiety of the dog tax about £8, and the fines for drunkenness £16.

70. Had they any other receipts?—No, sir.

71. How is it that the rates only come to £130; shouldn't they have been £200 or more?—£130 is the sum stated. Our financial year ends on the 30th April.

72. Then the amounts have not been audited for the present year?—No, not yet.

73. Can you tell me the opinion of the ratepayers of the town generally who are not Commissioners as to whether there ought to be extension of the boundaries or not?—I think they are in favour of extension.

74. But they have not considered any particular extension?—No, sir.

75. Have you ever heard any suppression of opinion from the people living immediately outside the present boundary who would be taken in by any extension either for or against extension?—I have not.

76. Although they did not come to any particular resolution when they had the matter before them, yet, in considering the question of extension in order to get increased income, have the Commissioners considered what particular increase of income they wanted?—They have not.

77. What is the increased income wanted for?—I was just going to remark a few minutes ago that there were sanitary arrangements wanted; that main drain for instance. We don't know yet on what area the sanitary authority will put the cost of that.

78. But if you don't wish to become the sanitary authority yourselves that matter is completely out of your power?—I know that, but if we had extended area it would be well to have it to meet the cost of that main drain.

79. The Local Government Board must decide what district is to pay for that main drain?—But if we had an increased area of taxation to meet that it would be well.

80. Do I understand you, that if you had an increased area you would then wish to become the sanitary authority?—I don't know that.

81. Your present income is about £220 a year, and you have not in your mind any particular increase of income that is necessary for your purposes—it is only that some increase is necessary?—I think some increase is necessary. We have not half the requisite number of lamps; we require as many more lamps.

82. Is there anything else besides lighting, putting sanitary matters out of sight altogether, that you require more money for?—There is. We had it in contemplation here some years ago to get a fire engine. The town is completely at the mercy of fire at present, and if we had the engine we would require a supply of water for it, and I have my eye on a place where we could get a supply of water; about a mile or less than a mile away we could get a very good supply of water. Dr. Moore, the medical officer, agrees with me as to getting a supply of water for that purpose from that source, and supplying the town with it too if it required it.

83. Would there be any objection to the Town Commissioners coming to a distinct resolution as to whether they do wish for this extension, and what extension, because this information you are giving is your own opinion, and it is very indefinite?—Yes, it is.

84. You neither give us an idea of what extension

you wish for in area, nor what increase in income you want, but the two purposes for which you want an increased income are the fire engine and the extension of the gas lamps?—The supply of water for the fire engine would be the first thing.

85. Have you had any fires in Ardee?—Not lately, but there was a string of fires here five years ago, and not for twenty years before.

86. You have no fire engine of any sort?—No.

87. Do you think that the Commissioners would care to give definite information on the subject?—I think they would.

88. Do you think, from your own knowledge of the electoral division, whether it would be too large to adopt as the boundary of the town?—It would be too large.

89. Is there anything else you wish to give as your opinion on the subject of the extension or alteration of the boundaries in any way?—I think not.

ARDEX.
May 14, 1879.
Peter Hickey.

Mr. THOMAS DOLAN examined.

Thomas Dolan.

90. You are a Town Commissioner also?—I am.

91. And have been for some time?—Not long.

92. What is your opinion as regards the present boundaries of the town?—I think it would be a very pleasant thing to have them enlarged, so as to give us a greater area for taxation, but I don't see on what grounds we could put it, for all that would be taken in would be altogether agricultural, and would not add many to the number of voters—I would suppose none at all or two or three.

93. And less to the number qualified to sit as Commissioners?—Yes.

94. Would the Commissioners as a body desire extension if it involved any additional obligation, such as lighting further out?—I think they would scarcely like to undertake the responsibility of lighting further out.

95. In that case the income you think would not balance the expenditure?—No; because I believe we would only get one-fourth of the rate on the land.

96. What is your opinion about the Commissioners becoming the sanitary authority instead of the guardians?—The Commissioners were unanimous in refusing it, because there is a big sum to be put on us now. The Commissioners would like to have the sanitary management if there was sufficient income to bear the expense, but there is at present pressed by the chief sanitary officer the construction of a main drain, which will cost £3,000 or £4,000; and that will put 1s. or 1s. 6d. on the town for the next thirty or forty years.

97. You think if that was left to the guardians it would be distributed over a larger area?—Yes.

98. And except for that special work you would wish to be the sanitary authority?—Yes; and, I believe, that would be the wish of the Commissioners.

99. Have the guardians struck any special rate within the last few years?—There is one penny special rate.

100. That is distributed over the whole electoral division?—Yes; 1s. 4d. and 1d. are the rates for 1878.

101. But the question of what district the rate for the proposed main drain is to be struck has not been decided?—No; some of the guardians wanted to put it on the township, and I don't know whether any one has argued it the other way, for the guardians are all from the country.

102. Suppose the rate was put on the town would the Commissioners wish to be the authority to carry it out?—No, but I think they would wish to be the sanitary authority after the work's done, because it may cost more than at first estimated.

103. Apart from the question of the obligation to light all the extended district, you have not considered any particular extension?—No; in fact for my part, I was not for extension, but the Chairman argued against the rest, that extension would be desirable, and that such a thing was done before.

104. The extension proposed before would be a couple of miles additional?—We could do nothing for the people out there except we put lamps on the roads.

105. How is the town off for water?—We got up a very good system of pumps in the town, just before the change came in the law. Our income is pretty tight, and it leaves us very bare.

106. The maintenance of the roads is altogether in the hands of the Grand Jury?—Yes.

107. And you have never considered the question of taking up the roads?—No, we get a grant occasionally from the Grand Jury for the streets.

108. Do you do anything in the way of flagging to meet the Grand Jury?—No; we don't subscribe, but we get some paving done by the Grand Jury—sometimes. When there is a large job to be done we apply to the Grand Jury, and get a presentment.

109. Do you subscribe to that work as a body?—No; but the water channels of the footways along the streets are kept by us.

110. Your expenditure, you say, runs your income pretty tight?—Yes, we have not much more than half the required number of lamps, through our inability to pay for them.

111. Is there anything else you wish to add bearing on the subject of extension?—I am afraid we have no case to make, although it would be very pleasant to get something larger to tax.

112. Don't you think the Commissioners could give us something more definite than the general answer, that the wish to get extension in order to get a larger sum of money?—If they could not, I don't think they should get it.

The inquiry then closed.

NEWBRIDGE.—MARCH 17TH, 1879.

Before Mr. COTTON, C.E.

Mr. PATRICK DOYLE, examined.

NEWBRIDGE.
Mar. 17, 1879.Mr. Patrick
Doyle.

1. You are Chairman of the Town Commissioners?—Yes.
2. How long have you been a Commissioner?—Some ten or twelve years.
3. The town of Newbridge is under the Towns' Improvement Act?—Yes.
4. Do you remember about what time it was put under the Act?—It was before '66.
5. Was the Towns' Improvement Act adopted in its entirety for cleansing, lighting, and watering?—Yes, all at the one time.
6. Was there any power for striking a rate for water?—No.
7. Your rate is limited to 1s.?—Yes, 1s. for houses, and 3d. for lands.
8. What is the population?—3,286.
9. And the area?—650 acres.
10. You take that from the rate book?—Yes. I have here a book from which it appears that in 1865 the town was put under the Towns' Improvement Act. In May—May 29th—the meeting of the ratepayers was held to elect the first Town Commissioners.
11. What is the valuation?—£4,037 10s.
12. You have no wards, of course?—No.
13. In what electoral division is the town situated?—In Great Connell and Morristown Biller.
14. Is it pretty equally divided—or is there more in one division than in the other?—It is pretty equal.
15. Have you a map?—No, we never had a map showing the township. I think the division is pretty equal.
16. The Municipal and Poor Law boundaries, are they the same, do you know, in the town?—Half the town is in one division, and half in another.
17. Do you know what are the rates that have been struck during the past four or five years?—1s. in the pound every year.
18. Since '75 then you exercised the full rating power?—Yes; we had a great deal to do in the way of flagging the streets. We have lodged, these two years or so, with the treasurer of the county, £300 for flagging.
19. £300 from your rates to the County Grand Jury?—Yes, and they gave us a grant of as much more to help us in the flagging.
20. They gave £300 conditional upon your contributing?—Yes.
21. And they do the work?—Yes, they reserve to themselves that the County Surveyor will inspect the work.
22. In fact, it is done by the county, you contributing?—Yes, done under the supervision of the County Surveyor.
23. What were the poor rates during the same time?—I cannot say at this moment.
24. How far does the town of Newbridge extend from the centre of the town—in the north direction towards the railway?—Something near a mile.
25. It goes out a mile?—Yes.
26. And on the south?—Scarcely so much as that, only about half a mile on the south, and on the east about half a mile, I think.
27. And the west?—About the same thing.
28. Then it is rather more to the north?—Yes.
29. Have the Town Commissioners, as a body, considered the question of whether an extension should be made or not?—Yes; when I got your note or queries they all were unanimous in favour of leaving the boundaries as they are.
30. They do not wish to have them extended?—No.
31. Or contracted?—No. They wish for no alteration whatever.

32. Was any formal resolution to that effect adopted?—Well, no. The subject was entertained at the next meeting after I got the queries.
33. How many Commissioners were present?—Nine is the number we have altogether.
34. How many attended that meeting?—Five, I think.
35. And do you know the feeling of those who did not attend?—They are all of the same opinion; they won't make any change, they think it better to remain as they are.
36. Do you know the feeling of any of the people who live immediately outside the township boundary?—Yes.
37. Do they wish to be brought in?—No.
38. Do you know what the receipts and expenditure during the past five years have been?—Yes.
39. Take the receipts first, tell me the different items from which they come?—Would the abstracts do?
40. Yes—have you printed abstracts?—Yes.
41. How much have you, during the past year, received from rates?—£150. We received also about £60 from Government contribution to rates; fines, £64; dog licenses, £11; from cars, £30; letting of the Town Hall for theatricals, &c., £5; receipts from the crane, £18; weighing machine, £30; rent of Sessions house, £10.
42. The Sessions house is the property of the Commissioners, is it not?—Yes.
43. And is let for holding Petty Sessions?—Yes.
44. That altogether is about £380?—Yes.
45. Now as to the expenditure—what did it amount to last year?—To £540, including £250 contributed to the Grand Jury.
46. Is the railway station within the limit of the township?—Yes, but we have no power to go further than outside their gate.
47. You have control over the cars plying to the railway station?—Yes.
48. Your regulations for the car drivers go as far as the township boundaries, of course?—Yes.
49. Of the 3,286 people comprising the population, how many are in the barracks?—I could not say, for it varies.
50. This is the population of all together?—Yes, there are generally from 1,200 to 1,500 in the barracks.
51. This return of the population is that given on 1st April, 1871?—Yes.
52. And that included the military?—Yes.
53. How many persons are there in Newbridge qualified to vote for the election of Town Commissioners?—About 105 altogether.
54. How many of them are qualified to be Commissioners, how many are rated at £12 and upwards?—About one half; mostly all are town people.
55. Yes, but are they sufficiently highly rated to become Commissioners?—Yes, about one half.
56. You know the country immediately surrounding the boundaries?—Yes.
57. If the boundaries were extended to a radius of a mile or a mile and a half in every direction would it add more to the number of voters?—No, they are all farmers around nearly.
58. Where do they live?—On the farms.
59. Would it add anything to the number of gentlemen eligible to be elected Commissioners?—Yes, I dare say all the farmers outside would be eligible.
60. Would it add a dozen?—I dare say it would add about ten.
61. Don't you think that the people who live within a mile from the centre of a town like Newbridge derive very considerable advantages from their proximity to

the town by reason of the markets and so forth?—Yes.

63. Don't they all sell their produce here?—Yes, to a certain extent, but we are very unfortunately or badly situated here, we have two very well established markets—Naas and Kilcullen.

64. But take the people living within say a mile—don't these people sell most of their produce in Newbridge?—They do certainly sell milk.

65. Have they not got schools here to which they send their children?—Yes, there is the National school and the Convent.

66. The people come in for more than a mile, I should think?—Yes.

67. Don't the people within that district derive advantages for which they ought to pay something towards keeping the town in order?—I think they ought, but on account of these two markets they don't derive so much advantage as they otherwise would. These two markets are attended principally.

68. Do you think there would be anything unfair in asking these people who live within a mile from the town in which they sell their produce, and to which they send their children to school, to contribute something towards the lighting, watering, and so on of the town and not levy it all on the people of the town?—I do, I think it would be fair.

69. Then if it is fair why would you object to an extension of the area?—Well, I know that some of the people outside would object to it.

70. But I want to get at the reason. We generally find there is a tendency or wish to bring the people outside within the boundary. It is thought generally to be unfair to keep up the lighting, watering, and cleansing of the town for the benefit of the people outside who pay no rates towards it. Is there any other reason against it except that some people would object?—I think not. The principal reason would be that these are nearly all large farms outside. There are not many people on them.

71. Yes, but they use the town. They come into it and derive the benefits of it. Now would there be anything in your opinion unreasonable in their paying a small contribution towards those advantages?

72. No, certainly not. Nothing unfair, it would be very fair.

73. And the land being only liable for such works as that to one-fourth rating, it would be a very small thing on them?—Yes.

74. How is the town lighted?—By gas.

75. Do you mean that it is supplied by a gas company?—It was owned by a gas company but was sold to a private person for so much a lamp.

76. How much do you pay in the year?—About £30.

77. How many lamps are lighted for that?—Fourteen, or say fifteen lamps.

78. About £2 a piece?—Yes.

79. How is the town supplied with water?—That is all taken from us as Commissioners.

80. There is nothing but pumps?—No.

81. Is the drainage well managed?—Yes. That accounts for the rates being struck so many years. We went to great expense to drain the town.

82. Was that previous to the sanitary work being taken up from you?—Yes.

83. Is the general feeling of the Commissioners that they would wish to resume their sanitary powers?—Yes.

84. Have they made any motion towards it?—No, but they asked me to represent it to you.

85. Well, you know it does not rest with us. If you ask the Local Government Board by memorial whom the sanitary powers restored under provisional order, then the Local Government Board would inquire and then issue a provisional order if it was so advisable to become the urban sanitary authority. They have not taken any steps, you say?—No, and I would ask you, sir, suppose they got back the sanitary authority, would it not be on the same terms as before?

86. Certainly?—That is, we will not have to contribute more.

87. You will have to tax yourselves for any sanitary works you may engage in. You will have power of striking a rate, you will have the power, and you will be the executive to do it. Do you think the Guardians have not done the sanitary work satisfactorily?—No.

88. Have they refused to do things you brought under their attention as necessary?—No, I cannot say that, but the process has been so slow as to be almost useless. They only meet once a week.

89. You think the Town Commissioners living on the spot would be better able to attend to sanitary matters than the Guardians?—Yes, the time we had the jurisdiction we used to go around with the sanitary inspector in the hot summer months with the police and inspect all the yards. Since then however it has all been taken out of our hands, and the town is in a bad way.

90. If you became the urban sanitary authority and resumed the sanitary powers it would be open to you to make application to the Local Government Board to get control of the roads and bridges from the Grand Jury, would that be likely to be looked for by the Commissioners?—No, they would not want that.

91. Are there any works connected with the town you would do if you had a larger income?—In the first place we would have a better supply of water.

92. But as Town Commissioners?—Well, there is sewerage we would do if we had our powers back.

93. What I mean is, with your present powers, if you had a larger income, is there any necessary work you would require to do?—No.

94. No work then is left undone from want of funds?—No, the flagging of course is in course of being done.

95. That is done by the Grand Jury, you contributing?—Yes.

96. Can you tell me about the electoral divisions, how far they extend from Newbridge?—I could not tell exactly? I think they extend three miles.

97. At any rate the electoral division would be to large for the boundary of the town?—Yes, certainly.

98. What sanitary works have been done by the Guardians—you are in the union of Naas?—Yes, they have not done anything except to keep the pumps in order.

99. Not any drainage works?—No.

100. Have they struck any special sanitary rate?—Yes they have, 1d. in the pound. The last rate paid was 1d. in the pound.

101. Was that in 1878?—Yes.

102. Anything since they got their authority in 1874?—I think there was a burial rate of 1s. 2d. in the pound.

103. But the sanitary rate in 1878 was 1d. in the pound?—Yes.

104. What was it for?—For the electoral division, for the whole union.

105. It was spread over the whole union?—Yes.

106. What portion was it struck on—for a special sanitary rate is struck on a particular district not necessary any division or union?—I think it was the union at large. I am not quite sure.

107. What fairs have you in the town?—Twelve fairs—one every month.

108. At the time of the discussion as to whether there should be an extension of the boundaries sought for, did the question of the applicability of the Land Act affect the question at all?—No, sir.

109. Then independently altogether of the Land Act the Commissioners were of opinion it was better to leave the boundaries as they were?—Yes.

110. Is there anything occurs to you that you would like to say?—Well the Commissioners told me to bring before you the bad way the sanitary work is done—that is that the machinery is too cumbersome. There is a very long time taken up in going through the necessary forms.

111. Supposing you got back the sanitary authority, would it be an advantage or not in your opinion to have

NEWBRIDGE. a larger area than at present on which to strike a rate
Mar. 17, 1879. —to strike sanitary rates?

Mr. Patrick Doyle. 112. I think it is sufficient—they all think so.
 113. Would the Guardians object to your taking the necessary steps to obtain the provisional order constituting you the sanitary authority in their stead?—No.

I don't think so, they have quite enough to do with-out it.

114. The town drains straight into the river?—Yes, and so does the barracks, but they filter the sewerage.

115. Through charcoal?—No, through gravel. I think it costs £300 or £400.

Mr. John Leahy.

MR. JOHN LEAHY examined

116. **Mr. COTTON.**—You know the town boundary?—I do.

117. Take this house as a centre. How far does it extend generally speaking all round?—I think it is about half a mile all round.

118. It is a little more in one direction than in another?—Yes.

119. However you have no map of it?—There should be a map here.

120. You know the electoral divisions?—Yes, there

are three—Great Connell, Morristown Biller, and New-bridge.

121. Great Connell, how far does it extend from the centre of the town?—It is I think a mile and a half. Newbridge electoral division extends about two miles.

122. Do you know a place called Athgarvan?—Yes.

123. It is in the Newbridge electoral division?—Yes.

124. But it goes about a mile beyond it?—Yes.

The inquiry then terminated.

MOUNT-MELLICK.
Mar. 14, 1879.

MOUNTMELLICK.—MARCH 14TH, 1879.

Before **Mr. C. P. COTTON, C.E.**

MR. ROBERT GOODBODY examined.

Mr. Robert Goodbody.

1. You are Town Clerk of this town?—Yes.
 2. How long have you held that office?—Since shortly after the town was placed under the Towns' Improvement Act in October, 1858.

3. Was it under any Act of Parliament previously?—No.

4. Was the Act only adopted in part?—Only as far as cleansing and lighting.

5. It did not take in water?—It did not, sir. Here are the minutes of the original time it was entered into. (Produces copy of extract from the minutes.)

6. This is a description of the boundary as it was authorized by the Lord Lieutenant?—Yes.

7. What is the population of the town?—Within the municipal boundary it is 3,316.

8. What is the area of the municipality?—554a. Or. 34r.

9. The town is not divided into wards?—No.

10. In what electoral division is it?—In the Dangan and Mountmellick electoral divisions.

11. Are the municipal and the poor law boundaries conterminous?—No.

12. Can you give me the rates for the years 1874, 1875, 1876, 1877, and 1878?—In 1874 there was no rate; in 1875 it was 8d., in 1876 the same, in 1877 it was 7d., and in 1878 it was 6d.

13. Do you know the poor law rate in the same years?—Yes; but they vary in the electoral divisions.

14. In the electoral divisions of Dangan and Mountmellick?—Yes. In Dangan in 1874 the poor rate was 2s. 9d., in 1875 it was 3s. for poor law purposes, and 4d. for special improvement or sanitary rate, in 1876 3s. 2d., in 1877 3s. 7d., and in 1878 3s. 1d. In Mountmellick the poor rate in 1874 was 3s., in 1875 2s. 8d., in 1876 1s. 11d., in 1877 3s. 3d., and in 1878 3s. 1d.

15. Do you know the county cess for the same years?—Not exactly; but it is about 9d. each half year on the average.

16. Are the present municipal boundaries regarded with dissatisfaction by the ratepayers or any section of them?—No, I think not.

17. Were our queries put before a regular meeting of the Commissioners?—Yes, and before the ratepayers; we called a special meeting.

18. Did the Commissioners come to any special resolution regarding revision of the boundary?—Yes.

19. How many Commissioners have you altogether?—Nine—Six attended that meeting?

20. Have you no meeting of the Town Commissioners to consider the replies?—No; they directed public notice to be given, and then this meeting was held, con-

sisting partly of ratepayers and partly of Commissioners, and this was the resolution come to (Reads)—

"The several queries having been carefully gone over and considered, it is proposed by J. Milner, Esq., J.P., seconded by Mr. Richard Griffith, and unanimously resolved, 'That this meeting are quite satisfied with the present boundary of the town, and do not wish that it be changed either by curtailing or extending it.'"

21. How many ratepayers were there present?—There were a good many here, and I put down the names of the principal ones present.

22. Roughly, what was their number?—I suppose there were fifteen, about.

23. Ratepayers of the municipality?—And outside the boundaries—most of them outside; some of them had land inside and outside the boundary.

24. And the feeling of the meeting was unanimous?—It was, no one dissented.

25. The ratepayers outside don't want to be brought in?—No; and the Commissioners were not anxious to have the boundaries extended.

26. Are there any general observations bearing on the object of the inquiry which you wish to add?—No; that was the answer we sent to your query to that effect.

27. What were the receipts and expenditure last year?—I can tell you since 1874 if you like; in 1874, the receipts were £122; in 1875, £105; in 1876, £52; in 1877, £147; and in 1878, £132.

28. How is the income in 1876 so small, when you had an 8d. rate?—It was not all collected in that year.

29. These are the net receipts?—Yes.

30. Generally what sources do the Commissioners receive from besides the rates?—From fines.

31. What do they average?—On an average the rates come to £87 16s. 8d., and the fines £14 16s. 8d., and the dog tax £9 5s.

32. There was no property of any other kind?—No.

33. How many qualified voters have you in the municipality?—We had 178 on last year's list.

34. And how many are qualified to sit as Commissioners?—About twenty-five.

35. And your number is nine?—Yes.

36. How far does the boundary of the town extend in the different directions from the centre of the town?—It runs in a zigzag direction.

37. You take the Market-square as a centre?—Yes.

38. How far does it extend to the north?—I suppose about half a mile.

39. How far to the south?—Exactly the same.

40. To the east how far?—A little over half a mile.

41. And to the west how far?—Three quarters of a mile, or hardly so much—five-eighths of a mile.

42. Have you considered the question at all, if there

was an extension to a certain distance, say a mile, round that central point, what the effect would be in bringing in voters or persons qualified to be Commissioners?—I did not go into that question at all.

43. You did not consider the question of any extension or the effect it would have?—No.

44. I thought from seeing these lines on the map you had considered that question?—No; it was for taxation purposes I put them on.

45. How much of the electoral division of Dangans is in the town?—There is a very small part. About half of one townland of Dangans is in it. Dangans extends a long way.

46. Of the area of 554 acres how much is in Dangans?—I do not know. There are about 3,000 acres in Dangans, and there is of Dangans in the township 260 A. 2R. 35P., and of Mountmellick town parks 293A. 1R. 39P.

47. They are very nearly equal?—Yes, but the rating of one part is more than double the other—nearly three times.

48. Can you give me the valuation of the part of Dangans in the town and also of the other electoral division?—Yes; Dangans 260 acres valued at £1,014 15s., and Mountmellick 293 acres valued at £2,911 10s.

49. How far does the electoral division of Mountmellick extend away from the town?—I think the extreme part extends a mile and a half.

50. Is that in the north?—It is north-west.

51. How far does the furthest point of Dangans extend from the centre of the town?—Four miles, or three and three quarters.

52. The sanitary authority for Mountmellick are the Board of Guardians?—Yes.

53. Have the Commissioners ever considered the question of becoming the sanitary authority instead of the Guardians?—I have never heard.

54. You are aware they have power under a recent Act?—Yes.

55. They have not made any application?—No; the question was never raised at all.

56. That being so, they have never considered the question of taking up the roads and bridges from the Grand Jury?—No.

57. Of the poor rates in 1878, how much was a special sanitary rate?—3d.

58. Out of 3s. 1d.?—Yes; 3d. in the rate.

59. What work was that for?—For drainage, and pumps in the town for water supply.

60. That applies to each division?—Yes.

61. What was the contributory district on which that was struck?—The townland of Ballycollinbeg, and the townland of Town Parks or Mountmellick.

62. Does that nearly comprise the entire municipality?—It more than comprises the municipality.

63. What was the sanitary rate for?—For drainage and pumps.

64. That was considered a fair district by the Local Government Board, on which to assess that rate?—Yes; they declared that by sealed order.

65. Any other sanitary rates struck have been struck on the same area?—Yes, and all for the same purposes.

66. How much was it in 1877?—9d., and in 1876 nothing, and in 1875, 4d.

67. How is the town lighted?—With gas; there are thirty-seven public lamps which are lit by contract.

68. Is the contract with a private gas company?—Yes, the Mountmellick gas company.

69. How much do the Commissioners pay?—£2 per lamp.

70. They don't light on moonlight nights?—No.

71. How is the water supplied?—We have plenty of pumps, and good water in the town. There are one or two exceptions, but the town is very well watered.

72. There is no project for any water works?—No, they are not required at all, rivers surround the town.

73. What is the state of the drainage of the town?—It is in a very tolerable state, it requires a small drain in one direction, and it requires a little extension, a small drain of about 150 yards would do.

74. Are there any works required which the Commissioners have not been able to do for want of funds, and which they would be inclined to do if they had further receipts?—None that I am aware of.

75. Have you anything you wish to give us the benefit of your opinion about?—I have not.

MOUNT-
MELICK.
Mar. 14, 1879.
Mr. Robert
Goodbody.

Mr. JOHN M'MAHON examined.

Mr. John
M'Mahon

76. You are Chairman of the Town Commissioners of Mountmellick?—I am.

77. Have you been long in that position?—Only a few months.

78. Have you been long a Commissioner?—Very short time.

79. You were at this combined meeting of the rate-payers and Commissioners?—I was.

80. And the feeling of the meeting was unanimous, as the Town Clerk has told us, against any alteration at all?—Yes.

81. Is that your individual opinion?—At first, I thought it would be a good thing to have the boundaries extended, but, then, when I heard it explained that it would take in some of the farmers, and make town parks of their farms, so that they would lose the advantage, whatever it is, of the Land Act, I would not put it forward at all, and I find the feeling of the community against it.

82. The feeling of that meeting was grounded on the supposition that the land brought in would be affected under the Land Act?—Yes.

83. I don't think there is any use in asking you what would be the opinion of that meeting, if the fact was otherwise, but what would be your own opinion if the land would not be affected?—I would be of opinion we would then have them extended.

84. And on what grounds would you extend the boundaries?—To enlarge the area for taxation, or any sanitary purpose.

85. And increase your resources?—Yes, those were my ideas at first.

86. Have you considered what would be the increase in the number of voters by that extension?—No, we

have given it little thought at all. When first the report came down I spoke to some of the farmers, and one said it would be very little use to them to have the land taken in, and others said the same thing, and finding them all opposed to it I left it so.

87. I asked the Town Clerk if in his opinion there were works that remained undone, and that would be done if you had increased resources, and he said, no?—I am not aware of anything, we have a good deal of drainage done.

88. Do you think the people within a mile derive great advantage from being near a market town?—They do, certainly. I dare say their land is something higher, and I think the landlord takes a view of that in letting the lands.

89. Independent of the lands, don't these people derive great advantage from having the town lighted, and kept clean?—Certainly.

90. Do you think that within a certain distance, say a mile, it would be fair to ask the people who, from that distance, use the town so much, to contribute some small thing towards keeping it in order?—That was my idea in the beginning.

91. I ask you on the supposition that any land brought in will not be affected by the change?—But those who are to be brought in think they will be.

92. But suppose it was settled there should be no alteration in regard to land, would it be fair they should contribute something to the town, suppose there was no Land Act at all?—But there is a Land Act, and I would be very slow to give an opinion, that it would not be affected.

93. But suppose they are brought in, as certainly in a great many towns they will be, and that they are not

MOUNT-
MELICK.
Mar. 14, 1879.
Mr. John
McMahon.

affected whatever under the Land Act by being so brought in, would it be fair they should pay some small thing to the town?—I was always of opinion they should.

94. On the supposition that the Land Act doesn't affect them at all?—Yes, on that supposition, and if the Land Act did affect them I should be sorry to bring them in.

95. It is the feeling of the Commissioners that it is better to leave the sanitary matters in the hands of the Guardians?—Decidedly.

96. That they do what you want in a satisfactory way and at a fair rate?—Yes; I think so, and it would

not be better managed, I don't think it would. We get anything done pretty fairly, and with regard to taking charge of the roads and streets out of the hands of the Grand Jury, I would not like to do that because we should keep a staff, and we could scarcely expect to get such a staff as the Grand Jury have. Their excellent County Surveyor and assistants give very good value for their pay.

97. You think the lighting and water supply satisfactory?—I do.

98. Is there anything you would like to put on record regarding the boundaries?—Nothing beyond what I have already stated.

Mr. James
Millner.

Mr. JAMES MILLNER examined.

99. You are one of the Town Commissioners here?—Yes.

100. How long have you been a Commissioner?—Since the establishment of the Town Commissioners here in 1858.

101. Perhaps you can tell us what guided them originally in the selection of the area now acted upon?—I am not prepared to say that. I think there was a recommendation came down from the Government.

102. Mr. *Goodbody* (Town Clerk).—They proposed to have a circular area of a mile, and they at first recommended that to the Lord Lieutenant, and he sent down to them to change it, and this is the area as fixed

by the Lord Lieutenant. (Produces document describing boundary of the town.)

103. Are there any portions of the road running outside the present boundary continuously built upon?—I think very little. No, I think all the houses are taken in by the present boundaries. Here is the Roman Catholic Chapel (indicating place on the map), and the boundary is within 100 yards of the chapel, and all the houses leading down to it are included. All the continuously built upon portions are included.

104. Mr. *Millner*.—As regards the supply of water for the new fire engine, I would suggest that means should be taken to have a supply provided.

Mr. Anthony
Pim.

Mr. ANTHONY PIM examined.

105. I also think there is not a sufficient supply of water in case of fire.

106. Is there any way you would suggest for improving the supply?—Yes, by metal pumps over the bridges.

107. Is that to be done by the Guardians or the Commissioners?—I think the Guardians.

108. Mr. *McMahon* (Chairman, Town Commissioners).—I think the Guardians ought to do that.

109. Mr. *Goodbody* (Clerk).—I don't think it could be done by the Commissioners, as they are not the Urban Sanitary Authority.

Mr. Millner.

Mr. MILLNER re-examined.

110. The Commissioners have provided a fire-engine?—Yes.

111. And they have not provided the means of procuring water for it?—Not sufficient means. We suggested about getting pumps put down at the different bridges, which was not fully sanctioned.

112. Do you think that would be beyond the power of the Commissioners?—I don't know.

113. Mr. *Goodbody*.—It was suggested that these

pumps could be used also for sanitary purposes, and that then the Guardians could put them up.

114. Mr. *Cotton*.—You are of opinion, Mr. Millner, that the boundaries should be left as they are?

Mr. *Millner*.—Yes.

115. Is that opinion based on the fact that the lands included might be affected by the Land Act?—No; I can't say it is.

Mr. Humphrey
Smith.

Mr. HUMPHREY SMITH examined.

116. You are one of the Town Commissioners of Mountmellick?—I am.

117. How long have you been a Commissioner?—A great many years—fully twelve or fourteen years.

118. Are you of the opinion, which seems to be the unanimous opinion of the Commissioners, that there should be no alteration in the boundary?—Yes; we were all quite unanimous about that.

119. It is based on the fact that the Land Act would apply to any extension brought in?—That was portion of our belief.

120. What was your individual opinion?—That was one partial reason, but we don't think the people outside get any benefit from our lighting, that they should pay taxes for.

121. Do people within a mile, who come in to market late and early in winter, derive no benefit from the town being lighted?—No, they are out of town before the lamps are lighted.

122. In winter days is that so?—Well, in a general way they are; the markets are very early.

123. Do they derive no interest from the streets being kept clean?—A little.

124. Do the people within a mile, or a mile and a half, derive no advantage from the schools in the town?—There are schools outside the town to which the children are sent.

125. Do the children from a mile and a half come into town, as a rule, for school?—Beyond a mile and a half, or at a mile and a half they go to other schools.

126. There are schools within a mile and a half to which they go?—There is a school on one side which is a mile off, and on the other there is a school two miles off.

127. I suppose I am right in saying that a great many children from a mile do come in to schools in the town?—Yes, and beyond that.

128. Still you think the advantages they derive within a mile would not entitle them to be asked to pay anything?—I don't think they should be asked to pay anything.

129. Wholly irrespective of the Land Act?—Yes, although I say that it is to my own disadvantage, they should not be rated in the town, for I am nearly the largest rate-payer in it.

130. As far as you know, that is the general feeling

of the Commissioners and rate-payers?—Yes, decidedly.

131. Do you think there would be any advantage in the working of the town body, if the number of councillors was increased?—I don't think there would be. Everything goes on very amicably and peacefully here.

132. You get a good working quorum out of the nine Commissioners?—Yes.

MOUNT-MELLICK.
Mar. 14, 1879.
Mr. Humphrey Smith.

Mr. ANDREW MALONE examined.

Mr. Andrew Malone.

133. Where do you live?—In Graigue.

134. How far is that from the town?—About a mile.

135. From where we are now?—About a mile and a half from where we are now.

136. What is your own opinion?—My own opinion is that we have taxes enough to pay without paying any more.

137. Do you and the ratepayers about you use the town as a market?—We do.

138. Do the children from about you come into school here?—They do.

139. Don't you frequent the town in winter during

the dark of the morning and evening?—Yes, but generally, the people who live within a mile of the town are home a great deal earlier than the people who live seven miles away.

140. But do you not derive some advantage from the fact that the Commissioners have to light the town?—I think we have not derived any benefit at all by the light.

141. Would it suit your purpose quite as well to have it dark?—Better; for if we are in the light here, and get outside, the night appears darker.

The inquiry then terminated.

RATHKEALE.—MARCH 12TH, 1879.

Before C. P. COTTON, Esq., C.E.

Mr. STEPHEN CASEY examined.

RATHKEALE.
Mar. 12, 1879.

Mr. Stephen Casey.

1. You are the Town Clerk of Rathkeale?—I have been Town Clerk for the past ten years. I succeeded my father.

2. Was this subject of the extension of the boundaries considered at a special meeting of the Commissioners?—Yes, at a special meeting of the Commissioners.

3. How many of the Commissioners attended at that meeting?—Five.

4. How many Commissioners are there in Rathkeale?—Fifteen.

5. And they desired you to fill up the replies that are given here?—Yes.

6. Were they unanimous on that?—Yes, unanimous.

7. Five were present, and, at all events, the other ten got notice of the meeting?—Yes, all got notice.

8. You put down the population at 3,000, how do you make that out?—2,751 in the town proper, and the remainder outside.

9. What do you mean by outside?—There are 2,751 in the town proper.

10. But isn't it all in the municipal district?—No, it is not.

11. What is the number in the census return?—2,751.

12. The area you put down as 1,488 acres 3 roods 39 perches, what is your authority for that?—The valuation book.

13. In the return given by Mr. O'Brien, it is only 1,390 acres—there are no wards in the town?—No.

14. In what electoral division is it?—Rathkeale, and a small portion of Ballyallinan.

15. To the west of the town there are 35 acres 1 rood 1 perch in another electoral division?—Yes.

16. When was the town put under the Towns' Improvement Act?—In 1856.

17. Was there any municipal body before that?—No.

18. Have you got a description of the original boundary?—Nothing only this map (produced). This is a map showing the present boundary in red.

19. What is the yellow line?—That was the original boundary in 1856.

20. When was the alteration made?—About ten years later on.

21. How far does the town extend in the different directions from a central point?—About half a mile.

22. Half a mile to the north?—Yes.

23. And half a mile to the south?—Yes, taking an average.

24. And nearly a mile east and west?—I should say so; our town is one straggling street.

25. What were the rates that were struck during the last five years?—In 1874 the municipal rate was 1s.; in 1875, 1s.; in 1876, 8d.; in 1877, 1s.; and in 1878, 8d.

26. And the poor rate for the same periods?—In 1874 the poor rate was 4s. 8d.; in 1875, 4s. 1d.; in 1876, 3s. 4d.; in 1877, 2s. 10d.; and in 1878, 4s. 6d.

27. And the county cess in the same periods was how much?—In 1874 the county cess was 1s. 8½d.; in 1875, 1s. 11½d.; in 1876, 1s. 7½d.; in 1877, 1s. 9d.; and in 1878, 1s. 11½d.

28. You say in reply to our queries, that the present municipal boundaries are regarded with dissatisfaction by the ratepayers of the township?—Yes.

29. Has any definite boundary been proposed by the Commissioners who approve of extension?—Yes, there is. At a meeting held on the 22nd November, it was resolved to get certain townlands brought in, and on the 3rd March, 1879, the draught of townlands with the list attached, and their valuation was unanimously adopted.

30. What are the names of the townlands proposed to be added?—Ardaneen, Arlobhill, Courtmatrin, Ardnaveigh, Cloughanarold, Kilcool, Ardgoilbeg, Stoneville, Ballingraue, Dohilebeg, Dohilemore, Clough East, Clough West, Croagh Commons, Arniganbeg, Arniganmore, and the portion of Rathkeale at present outside the boundary, containing 2,374 acres 1 rood 33 perches, with a valuation of £1,658 10s.

31. To what extent would that proposed extension go from the centre of the town?—Something over two miles.

32. I see that the area the proposed extension would add would be 6,385 acres 1 rood 22 perches, and the valuation £4,669?—Yes.

33. That altogether would make about 8,000 acres in the township?—About 8,000 acres.

34. The valuation of the proposed addition would be £4,669?—Yes.

35. Would that extension go into any other electoral division but the two you have named?—It would, three others.

36. What are their names?—Nantinan, Croagh, and

RATHKEALE.
 Nov. 12, 1879.

Mr. Stephen
 Casey.

Dromard, and the original one of Ballyallinan, and all of Rathkeale, only portion of which is in the township at present.

37. Were you clerk to the Commissioners when this extension, marked in red on the map, was made?—No, my father was.

38. Do you happen to know the grounds on which it was applied for?—No. It was applied for nothing more than on the formal belief that it was considered the area was too small and not sufficient for the working of the Commission, that there was not sufficient area for taxation.

39. What is the size of the Rathkeale Electoral Division?—3,863 acres 1 rood 32 perches.

40. Would it be entirely taken in by the proposed extension?—Yes.

41. The whole of it?—Yes, all.

42. And portion of three others?—Yes.

43. Of the poor rates you have mentioned as having been struck in the last five years, 4s. 6d. is for the year 1878. Does that include any portion of the sanitary rate?—Yes, it includes all.

44. How much is sanitary rate?—I am not aware.

45. What are the receipts of the Town Commissioners of Rathkeale?—They have nothing more than the rates.

46. But besides the rates what have they?—Merely a moiety of the fines of the Town Court and dog licences; but they only amount to a few pounds, £7 or £8 in the year.

47. And the fines from the Town Court would be only £5 or £6 more?—Yes.

48. And the expenditure in the town is about the same as the receipts?—Yes.

49. Was the Towns' Improvement Act adopted altogether, or only in part?—Only in part.

50. It was not adopted for water purposes?—It was not for water. It was adopted for sanitary purposes first, but in 1874 the sanitary powers were withdrawn.

51. And you can't rate beyond a shilling?—No.

52. And you have not rated up to that in 1878?—No, not in 1878, but in all the others we have.

53. How is the cleansing of the streets looked after?—The road contractor has to do it.

54. The road contractor under the Grand Jury?—Yes.

55. Are all the streets of the town under one contract?—Yes, but the branch streets are not. The Main-street is under one contract, but there are several other contracts for the streets that branch off the Main-street.

56. The Guardians are the Sanitary Authority of the town?—Yes, they are at present.

57. Have any works been executed by them of late years?—Yes; they have sunk a main sewer through the town, and other minor sewers through the streets.

59. Then portion of that 4s. 6d. for 1878 was a sanitary rate for works of that kind for the town?—Yes.

60. On what district was that sanitary rate struck?—On the entire division of Rathkeale.

61. Was any portion of it levied off the other electoral divisions?—No, sir; it was separate in this division.

62. How is the town lighted?—By gas. There is a Gas Company here, and the Commissioners contract with the company for the lighting of the town.

63. Is it well lighted?—It is pretty well lighted. It is very well lighted at present.

64. And the Commissioners desire to make a further extension of the town?—If they had the means at their disposal they would extend the lighting of the town further than at present.

65. But I see they have not exercised their full powers in that respect?—They were not able to light the town as they wished, and that being the case they only left the old lamps standing.

66. They did not consider it worth while to raise the other 4d. for lighting purposes?—No; as they had not a larger area.

67. Have the Commissioners ever considered whether it would not be better for them to become the sanitary

authority instead of the Board of Guardians?—Yes; but in the way the law stands at present they would not wish it—until the landlord has to pay half.

68. They would not wish to become the sanitary authority now?—No; not until there is further legislation to make the landlord pay half the rate.

69. Then they have not made any application for any change?—No; by-and-by I think the feeling of the Commissioners is for a change if there is an extension of the boundary.

70. What is contemplated to be the effect of this proposed extension as regards the income and expenditure and working of the town?—The further extension of the lighting of the town, and other improvements that may arise by-and-by. They would also raise a sum of money for the improvement of the market if they had an extension.

71. It is not intended even with this proposed extension to take up the sanitary work?—No, not at present in consequence of the landlord now paying half the rates, whereas if the Commissioners were constituted the sanitary authority the occupier would have to pay the entire rate. Until there is some change in that I don't think the Commissioners would care to become the sanitary authority.

72. Of course, then, if they have not considered that they have not considered the question whether it would be better for them to take up the charge of the roads from the Grand Jury?—The funds at their disposal would not be adequate to the maintenance of the roads—the valuation of the place is too small to think of that.

73. Of that 1,448 acres how much is arable land that would be liable to only one-fourth rating?—The most of it is, unless what are houses.

74. What is the nature of the arable land included in the town—is it town parks?—No, it is ordinary culture land.

75. What is it proposed to do in the way of extending the lighting—if this proposed extension is taken in how far do they intend to extend the lighting of the town?—As far as the town is extended—as far as the buildings go and a little further on, the approaches to the town and all round, which are not lighted at present; up to the railway and beyond that.

76. Have you any means of knowing the feeling of the people outside who would be brought into the town by this proposed extension?—No.

77. We shall be glad to hear any opinion you like to give yourself, as to whether the one-fourth would be a fair charge upon the people who would be taken in for the advantages they get from the town?—I think it would, for they profit very much from the town, and they have a right to be taxed. These improvements are very heavy on the town, and these people outside share in them.

78. They have the advantage of this being a market town?—Yes, and it enhances the value of land around very much, and when coming in to make their markets very late they have the advantages of the light. To such an extent is land round the town affected that it is valued at twice as much as land further away.

79. Does that apply to the whole of this extension?—Yes, no doubt of it.

80. Are there schools in the town to which children are sent in from that district?—There are very good schools in the town.

81. I suppose this extension is based on the supposition of the area brought in being liable to the one-fourth?—And as such it will only mean £24 difference.

82. You think one-fourth is not too much for the benefits they get?—No.

83. Would there be any townlands cut in your proposed extension?—No; I took in all the townlands—there is no portion of townlands taken in. The Commissioners would go further on one side but the river forms the boundary there, but it would be a consideration by-and-by whether they should not take in more on that side.

84. In addition to the extension you have already

described?—Yes, to take part off one side, and add it to the town on the opposite side.

85. How many people inside the present boundary are qualified to vote in the election of Commissioners?—About 100.

86. And how many are eligible to be Commissioners?—Thirty-three.

87. How many people would be taken in by the proposed extension who would be eligible to vote?—There would be a considerable number.

MR. DANIEL FITZGIBBON examined.

92. You are Chairman of the Town Commissioners of Rathkeale?—Yes, sir.

93. How long have you been Chairman of the Commissioners?—This is my third year.

94. How long have you been a Commissioner?—It is a long time; ever since the formation of the body.

95. There was a special meeting of the Commissioners held to consider the replies to our queries?—Yes, and it was only attended by five out of fifteen—five or six.

96. The Commissioners who met that day were unanimous in recommending this extension that Mr. Casey has given us?—Yes.

97. How can you explain the apathy of the other ten not attending?—I can't account for it; they got notice of the meeting.

98. Have you got any idea of the feeling of the other ten?—On the former occasions they appeared to be in favour of extension.

99. Then you think the extension is in favour with the absentees as well as with those who were present?—Yes.

100. Were you a Commissioner at the time the former extension was got?—I was.

101. Do you remember the grounds on which it was asked for?—They did not consider the area sufficient to meet the expenses of carrying on the Commission.

102. I don't know whether you are aware that Rathkeale has an area one of the largest in proportion to the population of any town in Ireland; it has one acre to every two individuals?—But the value of the property in this locality may not be the same as in other places.

103. Have you any means of knowing, or have you heard the opinions of the ratepayers now outside, who would be taken in by this proposed extension?—I did not hear them saying anything about it.

104. Do you consider that those people who live within say a mile and a half of the town outside the present boundary, have such advantages from the town and its markets and schools and everything, that they ought fairly to contribute something to the keeping of the town in proper order?—I think it is a great advantage to these parties to live so convenient to the town for markets and fairs, and to have them kept properly attended to.

105. They have the advantage from the streets being lighted when they come into town late in the winter?—No doubt, it is a great advantage.

106. Mr. Casey is correct, I suppose, in saying that the wish of the Commissioners is not to take up the sanitary business of the town, but to leave it to the Guardians?—Yes; that question was considered, but they decided not to take it up.

107. On what grounds?—That it would be too expensive; that the rates would be too heavy, in fact the rate they are limited to would be not at all sufficient to pay the expenses of keeping the roads in repair. The same thing applies to rates for sanitary work.

108. But the Commissioners can raise the same money as the Guardians can?—They did not consider it that way, for we thought we were bound to the shilling rate, and then one and sixpence would not carry out what is required.

88. Could you give a rough idea of the number?—About as many more; about 100.

89. And how many would be brought in who would be eligible to be Commissioners?—Four or five more.

90. Would it take in any gentlemen's seats?—Yes.

91. How many?—Four. In 1861 the other extension was obtained. If the Commissioners are constituted the sanitary authority the whole of the tax would fall on the occupiers, and the Commissioners considering that do not wish to become the sanitary authority.

RATHKEALE.

Mar. 13, 1879

Mr. Stephen Casey.

Mr. Daniel Fitzgibbon.

109. Is much sanitary work required?—There is a good deal done, but a good deal more is required.

110. Under what heads?—Under the head of sewerage.

111. Is the flagging of the town well done?—There is part wants to be flagged, and a great deal has been done.

112. But the sewerage is the principal thing that is wanted?—Yes; there is some portion of that undone yet.

113. Suppose there was an alteration in the law by which half the rate was to be paid by the landlord and half by the tenant, would that make any change in the views of the Commissioners?—Yes.

114. Would they then wish to take up the sanitary works?—Yes.

115. Would they then wish to have authority over the roads?—That is a matter I can't say.

116. Do you consider that Rathkeale gets a full share from the county, considering what it contributes in the way of county cess?—Yes; the roads are pretty fairly kept for a long time past, they are kept the same as the roads in any other part of the county.

117. There would be no improvement of the town then, if the Commissioners took charge of their own roads?—I don't know. I can't say that the county have not discharged their duty fairly. The revenue of the Commissioners would not be equal to the outlay at all.

118. Suppose you got charge of the roads, and you got the same money as the county now gets for the maintenance of them?—It would not be adequate; it takes 5s. in the pound to keep the roads here, for the valuation of the town is very small. There are no large buildings like other towns. The maintenance of a short portion of the road here takes £50 or £60 a year, and the branch roads take £200 a year, and we never could grapple with that even with the extension.

119. I see at the time the former inquiry was held evidence was given that the streets were in a very bad state for a long time, and the Commissioners had no means of cleaning them?—The contractor is called upon now, and he is obliged to clean them. The former state of things has been remedied to a great extent.

120. Is there anything else that occurs to you that you would like to mention bearing on the subject of this inquiry?—I think the clerk has answered all the questions necessary.

121. Is Rathkeale increasing in business or population?—It is keeping its place pretty well. The town has very much improved for some years past. Trade is, generally speaking, very bad now, so that we cannot boast, but, on the whole, the town has improved for some years past. Our fairs have been considerably increased. They are the largest fairs in Munster now, and very important, and a great number of persons attend them. We have a pig market the day before the fair, and a large number come from all parts of Ireland, and from England to it. The largest buyers come to attend our fairs. We have sixteen fairs in the year, and sixteen pig markets, and three of them are recently established and they are improving rapidly, and very probably they will be as large as the others in a very short time.

RATHKEALE.

Mar. 12, 1879.

Mr. Joseph
Casey

Mr. JOSEPH CASEY, examined.

122. You are a member of the Town Commissioners of Rathkeale?—I am.

123. How long have you been a Commissioner?—Since the adoption of the Act.

124. Do you remember the reasons for seeking this former extension in 1861?—It was just as our chairman has stated; by reason of our contracted area we were not able to discharge the duties expected from us, or give any benefit to the people in lighting the town.

125. It appears the area was not large enough?—No. I was going to observe that the vitality of this town depends on its fairs and markets. We have sixteen cattle fairs, and sixteen pig fairs the day previous to the cattle fairs. I am telling you this to show the desirability of having our neighbours brought in, and the justice of our neighbours taking their share in the expenditure for their own accommodation.

126. You mean by neighbours the people living immediately round the present town and outside it?—Yes. On the subject of the extension you asked what would be their feelings, and whether it would be fair and just to bring them in, and that is what I am endeavouring to answer.

127. Then what is their feeling on the subject?—I have good reason to know, because, in addition to being Town Commissioner, I have the honour to represent the electoral division of Rathkeale, which is far and away larger than the township. I am the Guardian for the last twenty years for the Rathkeale electoral division.

128. Then is Mr. Casey correct in saying, that in this proposed extension the entire electoral division of Rathkeale would be taken in?—Yes, entirely correct.

129. What is the feeling of your constituents outside regarding this extension?—They feel fairly and justly towards the extension.

130. That it would not be too much to ask them to pay one-fourth rates for the advantages they get from the town?—No, I think, taking them as a whole, for, as representative of the electoral division, I never met anyone opposed to the doing of it. As I remarked, we have, on the day before the cattle fair, a pig fair, and we have crowds of people from the country, for buyers come at a distance from Waterford, and they come up here early for the fairs, and they make the day previous

to the pig fair another fair. Country people crowd in here, and come up at night and in the early morning, and in the winter time, if the streets were not well lighted and cleaned carefully, they would subject themselves to great abuse, both themselves and their cattle. These people come the night before for both fairs, and they spend the greater part of the night in the town. Our fair is opened at daybreak, and business people come in from great distances; trains are arranged to suit the carriage of stock. Where the fairs are very early it is the greatest possible convenience to the people to have the town well lighted, and there is nothing dark or gloomy about this town.

131. How is the lighting done?—It is by contract with the Gas Company.

132. It is a separate company?—Entirely separate.

133. They have a contract per lamp?—Yes.

134. How much is it?—£2 10s. for each lamp for six months.

135. And there are certain hours stated?—Yes; these lamps are the public light.

136. And the lighting of the town could be further extended with advantage?—It would be further extended, and the lights would be put closer together.

137. Does the lighting go as far as the buildings go at present?—In a fair way it does. Not in the by streets; in the extremes of the town they are not as well lighted as we ought to have them, if we could afford it.

138. Mr. Casey (Town Clerk).—The lamps have to be extinguished early in the night in consequence of not having sufficient revenue.

139. Witness.—I have nothing additional to add to what has been stated. Under our monetary circumstances the sanitary duty would be better done by the Guardians, if the half of the rate was paid by the landlord.

140. Suppose you get this extension and that the landlord was to pay half the rates, then you would be inclined to take up the work?—Our body would do it far better than.

141. Your opinion is they would do it a great deal better than?—Yes, and feel a greater interest in it. I know the feelings of the two bodies, and I can speak confidently.

Mr. James
Blackwell.

Mr. JAMES BLACKWELL, examined.

142. You are one of the Town Commissioners of Rathkeale?—I am.

143. What is the feeling of the outsiders who would be affected by this proposed extension?—They are in favour of it. The town is old and is not rated as high as other towns with a smaller area. Of course, if it was a modern town it would be rated higher.

144. I don't think you can say Rathkeale has a low valuation for its size?—We have a good many landlords and the places are not improved. They are like the dog in the manger.

145. I understood you to say that Rathkeale had a low valuation considering the inhabitants?—I think it has.

146. Have you any other town you would compare it with?—Newcastle West, for instance; the house that sets for £13 in Rathkeale would bring £16 in Newcastle West.

147. Rathkeale has 3,000 inhabitants and it is valued at £4,000, have you any reason to believe that a low valuation, for it doesn't appear from other towns to be low?—I think if it was a modern town it would be higher. We would have better houses built, and the rate would be higher. On the whole, I think it is valued high enough at present.

148. You have heard the evidence given by the

Chairman and Mr. Casey, have you anything to add about this extension or any extension?—No. I think there is nothing to add except that it is very fair, and that the people living round seem all very favourably disposed to the town. They are all nearly aware of this meeting to-day, and none of them have attended to give any opposition to it.

149. Is there anyone present who is not a Commissioner?—No.

150. Are the ratepayers aware of this meeting?—Yes, several of the people outside are aware of the meeting, and they have not come in.

151. You have all the Commissioners here to-day except one.

152. You say that this extension would take in the entire of Rathkeale division and portion of three others?—Yes.

153. How much of the other three would be taken in?—Rathkeale is 3,000 odd acres, and there is a difference outside the town of about 2,374 acres, but these others are only skirts or small little portions of the divisions.

154. Is it four or five electoral divisions that would be concerned in the extension?—Four and Rathkeale.

155. That is five altogether?—Yes.

The inquiry then terminated.

BANBRIDGE—SEPTEMBER 10, 1879.

(Before the CHAIRMAN.)

Mr. WILLIAM M'CORMACK examined.

BANBRIDGE.
Sept. 10, 1879.Mr. William
M'Cormack.

1. CHAIRMAN.—You are the Town Clerk of Banbridge?—I am.

2. Banbridge is under the Towns Improvement Act of 1854?—Yes.

3. When was that Act adopted?—In 1865; for all the purposes of the Act.

4. Was the boundary fixed then?—Yes.

5. Was the usual *Gazette* notice given?—Yes.

6. Have the boundaries remained the same ever since?—Yes.

7. I see by your return that the area is 763A. Or. 33p.?—Yes.

8. What is the valuation?—£12,517 13s. at the last revision.

9. How much of that is land and how much buildings?—Buildings are £11,094; land, £1,071 10s.; and half the annual rents, £352 3s.

10. Has it been a gradually increasing valuation here?—Yes.

11. What was the population at the last census?—5,600. With reference to that, I should say that I do not believe the returns sent forward were correct, and I will state my reasons. I have heard from competent authority that in the taking of the census of the town some streets were omitted from the return sent forward, viz., half of Reilly-street, Law's-row, Doctor's-lane, and Friars'-lane. Those four streets were not included in the returns. I should say the population is now upwards of 6,500.

12. Is the town divided into wards for municipal purposes?—Yes; into two—the eastern and western wards. They return five Commissioners for the eastern ward and ten for the western ward.

13. What is the valuation of the two wards?—I cannot tell you that.

14. Are they fairly represented—that is, do they get representation according to the valuation, as five is to ten?—I think they are fairly represented.

15. Is there any feeling, on the part of the Town Commissioners or the ratepayers, that the wards should be altered?—I have not heard of any.

16. Is the town in one electoral division?—Yes, in the Banbridge electoral division.

17. Does that extend much beyond the present boundaries of the town?—Yes, I should say so.

18. How far would you say?—I cannot say.

19. Have you any map showing your own boundary at present?—We have.

20. Are the municipal and the Poor Law boundaries conterminous?—They are not. There are three townlands that are severed by the boundaries.

22. Would the outside boundary, marked on this map with a blue line, be conterminous with townlands (referring to map produced)?—It would not cut through several townlands, and I think only one or two fields would be cut through by that boundary.

23. I want the rates from 1874 up to 1878, inclusive—the municipal, Poor Law, and county rates?—

	Municipal.		Poor Law.		County.	
	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
1874, .	0	8	0	8	1	9
1875, .	0	10	1	3	1	10
1876, .	0	10	—	—	1	11
1877, .	1	0	3	3	1	10
1878, .	0	8	1	3	0	7 for the one half-year.

We have not yet struck a rate for this year.

24. How much was the county cess for the second half of last year?—10d. was the amount.

25. Did you find 8d. a sufficient municipal rate for 1878 for all your wants?—Yes, because we lost the sanitary powers; they are now vested in the guardians.

26. But, if you were over 6,000 in population, you should be the Urban Sanitary Authority?—We were not over 6,000 in population according to the census of 1871, although we would have been if the census had been properly taken.

27. However, you have ample power, if you petitioned the Local Government Board?—We did petition and they would not grant it.

28. When was that?—About five months ago.

29. Was it represented to them that you were over 6,000 in population?—I should say it was. I believe the difficulty was that the population was returned as under 6,000 at the time the census was taken, and we could not go beyond that, according to the Public Health Act. On the faith of the real census, we imagined we would be able to take the sanitary powers into our own hands, but there was an objection raised by a certain number of ratepayers to the transfer.

30. On what grounds did they do that? Would the work be as well done by the Town Commissioners as by the guardians?—I think the principal reason of the opposition was that several Town Commissioners were in favour of having a public cemetery for the town, and the people did not want to be taxed for that purpose. I believe that was the reason.

31. Do the guardians, according to the opinion of the townspeople, look after the sanitary works properly?—Well, some people are satisfied and some are not.

32. Is there any water supply here?—No; there is a dreadfully bad water supply, and several pumps have been condemned on analysis.

33. Is the supply entirely by pumps?—Yes.

34. Have the guardians ever started any plan for supplying a high pressure supply of water?—No.

35. Are the present boundaries regarded with dissatisfaction generally by the ratepayers, or by any section of them?—Some of the Town Commissioners consider that an extension of the boundary would be desirable, while some do not; and then there was a meeting called, and there was a resolution passed that they would not go in for an extension.

36. Was that resolution unanimous or carried by a majority?—By a majority, because there was a portion of the body opposed to it.

37. As far as you know the feeling of the Commissioners, are they evenly divided, or is there a large majority against extension?—I really think they did not go in for an expression of opinion on the subject, as they, perhaps, might have done.

38. Have the ratepayers generally expressed an opinion that the boundary should be extended?—I believe there are many who think so.

39. Has there been any public meeting called on the subject?—None.

40. To what extent do those in favour of extension seek to have the town extended—is it to the blue line marked by the Town Surveyor on this map?—Yes. The Town Surveyor was instructed by a committee appointed by the Town Commissioners to take this matter into consideration; and he was appointed to draw out the proposed extension, and this is what he has drawn out.

41. When the report came from the Town Surveyor what was done?—As I tell you, a committee was appointed, and they were to report, and the matter dropped. They did not report.

42. You say there has been a great deal of building going on in Banbridge. At present is there much building in progress?—Not very much at present; but I can tell you that since 1831 the number has increased largely. In 1831 there were 446 houses

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then built, in 1841 there were 573, in 1851 there were 618, in 1861 there were 777, and in 1871 there were 1,100.

43. So that in nearly forty years the number has nearly doubled?—Yes.

44. Is there much more good building-ground within the present area, or are there better sites within the boundary as marked out by the Town Surveyor?—There are some good building-sites within the present township boundary; but I should say there would be many better within the proposed extended boundary.

45. Are there many gentlemen's seats outside the present boundary, and within the line suggested by the Town Surveyor?—There are.

46. How many would you say—about how many?—There are certainly twelve; and besides there is a very large factory at Seapatrik, the village of Hayestown, and a large bleach-store at Ballydown. The proposed township boundary also takes Killpack in, a place that had 630 inhabitants at the last census.

47. Is the town very largely used by the gentlemen living in that extended district, and other people living within the proposed extension?—Yes.

48. Are you able to say, of your own knowledge, that the property within the area marked out by the Town Surveyor derives great benefit from its proximity to the town?—I should certainly say so.

49. Is it more valuable on that account?—Yes, certainly. I believe that with an extended boundary we would have an equalization of the rates; and if we had an extended boundary, we would necessarily have an increased population, and so command more influence. We would be taking due credit for the amount of business done, as exhibited by our traffic. We would place ourselves in a better position to command the attention of Parliament for measures which may be introduced. We would be in a better position to take charge of the sanitary affairs of the town.

50. Would Seapatrik, where there are 600 inhabitants, require extensive looking after in sanitary matters?—Certainly; and if they came into the township we would be obliged to, and would look after them.

51. Would it be an advantage to them, in your opinion, to be joined to the town, and if the town were made the urban sanitary authority?—Certainly. It would increase the value of their property very much.

52. Would it facilitate you in getting a water supply, having the boundary extended?—It would.

53. How long have you been Town Clerk?—Twelve years.

54. You know the district well, I suppose?—Yes. If the extension were granted, we would have a larger area for town and court fines, and dog-tax; and if we could get a separation from the county, one board could manage the affairs better than several boards and several sets of officers.

55. With reference to taking charge of the roads, do you think it would be fair, if the town got the management of the roads, to get from these people the same county cess as they pay at present to the Grand Jury?—Yes; and if it has been successful in other towns, I do not see why it should not be successful here.

56. From your knowledge of the town, do you think you could manage these roads as cheaply and as well as they are at present managed under the Grand Jury?—I believe we could.

57. Is it your opinion you could manage the roads of your own town better than the Grand Jury?—I do not say better, but quite as well.

58. And as cheaply too?—Yes; I believe so. As parties living within the proposed extension enjoy nearly all the advantages and privileges that are afforded to those living within the present circumscribed boundary, I think it would be fair that they should contribute for that which they enjoy, in so far as they reap the advantages of the markets, shopping, attending public worship, and lighting of the town. They largely use and wear our streets and sidewalks,

being passengers by our railways, and having in our town the heavy traffic peculiar to manufacturing concerns, and they consequently have everything enjoyed by those already taxed.

59. Do you light the township?—Yes, the whole of it.

60. What would be your proposal with regard to these matters—would you extend the benefit of lighting to the entire district you suggest to be brought in, and then make it pay the same rate; or would you leave the lighting as it is at present, and bring them in on a differential rate?—If the lighting remains as at present, it would be better to have a differential rate.

61. If you gave them exactly the same advantages as you have in the town, why should they not pay the same rates; I suppose you are aware that land-arable land—pays only one-fourth; and under those circumstances do you think it would pay you to light them, or that it would be better to let them stay as they are as regards lighting, and bring them in on a differential rate?—That is a question I could hardly answer. If the Town Commissioners succeeded in buying the gas-works, at a reasonable rate, from the Gas Company, perhaps they might be able to light the entire township properly.

62. Can you say that the opinions you have expressed are shared by some of the Town Commissioners?—Yes.

63. Can you say that they are shared in by any considerable portion of the ratepayers within the present boundary?—I have not spoken to them very much. Some are in favour of the proposed extension; but I question very much whether, if the matter was put before them at a public meeting, they would be likely to go in for it.

64. On what grounds, have you heard, are others of the Town Commissioners averse to the extension—what grounds have they put forward against it?—They never stated their reasons particularly.

65. With reference to the persons outside the present boundary, what is their feeling on the subject?—Well, I think, after all, no matter how circumscribed the boundary might be, people do not like to be put into an extended boundary, because of being taxed.

66. Is it a question of taxation with them?—I think that would be the great question.

67. Has there been notice given of this inquiry?—I gave notice myself, and I saw another notice in today's paper.

68. We published it in the local paper?—I also published it.

69. Was it published last week?—Yes, in Saturday's paper, and in this morning's paper.

70. What is the area of the extended district?—The difference between the present, and what is proposed is 1477A. Or. 36P., making the total 2240A. 1R. 29P., and the difference would be 1477A. Or. 36P.

71. What is the valuation of that?—I cannot tell you that.

72. Would there be a very considerable increase in the valuation?—Yes, I should say there would be an increase of £18,000 or £20,000.

73. How would you propose that the extended district should be added to the wards. Would you make the outside district a separate ward from that comprised in the present boundary?—I would have an addition made to the two existing wards, both eastern and western.

74. Having regard to the increased valuation would it not be better to have one ward more, and to allow the town wards to stand as they are, and to lessen the number of representatives in those two wards—that is, if you took off two representatives from the smaller ward and three from the other ward, that would be five, which could be given to the new ward, and thus the total number of representatives would remain as at present?—I think that would be very fair.

75. And then you would have as large a ratepaying

body in one as in the other?—But you would have a larger valuation.

77. But you would have fewer electors?—Yes, that is true.

78. Have you any idea how many ratepayers would be brought in by this proposed extension, occupiers of £8 and upwards?—I cannot answer that question. There is another matter I would like to mention with regard to transferring the sanitary powers. We have been placed in an awkward position with regard to the markets. The Town Commissioners have for the last ten years been anxious to get the control of the markets of the town.

79. Who do they belong to at present?—To the trustees of Lord Downshire. The Commissioners have

spent a considerable sum of money in trying to get by-laws passed, and to get the control of the markets; but not being the Urban Sanitary Authority they consider the Public Health Act interferes with them in that respect, and that they cannot take advantage of the markets, as it prevents them doing so. Just now the trustees of Lord Downshire are willing to treat the Commissioners liberally with reference to the markets, and will hand them over their patent rights to a certain extent, and give them the tolls for a certain rental, and the Town Commissioners would be very glad to accept the offer if they were in a position to take the markets over, and I think that militates very much against the progress of the town.

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Mr. HUGH GLASS examined.

Mr. Hugh
Glass.

80. You are a Town Commissioner?—I am.

81. You have heard the evidence of the Town Clerk?—I have.

82. Do you agree generally with the views he has expressed?—I do indeed.

83. And that it would be desirable to extend the boundary to the line pointed out by the surveyor on this map?—I think that is a very fair line.

84. Of your own knowledge, does all the ground within that area derive exceptional benefit and advantage from its proximity to the town?—I think there is no doubt of that.

85. Do the owners and occupiers of houses within that area derive the same advantage, and make the same use of the town as the ratepayers?—Certainly.

86. Is it on that ground you think it would be fair to have them brought in?—Yes.

87. Do you think it would be desirable to bring them in, giving them the benefit of the lighting, on equal taxation to that which the townspeople are at present paying or not to light the district, and bring them in on a differential rating?—I would say the latter would be better, because otherwise we would have a great many miles of road to light, and I don't think we could do it in any other way.

88. In every way you then agree with the evidence the Town Clerk has given?—I do. I think he has given his evidence most fairly.

89. As far as you know do the people living within this proposed boundary object to the extension, or is their objection confined solely to the matter of taxation?—I believe solely to the matter of taxation. I am outside the boundary myself, and I would be a severe sufferer in that respect, if the extension were carried out.

90. You will have to pay more taxation?—Considerably more.

91. And, notwithstanding that, you are in favour of the extension?—I will tell you how it is. My valuation in the town is £83 10s., and if the boundary be extended my valuation would be £215 10s.

92. And yet you are in favour of the extension?—Certainly.

93. Of course, then, you think it desirable you should become the Urban Sanitary Authority?—Yes, certainly.

94. And also get the control of the roads?—Yes. I am not so certain about the roads. I do not know that we could manage the roads much cheaper than the county at present.

95. But are not divided Boards very much more expensive?—Yes, that is true.

96. If you were the Urban Sanitary Authority, then scavenging the roads would come cheaper, and keeping them up cheaper, because you would have a

certain amount over that you could use for other purposes?—Certainly.

97. You said you were in favour of a differential rate. In your opinion should it be thrown on the occupiers and the landlord. At present, under the Public Health Act of last year, the sanitary and poor-rate is divided, in the rural sanitary district, between the landlord and the tenant?—An opinion has been expressed in other places, that the same thing should be done with the rates in the extended district?—I think that would be an equitable way of doing it.

98. Is that your opinion? You are aware that under the Towns Improvement Act, arable land pays only one-fourth of the valuation. Is it your opinion that that is too low? In several places what has been stated is this—that in the case of all land within a township, the really fair thing would be to make it pay half of all rates, and divide them between the landlord and tenant, but that this should not apply to the county cess or road rates. It is said so far as the land is concerned at all events, the landlord gets an increased rent for his land in and near a town, and the tenant is able to pay a higher rent from the advantages he gets from that land, and that therefore it is not fair that it should pay only one-fourth, and that by the tenant?—Indeed I think one-half would not be too much, and payable as you suggested.

99. Would you think that would be a fair way of dealing with land in the borough, and also land outside the borough, that would be brought in?—I think there is no doubt that it would, and that the enhanced value of all that land would be equal to the additional taxation.

100. Do you think that the value of the land would be increased in that area if brought in?—Certainly.

101. Are you able to say that the land in that area brings a higher rent than land of a similar quality farther off?—I have no doubt about it.

102. Are you able to say to what extent?—I know that land immediately adjoining the town, lets for £5 or £6 an acre for grazing purposes.

103. What would the same land if two miles farther off let for?—£2 or £3 an acre. I think it would be unfair if the landlord did not pay his portion of the tax on the land, whether inside or outside the present borough.

104. Is there any other Town Commissioner in favour of the extension?—I believe we are now unanimous that the extension would be desirable for the town.

105. Do you feel yourself authorized to say under the conditions I have stated, that the Town Commissioners would be in favour of it?—I believe if we had a meeting to-morrow, there would be a unanimous opinion in favour of the proposed extension on the terms you have suggested.

EDWARD DOWDEN, M.D., examined.

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Edward
Dowden, M.D.

106. Are you in favour of the proposed extension?—I am very much in favour of it.

107. Do you agree with the evidence Mr. Glass has given?—Yes.

108. Do you think it would be a benefit to the town that you should have its boundary extended to the

extent suggested, and then be made the urban sanitary authority, and get the control of the roads, and have the whole brought under the control of one governing body?—That has been always my idea of what was important for the town.

Mr. Glass.

Mr. GLASS, re-examined.

109. With reference to the question of voting, supposing this extension was granted, would you make the extended district into one ward?—I think I would.

110. Taking two representatives from one ward and three from the other, that would make five, to be given to the rural district altogether?—Inasmuch as my own opinion is that there should be a differential rating, then I think that would be quite right.

111. You are aware that they would only pay at present one-fourth valuation in the case of land?—Yes.

112. Would your suggestion be to make them pay one-half?—I would be in favor of charging land in the extended boundary the same rate as land is now charged in the immediate township. But I would make all land pay one-half rate, divided between landlord and tenant.

113. What would you think of the alteration of the wards as follows—to give four to the smaller ward, seven to the large ward, and then four to the new district to be brought in?—I think that would be an equitable distribution of the representation.

Dr. Dowden.

Dr. DOWDEN, re-examined.

114. What would you think of that?—I do not think that would be an unfair representation. There is one thing due to my constituents that I should state. I do not think I fully represent their views in saying the extension boundary is universally viewed by them as being necessary. Still I think it is by most of them.

115. One would think the ratepayers inside the present boundary would not object to the extension if they thought they would get some little increase to the funds to be paid by people who use largely and avail themselves of the advantages of the town. It would not increase, but would be likely to lessen the taxation?—There is something about putting in the thin edge of the wedge, which crops up in this matter. That is about getting up a new cemetery. I know that, speaking on behalf of the Catholics, they are very much opposed to that, because they have provided one

for themselves, and they do not wish to be taxed for another. I think it is only fair that I should tell you that.

116. Does not that question crop up whether the boundary is extended or not?—I cannot understand what the extension of the boundary has to do with it. If the rural sanitary authority think that the town requires a cemetery, they have power to promote it, being the burial board, just as much as any other?—It is supposed by the majority of the Catholics here that if the Town Commissioners got the powers vested in them, as the urban sanitary authority, they would then construct a cemetery at the public expense.

117. The *Town Clerk*.—I may say for the Town Commissioners that they, as a body, never went in for providing a public cemetery.

118. CHAIRMAN.—To promote it or to prevent it? The *Town Clerk*.—Yes.

Mr. Samuel
Hill.

Mr. SAMUEL HILL examined.

119. What are your views on the subject of the proposed extension?—I am opposed to the extension. I think you should be prepared, if you tax the people, to give them something commensurate with their taxation. I believe that if the extension was granted we would not be in a position to supply these people—who would require gas, for instance—or anything else commensurate with the taxation.

120. Would not the occupiers have something commensurate for their taxation by the advantages they derive from the town; and has not the landlord great

advantages who gets a much higher rent for his ground on account of its being so close to the town? If so, why should they not both be made pay something towards keeping up the town which gives them these advantages? If you give them these benefits, why should you give them to them at the expense of the townspeople?—I cannot say that I am opposed to the measure being carried into effect, but that was one of my principal reasons. I may say I forego any opposition to the measure, if it is the wish of the majority of the Town Council.

Mr. Robert
McClelland.

Mr. ROBERT McCLELLAND, Chairman of the Town Commissioners, examined.

121. Will you state your views with regard to the question of the proposed extension?—I hold the same opinion that Mr. Hill has expressed, that we could not give them sufficient compensation for the extra taxation we would impose.

122. Do you think that the occupiers of the ground outside the present boundary, and the houses outside it, derive advantages from their proximity to the town?—I think they do.

123. Do they use the town largely?—Yes. They benefit the town as well. I am not speaking in a selfish manner, because all my places are in the township at present, so that I am not likely to be further taxed by the extension of the boundary.

124. Mr. Glass.—Do you think it is an honourable feeling that the Commissioners have on the subject in proposing the extension?—I think it is an equitable feeling in their minds.

125. CHAIRMAN.—Suppose a recommendation was made by us to extend the boundary as proposed by the Town Surveyor, on this principle, that whatever the town rates were the outside persons should only pay one-half until they get the same benefits as the townspeople, what would be your opinion?—I think that would be very fair.

Mr. Hill.—I think, also, that would be very fair; and it would lessen the rate on the people in the town. [The inquiry then closed.]

BALLYMENA.—SEPTEMBER 23RD, 1879.

[Before Mr. EXHAM, Q.C., and Mr. H. A. ROBINSON.]

Mr. FREDERICK MATHEWS examined.

BALLYMENA.
Sept. 23, 1879.Mr. Frederick
Mathews.

1. CHAIRMAN.—What is the present area of Ballymena?—Four hundred and sixty-six acres.

2. Is it under the Towns Improvement Act?—Yes.

3. When was that Act adopted?—Immediately after the passing of the Act. It was the first town that came under that Act.

4. That was in 1854?—Yes.

5. Were the boundaries fixed then?—Yes, but they were enlarged about ten years ago, long before my time as town clerk.

6. Have they remained the same ever since?—Yes.

7. Was the Act adopted for all the purposes?—No, only for lighting and cleansing. The water clauses were never adopted.

8. Was the town previously under the 9th of George IV.?—I could not answer that question.

9. What is the valuation?—£20,231 10s., made up of £806 15s. for land, and £18,849 for buildings, and £575 15s. for half annual rents.

10. What was the population at the last census?—7,934.

11. Is it an increasing population?—I should say so, considerably.

12. How many new houses have been built within the last six years?—One hundred and ninety-four houses have been built and rebuilt within the last six years, and 130 of those have been rebuilt since 1875, the time of the appointment of our present surveyor.

13. In what electoral division is the town?—Ballymena.

14. I am aware that the Commissioners propose an extension of the boundary—would the extension proposed by the Commissioners still be in the electoral division of Ballymena?—Yes.

15. What is the area and valuation of the electoral division?—The area is 2,835 acres and 3 roods, and the valuation is £24,851.

16. How far to the north does the electoral division extend from the centre of the town?—About three miles. Certainly over two.

17. What have your rates been for the last five years?—The improvement has been, at all events, 1s. in the pound, and a burial rate varying from 2d. to 3d. The poor rate in 1874 was 1s. 2d.; 1875, 1s. 4d.; 1876, 1s. 1d.; 1877, 1s. 1½d.; 1878, 1s. 6½d.; this year it will be 1s. 2d., that will be struck next month.

18. What has been the county cess for that time?—For 1874, 2s. 1d.; 1875, 1s. 11d.; 1876, 1s. 7d.; 1877, 1s. 9d.; 1878, 1s. 10d.; 1879, 1s. 8d.

19. Do the Grand Jury manage the roads?—Yes, and the Town Commissioners cleanse the streets.

20. Have you got a town surveyor here?—Yes; since February, 1875.

21. Are you able to do your work properly with a rate of 1s. in the pound?—Not quite; no.

22. Have you any water supply here?—No high pressure water supply. There are a few public pumps.

23. You have been making some sewers through the town. Have you struck a special sewer rate for making them?—No, they were paid for out of the improvement rate.

24. Is the town at present properly sewered?—Not at all; very far from it.

25. Is the sanitary condition as good as it should be?—Not at all.

26. You said that the Town Commissioners have not struck a sanitary rate or a sewer rate which they might have done beyond the improvement rate—do you know why they have not done so?—I cannot

answer that question; it is only two years since I was appointed, and there has not been any money spent, nothing worthy of notice, since my time.

27. The streets appear to be remarkably well kerbed, and the footways are in fair order?—Yes.

28. Have the Grand Jury done that, or have you done the kerbing out of the improvement rate?—The Grand Jury, within the last few years, has given a moiety towards the expense of flagging, but not of kerbing. In reference to the flagging, the county gave half, or gave what was supposed to be half, at the time the contract was taken.

29. Have the Town Commissioners ever tried to get the management of the roads, or do they think it desirable?—There is a movement going on at present to obtain a separation from the county.

30. Do the Town Commissioners consider there would be a saving?—They conceive that they would save 6d. in the pound per year out of the county cess.

31. Is that taking the county cess as low as it is this year?—It was taken on the average of the past six years.

32. Have the Town Commissioners, as a body, ever considered this question of the extension of the boundary?—Yes.

33. Are there any wards here?—No.

34. What is their opinion as to the boundary—are they unanimous on the point?—They were unanimous in settling the boundary as marked on that map. There was some difference of opinion at first.

35. We may take it that the boundary of the town, as it is at present, is the red line, and that the proposed boundary is the black line?—Yes.

36. Does the existing boundary include the whole of townlands, or divide them?—Well, in the existing boundary there is part of the townland of Ballykill, and the rest is all the townland of Townpark, and part of Ballyloughan and Brocklamount.

37. Only portions of them?—Yes; portions of them.

38. Will the proposed new boundary include the whole of those townlands?—No; it is drawn without reference to townlands.

39. How have you determined about the proposed boundary?—The Commissioners, as a body, went round the town and inspected it, and on that map they marked those parts they thought it desirable to have brought in.

40. Have they adopted a well defined boundary?—I think they have.

41. How many acres would there be in the proposed extension?—344; and its approximate valuation would be about £761 on the land, and £1,010 on the houses; making about £22,000 in all.

42. What would you say to taking in the whole of the electoral division and making it coterminous with the town itself?—I think that would not do at all.

43. You see that there is only £2,000 of the valuation left out—you gave us the valuation of the electoral division as £24,000?—If that was done it would extend the supervision of the Town Commissioners over a very large area.

44. It would; but you say the Town Commissioners would be able to save 6d. in the pound on the roads in the present boundary, and if so, they ought to be able to save more than 6d. on the entire electoral division, because the roads in the area outside would be less costly to keep up than those in the town; while our warrant directs us, as far as possible, to make towns coterminous with electoral divisions. This is a town in which you say the electoral division goes a very little further outside the proposed area, so

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that if we reported in favour of the electoral division as the township boundary, it would only make the difference about a couple of thousand pounds in valuation more than you propose?—There certainly would not be more than that difference.

45. Mr. ROBINSON.—Taking your own proposed boundary, what would be the annual increment to the town funds?—About £88 a year—that is taking the approximate valuation that our surveyor has put upon the land and houses that we propose to take in at 1s. in the pound. I was calculating, to put lighting in their district would be £50—at any rate not more than £60 a year.

46. CHAIRMAN.—How far does the electoral division extend round the town?—Three-quarters of a mile on the west; two miles on the north, on the east about three-quarters to one-sixth of a mile, and on the south it touches the electoral division.

47. Is Ballymena the market town for all the people residing in the electoral division?—Yes.

48. Have you been living a long time here?—All my life.

49. From your knowledge of the district, do all the lands in the electoral division of Ballymena derive, or are they made exceptionally valuable from their proximity to the town?—I think so; certainly.

50. What would be the relative value of land, in the furthest corner of the electoral division, as compared with the same quality of land two or three miles off?—I would not be competent to give an opinion upon that as I know very little about the value of land, but I should say that the nearer the town the more valuable the land would be.

51. Have the Town Commissioners considered this question, whether the lands and houses outside the present boundary, if brought in should pay a differential rate, if they are not lit?—I never heard that question raised.

52. Suppose they pay their full road rate to you, and that you do not light their district, what would you say to their paying a differential rate?—I never heard the question raised, I was not aware myself that there was such a provision in the law.

53. Nor is there, but we are to inquire whether they should be brought in upon any and what terms, and in several places it has been proposed to us that, for the present at all events, districts outside the present boundaries of towns if brought in, should get the benefit of the lights only, as far as the town bounds as at present, that they should pay a differential rating towards the town fund, from the extensive benefit they get from the proximity of their lands to the town, and for getting the benefit of the streets of the town which they use so very largely?—I think that would be a very good and fair idea, as far as my own knowledge goes.

54. Was that view considered by the Town Commissioners?—No.

55. Can you say if the extension that the Town Commissioners have approved of, is viewed with favour by the majority of the ratepayers of the town?—Well, indeed, I heard very little on the subject. I scarcely heard anyone objecting to it, with the exception of the proprietors of the Leehanmore Bleaching Works. There is one of the ratepayers in the town, who told me he would produce evidence before you to try to induce you to extend the boundary still further in certain points.

56. Bearing in mind the desirability of adopting a well-defined boundary, do you think the Town Commissioners would include the entire of the townlands which are now partially included?—I heard the question asked once or twice, seeing the report of your proceedings elsewhere, with reference to this question of the electoral division boundary being made coterminous with our town boundary, and the opinion expressed seemed to be against it.

57. Was that opinion grounded on this—that they were afraid they would have to light that area?—I believe it was, and also there was another point which

led to their coming to that conclusion, and it was this, we are going to work to obtain a separation from the county, but then of course in the larger boundaries more public roads would be under the management of the Commissioners.

58. But you would get the county cess, and anyone would suppose that if they were brought in they would be able to pay for themselves. If you can save 6d. by the roads of the town, you ought to save a great deal more than that on the rest of the roads brought in, and those roads in the borough should cost a great deal more than what the roads outside should cost; so that if those people have no more taxation put upon them they cannot expect to save money by being brought in. If you do not light them and get the roads brought in, you ought to make money instead of losing money on the roads?—Yes.

59. Mr. ROBINSON.—Did you say that you think the general feeling outside is for an extension, or in that district proposed to be brought in, is there a feeling against being brought in?—As I said just now, I never heard a single expression of opinion on the subject that I can remember with the exception I have stated.

60. Have you heard any of the outsiders object?—I have not heard a word about it, except in the case of the proprietor of the Leehanmore Bleach Works.

61. On what grounds do they object?—I cannot tell; I never heard any of their reasons, in fact any information I got was rather indefinite.

62. Is this a large concern?—It is, sir.

63. Are they just outside the present boundary?—Yes.

64. Then they get almost at their door the benefit of the lighting of the town without paying anything towards it?—The lighting goes out only to the railway station. That is the nearest public point to them.

65. Is that close to them?—There is a long private avenue leading down to their works.

66. What is the name of the electoral division immediately to the south of Ballymena?—Ballyclug.

67. Were the Town Commissioners aware, at the time they agreed to propose this boundary, that the Select Committee of the House of Commons had expressed their opinion that no town should, if possible, be in two electoral divisions?—I think not.

68. Because I see that in your proposed boundary you include a small portion of land which is in the Ballyclug electoral division. Is there any special reason for including that small portion?—I don't know that we proposed to go into the Ballyclug electoral division. I was not aware that we did that at all.

69. Are there any buildings there that would influence you in bringing it in?—We thought there was some building-ground there; and another reason was to get down a road for the new sewerage outfall.

70. Was that the only reason?—That was the principal reason as far as I can remember.

71. You left out the union workhouse, I see?—Yes.

72. In which directions are building operations extending in the town?—Along the Galgorne-road.

73. Are they going on to any great extent outside the municipal limits?—Yes; they are.

74. Is there sufficient ground within the present municipal boundary available for building?—Yes; there is a good deal of land unbuilt on within the present boundary.

75. In this proposed boundary would the arable land that you propose to bring in be townparks or accommodation land?—Most of it would be as at present accommodation lands for the townspeople.

76. CHAIRMAN.—Therefore, they probably would not object to be brought in, because any little addition to the rates would go in aid of their own rates in the town?—Yes; just so.

77. Do the people who carry on business in the town reside inside or outside the town?—The vast majority reside in the town, but a few have residences

outside. Some are now building residences outside the town.

78. Are they villa residences?—Those being built now are.

79. Is there any special reason for building outside the town, or is it for the purpose of avoiding the town taxes?—I think not. I think no such idea entered into their minds at all.

80. Are there any improvements required for the town which you would carry out if you had an increased income?—Nothing that any increase like that suggested would give the Town Commissioners the means of carrying out.

81. If you carried out any improvements would they be a benefit to the people you propose to bring in?—Certainly, they would.

82. Do you think they would be an advantage to persons residing within the electoral division?—I would not go so far as to say that.

83. Do your markets take place late in the day?—The Saturday market does.

84. So that the people who come into the markets have the advantage of the lights in your town?—Yes, in the winter months particularly, for it is long after the lamps are lit when they leave the town.

85. What is the nearest market town to Ballymena?—Antrim.

86. How many miles away is that?—Eight Irish miles.

Cross-examined by Mr. *M'Mullen*, solicitor, on behalf of the owners of the Leehanmore Bleach Works.

87. You say that the reasons that the Town Commissioners give for taking in the Leehanmore Bleach Works into the proposed extension is for the purpose of getting control of the roadway?—No; it was the Chairman of the Town Commissioners said that; I did not say it.

88. What benefit do the Town Commissioners propose to confer upon the Leehanmore people?—The usual benefit that is conferred upon all people coming within the area of a township.

89. Do you mean to say that you would give them the benefit of the lighting?—I think so, along the Galgorne-road.

90. Would you go no nearer to them with your lighting than the Galgorne-road?—I could not tell you. I don't think they would go nearer than the Galgorne-road. I am only speaking from my recollection of the place.

91. Would you only give them lighting—you would not give them sewerage?—That would come into the sewerage scheme.

92. But the sewerage scheme has not been approved of?—I know that.

93. You say that the intended increase, or at least the proposed increase in the valuation of the land would be £761?—Yes.

94. And of houses £1,010?—Yes.

95. How much of that increase would the Leehanmore people contribute if they were brought in?—The present valuation of the Leehanmore Works is £130, and £220 on forty-five acres of land.

96. And in return for what they would pay on that you would only give them lighting upon the Galgorne-road?—And any other advantages they would derive from their junction with the town.

97. What other advantages?—I could not say.

98. Mr. *Robinson*.—Would you tax them for the advantages they now enjoy?—That would be a very material item. They enjoy all the advantages of the town from being close to the town.

99. Mr. *M'Mullen*.—How do they enjoy any advantages? Don't you think the proximity of the Green to the town confers greater advantages upon the town than the town confers upon it?—I cannot see how that would be.

100. Do you think that the same land, if occupied for building purposes, would be as valuable as if occupied for bleach green purposes?—As valuable to whom?

101. To anyone?—The owner would get more money for it for building purposes, I should say.

102. Would you be surprised to find the land three times more valuable for bleach green purposes?—If you say so, I would not be surprised; I know nothing about it.

103. Is the land let for building on the Galgorne-road at £5 an acre?—Yes, I know one case, at all events, that pays £5.

104. Has the same land been let in close proximity to the bleach works on the Galgorne-road?—Yes.

105. Did you ever hear how much it was let for?—No.

106. It is above £10?—I have not the least idea.

107. If you had the control over the lower portion of the ground, that is down towards the site of the proposed sewerage tanks, would that for your present purposes be sufficient?—How do you mean "for our present purposes?"

108. Do you want the control over the entire works?—I don't know what you mean about wanting any "control." The Town Commissioners want to extend the boundaries in order to make the area of taxation larger.

109. If you take in the Leehanmore Works, for what reason do you take them in, and exclude the buildings and houses on the south side of the road?—I cannot answer that question.

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Mr. ROBERT SIMPSON examined.

110. CHAIRMAN.—Are you the Chairman of the Town Commissioners?—Yes, for about three years.

111. Have you considered the question of the extension of the boundary?—We have.

112. Do you and the Town Commissioners consider it desirable that the boundary should be extended?—Yes.

113. Can you say whether or not it is the feeling of the ratepayers of the town, as well as the Town Commissioners, that some extension is desirable?—Any of them that I met with agree with me.

114. Do you approve of the boundaries as marked on this map with the black line?—Yes.

115. Have you considered, supposing the boundary was extended so as to take in the whole of the electoral division, whether it would be fair and right to bring in the persons outside the present boundary on a differential rate, and not to give them the benefit of the lighting for the present?—I mean until you would be able to light them?—I am in favour of that supposing we got separated from the county; so that we

would be able to give the people in the electoral division, outside the present boundary, equal terms to what they are at present getting from the county.

116. Are you in favour of having the present boundary and the proposed boundary put under the management of the Town Commissioners, and taken away from the county?—Yes.

117. Would a saving be effected by that?—Yes, we think so.

118. Are you of opinion that a saving would be effected even supposing there would be no alteration of the boundary?—Yes.

119. Is it then your opinion that if you were taken away from the county the boundary should be increased to the whole of the electoral division, and that you should not, for the present, be required to light the roads outside the present boundary, and that the people in the outside district should not be required to pay the same improvement rate as the townspeople?—I would be in favour of the scheme that they should pay half the improvement rate, and the whole county

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cess, supposing that half the present improvement rate would not increase their present taxation. My reason for answering in that way is, that I don't know that the outside portion of the electoral division would be much benefited—they might be slightly—by their connexion with the town.

120. Can you say if the land in the furthest corner of the electoral division is more valuable than land of similar quality three miles away from the town?—I believe that farms close to the town bring more money than farms further off.

121. Is that from their proximity to the town?—Yes.

122. Then that is an advantage both to the landlord and the tenant?—Yes, to both.

123. Do you consider it fair that both the landlord and the tenant should contribute something towards keeping up the town which makes their land more valuable?—I think they should, where the land is in close proximity to the town.

124. Is the land within the whole of the electoral division here exceptionally valuable in your opinion from its proximity to the town?—Yes.

125. Suppose you brought that land in at half the improvement rate, which would be putting at the maximum sixpence upon the valuation, and that the sixpence was divided between the landlord and tenant, do you think it would be fair to make them pay the sixpence between them, when their land derives exceptional value from their proximity to the town?—I don't know that I can answer that question. I think they should be brought in, but only on the terms that we get a separation from the county.

126. Suppose you do not get that separation, would you think it fair to make a landlord, who derives such exceptional benefit for his land from its proximity to the town, pay threepence in the pound to the rates of that town, and also to make the tenant pay threepence?—I don't know that the land on the outside of the electoral division, except where it is in close proximity to a town, such as Ballymena, is of such value as that its landlord and tenant should come in and pay sixpence.

127. Within the electoral division does the land derive exceptional benefit, and does it bring an increased market value?—I think it is of more value.

128. Is it to the extent of sixpence in the pound on the valuation?—I think if I had a farm within two miles from Ballymena, and a farm five or six miles out, or even four or five miles away, I would rather pay sixpence in the pound to the town rates, than have a farm of equal value that distance away.

129. Can you say from your knowledge of Ballymena, what is the market value of land in the electoral division, as compared with the same quality of land further away?—I could not answer that question.

130. Mr. ROBINSON.—Do you consider that the fact of land being more valuable owing to its proximity to the town, is of advantage to the tenant on whom the municipal rates are assessed, as the law at present stands?—Yes, I do.

131. What advantage does the tenant derive from the land being more valuable?—He gets a better price for his crops when he is nearer the market, and has that market at his door.

132. But he has to pay a higher rent?—Yes, he pays a higher rent for town parks.

133. CHAIRMAN.—As the law stands at present he would pay a fourth if in the township, and that is considered too little by many people. If half of that was thrown on the landlord, and half on the tenant, they would each only pay three halfpence in the pound?—I think they would each get very good value for that taxation, added to which we would be able to save for them sixpence in the pound on the roads, if we got the management of them.

134. The sixpence they would thus save would more than pay for their rates, even if they had to pay one halfpenny, so that they would not be a bit worse, but, in fact, better off?—That would be so if our calculations

were correct; but those calculations cannot be regarded as perfectly correct without knowing what the actual expenditure for keeping up the roads would be.

135. From your knowledge of that district, and taking the case of gentlemen residing in that district, do they derive benefit to the extent of sixpence in the pound from their proximity to the town?—I think they do, by getting the town properly cleaned and flagged, and coming in to make their purchases.

136. Do they derive, in your opinion, the same benefit as the people of the town themselves?—They do.

137. Do you see any objection to taking in the whole of the electoral division?—In drawing this line for the present boundary, we kept in view probable building-ground.

138. I understand that was taken in view of charging building-ground the full rate; but we put the question as to a differential rate. Suppose that there was a differential rate, and you were not obliged to light the district, because at first you might not be able, on account of the taxation you would get from them, to cover the cost of the mains, would there be any objection to the Town Commissioners managing the entire district, and would you think it right that they should pay half the rate?—I don't think there would be, and I think that would be fair.

139. If you got the roads over all the electoral division would you not be able, with one staff, to manage them cheaper, and save the ratepayers in that outside district at least sixpence in the pound?—Yes; but I think that the occupiers residing in the outer portions of the electoral division would object to be brought in except we can show them that they would lose nothing by being brought in.

140. There has been a strong feeling that the people close to the town have no right to put on the ratepayers of the town altogether the cost of keeping up that town which they so largely use, and derive so much benefit from, from day to day; and it is said, why should they not pay something towards keeping the town up? Do you agree in that opinion?—Quite so.

141. Mr. ROBINSON.—Are you in favour of including arable land within the town?—Yes.

142. Would you give the owners of that land any extra benefit beyond what they now enjoy?—I would bring them in for the general improvement of the town.

143. Does the town need improvement to which you would apply this increased income?—The present rate is scarcely sufficient to keep up the town.

144. Do not these people, coming into the town, confer advantages on the town?—They do.

145. Do not the proceeds of the sale of their agricultural produce find their way into the pockets of the ratepayers, and help to support the town to a certain extent?—We are an agricultural community here to a great extent, so that the markets are more or less supported by the people outside.

146. Is the town properly sewered, according to your view?—No.

147. CHAIRMAN.—Would it be an advantage, at all events, for the gentry immediately outside the town, that the town should be properly sewered?—Yes.

148. And that all the sanitary arrangements should be made better?—Yes, it would.

149. Then would it be right, in your opinion, that they should contribute something towards the sewerage and sanitary arrangements of the town?—I consider that they should.

150. Mr. ROBINSON.—Do you consider that the improvement of the town would be an advantage to the people outside?—I do.

151. Does your proposed boundary, as represented on the map, include any property of the farming class who have not got property in the town?—It does not.

152. CHAIRMAN.—Do you mean that there are no farmers in the district besides those who have residences or property in the town?—No.

153. Mr. ROBINSON.—Within the proposed boundary

I am talking of?—In the proposed boundary there are no farmers' residences that I remember. All the land is held by the people of the town, as far as I know.

154. Is there any reason why this portion of the electoral division of Ballyclug should not be left out; or is there any special reason why that portion should be brought in?—If we are enabled to carry out the sewerage scheme, there is a road down there leading down from the county-road across into where the proposed outfall will be. It would save the ratepayers a very great deal by including this road; and, therefore, on making out the proposed extension, the Town Commissioners took that portion in.

Mr. W. A. YOUNG examined.

159. CHAIRMAN.—Do you see any objection to taking in the electoral division?—I can mention an objection, though you would take in a large number of houses by doing that. You would take in a great deal of property on the north of the town, and leave out a great deal more valuable property on the south that is nearer to the town itself.

160. Do you think that if the town was extended so as to include the electoral division, the people residing in it derive such advantage from their proximity to the town, that, at all events, a fourth of the taxation would not press unduly upon them?—I think not.

161. What would you say to one half?—That would be worse. I think they are entitled to pay a certain proportion.

Mr. SIMPSON cross-examined.

166. Mr. M. Mullen.—You say that in forming the proposed boundary—in laying it down—it was with the view of taking in principally building ground?—That was one of the objects.

167. I suppose that was the primary and leading object?—That, and taking in buildings that have been built and that have been receiving benefits from the town.

168. Is the north side of the Galgorme-road more occupied with buildings, and more likely to be occupied, than the southern side?—At present it is more occupied.

169. In your present extension you have left out the greater portion of the northern side of the Galgorme-road, and the buildings on it. Have you taken as much on the north side as on the southern side of the road?—I think so.

170. Do you think the Leehanmore grounds, on the southern side of the Galgorme-road, are as likely to be building ground as the land on the northern side?—I do, up to that point.

171. And you think that almost the entire of the land of the Leehanmore Bleach Works will be building ground?—I do not, at least immediately. I do not believe they will.

172. I presume, you would say, that the land occupied at present by the Leehanmore Bleach Works on the southern side of the road are more likely to be occupied sooner than the lands further away?—I think so.

173. So then, that primary ground would not apply to the lower portion of the grounds of the Leehanmore Bleach Works?—It would not at present.

174. Have you any other object, in bringing in the lower section of the Leehanmore Works, than the one you have already mentioned?—None, more than taking in the Leehanmore property within the boundary, because they should, in my opinion, pay their fair share of the rates where they receive such benefits from the town.

175. And because they have a high valuation they would contribute a large amount?—In point of fact, in drawing out the boundary we never considered who

155. Then you consider it of importance that this piece should be included?—Yes, I do; that is, if they carry out the sewerage scheme.

156. Where will the sewerage go to?—It is to be drawn away after being purified.

157. Could you not carry out the scheme without that?—It could not be done so cheaply. I believe it would be a great saving of money to get in there and cart it away. It would save making a new road.

158. I see you have taken in one portion of the boundary on the west where there is a railway; what railway is that?—The Cushendall Railway.

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162. Suppose the rate was one-half, and that was divided between the landlord and tenant, the increment would be paid by the landlord and not by the tenant?—(No answer).

163. Is the extension required to increase the funds of the Town Commissioners for the purpose of effecting some improvements that are required in the town?—Yes; and to bring in buildings we have no control over. There are a great many buildings being erected that we have no control over.

164. Suppose offences are committed in the union workhouse, where are they tried?—Before the county magistrates.

165. Where are the nearest petty sessions?—In the town of Ballymena.

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was inside or who outside of it. We were anxious to get a defined boundary.

176. Don't you know that the land used for bleaching purposes is more valuable than land used for building purposes?—If you asked my judgment as representing the Commissioners, I could not answer the question; but if I was asked my own opinion, I would say that building ground would be more valuable. That is my opinion.

177. Would you be surprised to learn that the lands on lease at Leehanmore are bringing in three times as much as building ground in the immediate vicinity?—I don't know indeed. Will that land be bringing a rent as much as the building ground?

178. Yes, let upon leases as long as you like. With regard to the lighting, would you propose to light the Leehanmore property any nearer than the Galgorme-road?—I think not.

179. By an extension of the lighting along the Galgorme-road, would you confer a benefit upon the Leehanmore Works greater than what they now receive?—Yes. People going to the works would have the benefit of the lighting.

180. Don't you know that the lighting goes as far as the railway station, at present, which is quite close to the entrance to the Leehanmore Works?—I don't know how near it is.

181. Probably the Commissioners think they have enjoyed that benefit quite long enough?—Yes; that is what we do think.

182. Would you make them pay for the lighting of part of the Galgorme-road, although it is a considerable distance from their works?—I would not make them pay for it.

183. But if you brought them in you would?—I think if they are brought in they should have to pay their fair portion of the rates the same as the others.

184. The full amount?—Yes; the same as the others, from their situation.

185. You think that if they were brought in they should be rated the same as business houses in the middle of the town?—Yes, such a valuable property as you say it is.

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185. Do you think it confers a greater benefit upon the town than the town upon the bleach-works?—I think the benefit is mutual. I think it is. There is benefit derived from the bleach-works by the town, and benefit by the bleach-works from the town.

186. Could they not exist if there was no town there at all?—They would require some place for their people to live in.

187. Could not they live without the town at all?—I don't know how I could answer that question. They are the better of getting their supplies from Ballymena.

Mr. Alexander Caruth.

Mr. ALEXANDER CARUTH examined.

190. CHAIRMAN.—How long have you been a Town Commissioner?—For nearly twenty years.

191. Was there much addition made at the time of the extension of the original bounds?—Not very much.

192. From your knowledge of the town for the last twenty years, do you think it would be desirable that there should be now an increase of the boundary?—Yes; but to what extent is a question.

193. Are you aware of the value of land in the vicinity of the town?—I should say so, for I am a solicitor practising here for the last twenty-five years.

194. What is the value of land at the northern portion of the electoral division as compared with land of a similar quality three or four miles off?—Do you mean as rent or as purchase.

195. As rent?—Where people living in the town send their cattle to townparks within a radius of a mile of Ballymena, they would let at one-third more rent than land which is three or four miles away.

196. Have you seen the boundary that is proposed by the Town Commissioners, this black line on the map?—I have not examined it, but I know pretty accurately what it is intended to be.

197. Would you say that that would be a fair extension?—I think that in one direction they scarcely go far enough. I would be rather disposed to go a little farther.

198. In which direction?—I think upon the Galgorme-road; in that direction the line that they have taken may be an accurate one, but I would have gone farther.

199. The difficulty we are under is, that except there is some overwhelming reason we ought not to propose an extension in that direction beyond the present electoral division. What is your opinion of the proposal to make land pay half the town rates, and to divide that half between the landlord and tenant, that is on the principle that they both derive exceptional benefit from having the land used as a market garden, and townparks, so near the town, and that the landlord who gets a high rent should contribute something towards the keeping up of the town which enables the tenant to pay that rent, and that the tenant should pay half also, because he has the market at his door, and has a greater profit than he would have elsewhere?—There is not much of that sort of thing here, market gardens, and so on. The outside land is principally townparks. In the direction of the electoral division the land does become valuable as building-ground, undoubtedly.

200. If the landlord gets a third more rent on

Mr. Young.—I wish to say that Leehanmore came within the line of boundary that we marked out, and there are other places nearly as valuable as Leehanmore that come in within that boundary. There is my own house that comes in.

188. Mr. ROBINSON.—Then you propose to tax yourself?—Yes; because it comes fairly within the boundary. I would be very glad to do so.

189. Do you own it in fee or are you subject to rent?—I am the owner in fee. At present I enjoy the benefit of the town and pay very little taxes.

account of the land being townparks, it would appear not unreasonable to say that he should pay one-fourth of the town rate for keeping up the town. Besides that, would you think it desirable to have the place under one undivided management?—I don't like the boundary of the electoral division exactly.

201. If possible we would like to follow the boundary of the electoral division?—If it is to be that way I don't see any great objection to including this portion of the electoral division, because, undoubtedly, the land is valuable for building purposes. At Brooklammont, I built my own house there, and there is more building-ground outside there.

202. Supposing the electoral division boundary is followed up there, would you see any objection to follow the electoral division boundary in the other place?—No, in the view you have put I would see no objection, particularly by carrying out the scheme that the management of the roads should be in the hands of the Town Commissioners, if we could get a separation.

203. Do you think that desirable?—Yes. If the Town Commissioners do not have to light the whole of these roads.

204. No one would dream of saying that they should light the whole of the roads out to the end of the electoral division, because it would not pay them?—Yes.

205. They are lit up to a certain distance, and when they get out into the country roads they would not require lights?—Yes.

206. Would you consider it desirable to have the electoral division included in order to have one scheme for the sewerage of the town and district?—If that boundary is found most suitable of course it would be most desirable to have it, and in the carrying out of any sewerage scheme wherever the works connected with the sewerage are they should be within the municipal boundary, because it would afford facilities for taking the land which they cannot take outside the boundary without going to extra expense, and, therefore, to have all the land they would require for such a purpose inside the boundary would be a saving of expense.

207. If the electoral division boundary was adopted there would be no practical difficulty in the way, the only question might be the making a road which would cost a little more if it was made within the electoral division instead of outside it?

Mr. Young.—That would be a considerable cost. There is a difference of opinion as to where the out-fall should be. We want it here (pointing to map), the Local Government Board want it here at Spencers-town.

Mr. Mathews.

Mr. MATHEWS re-examined.

208. CHAIRMAN.—What is the quantity of land in the portion of Ballyclug that you propose to take in—

what townland is it in?—Ballee, and the extent is 755 acres.

Mr. Samuel M'Kay.

Mr. SAMUEL M'KAY examined.

209. Are you in favour of the proposed extension?—I am. There are a great many houses just adjoining the present boundary which they are leaving out. They are only a few perches from the present

boundary, and they derive all the benefit of the town, of the lighting, and cleansing of it, and they have the post office, and transact their business in the town the same as we do who live in it.

210. In the proposed extension by the Town Commissioners would those houses be included?—They would not, but by taking in the electoral division they would.

211. Are you in favour of taking in the electoral division?—I am; for instance, on the Ballymena line seven years ago there was ground let at the rate of 2½d., and at present that ground is letting at 2s. a foot as building ground.

212. Would that ground be taken in?—Yes; and the houses built upon it, and a small portion of the railway would be, but not far enough.

213. Do you think it would be fair to bring in the whole of the electoral division?—I do.

214. Would the town farms and arable land which are benefited by the town be taken in?—Yes; I have one myself of 11 or 12 acres.

215. Would you object to be taken in, and pay your portion?—I would not.

216. Is the land more valuable on account of its proximity to the town?—Yes; it realizes £3 an acre as townparks.

Mr. JOSEPH GILMORE examined.

219. You are one of the partners in this concern of the Leehanmore Works?—Yes.

220. How many hands have you at work there?—About seventy.

221. Do they live in the town, or elsewhere?—They live in various places—some in the town, some at Harryville, some at Harkill, and some at other places.

222. Is not Harryville in the boundary?—Yes, it is part of Ballymena.

223. Do you object to being brought within the town boundary?—I object, if it is going to be made so small as what is talked of at present.

224. Would you object if the whole electoral division is taken in?—I would not.

225. Do you think an extension of the town is desirable?—I cannot say. It is not at all desirable to us. We can do very well without it. We derive no benefit whatever.

226. CHAIRMAN.—From being close to the town?—Not the slightest. We have our railway to bring in the stuff to us, and to take it away again.

227. Don't your work-people use the town largely?—Yes, but I think our wages are spent in the town.

228. To get to the railway station must you not use a portion of the town?—No, sir.

229. You must, because the railway station itself is some little distance from the town?—We go by the Galgorme-road to go to the station—up the avenue.

230. If you had not the town of Ballymena you would not probably have a station there at all, or the railway there, if you push the matter a bit further?—I think there is something in that.

231. Would you be satisfied if the whole of the electoral division is brought in?—Yes. There are a few who should be brought in. I have not a list of them. Mr. Montgomery should be brought in.

232. Mr. Montgomery is in another electoral division which we cannot touch?—I hear that Mr. Caruth and Messrs. Casement are also in the other electoral divisions.

233. Would you think it fair to the people of Ballymena that the town should be extended so as to comprise the entire of the electoral division?—I don't know about the fairness of it; they want it because it will make their rates cheaper.

234. Suppose there is this differential rate on arable land, that is one-half, and that that half is divided between the landlord and tenant?—I think that would be fair.

235. Would you consider it of advantage to your place if the sanitary condition of Ballymena was improved, and proper sewerage made?—It would.

236. Would it, in your opinion, be much better to

217. At all events is it more valuable than if it was two or three miles off?—Lord Waveney is letting such land at the present moment at £2 15s. an acre, as far as I can learn, and he would not get that if the land was farther off. I think he is only getting about 10s. an acre about three miles off. There is another point—though, perhaps, it is not within the scope of your inquiry to consider—and that is with regard to the county cess here. If a house is vacant we are bound to pay county cess for it. I think while it is not productive we have a right to get it off.

218. Would you be in favour of taking over from the county the management of the roads?—I certainly would. As we are now situated the Commissioners expend portion of the rate in cleansing the streets, whereas the Act of 1854 states that nothing shall be taken off the county in that way unless by agreement. Therefore we pay a local rate for cleansing the streets, and we pay county cess also. I think the roads adjoining the town are kept in better order and cleaner than some of our streets are. I do not think we should pay for the one work twice.

have it all under one management—that of the Urban Sanitary Authority, and that they should have the management of the roads of the entire district, and the management of the town?—I think so.

237. Mr. M'Mullen.—To the present proposed extension would you offer any objection?—Yes, we do not like it.

238. On what grounds? Do you consider that it would confer any benefit upon you for the money they would receive annually out of you in rates?—I do not know of any.

239. I believe the lighting would not be brought nearer than at present?—No, it would not be of any use to us.

240. What benefit will it confer on the Leehanmore Works unless they take away the sewerage which at present flows into the works?—That would save us a great deal of loss. They dirty our water sometimes, and it is sometimes in a filthy state, and we have to re-wash the cloth again.

241. I understand it is the intention of the Commissioners no longer to allow it to deposit at your head-race?—I think that is only theory.

242. I understand that the plans are actually before the Local Government Board, and all they want is that they shall carry away the outfall further?—And that is all we want too.

243. Would not that confer great benefit?—Yes, taking the sewage out of our race.

244. In connexion with the proposed scheme suppose they stopped at where they did, do they then take away the sewage from your head-race?—But if they create a nuisance into the bargain, what will be done then.

245. They cannot do that, because if they attempt to create a nuisance you have the means of preventing them.

Mr. Young.—If we throw the sewage into the tail-race it will do no harm.

246. CHAIRMAN.—In reference to the present sewerage scheme, Mr. Gilmore, do you object merely to the outlet of it?—Yes.

247. You admit it would be a benefit if it did not pollute your water?—Yes.

248. If a proper sewerage scheme were carried out would it be a great benefit to you?—We would want tanks through the town.

249. If any extension is desirable, is it your opinion as a fair man—you say others should be brought in as well—that there should be an extension to bring in the whole of the electoral division?—Certainly, and we will come in and be satisfied.

The inquiry then closed.

BALLYMENA.

Sept. 23, 1879.

Mr. Samuel M'Kay.

Mr. Joseph Gilmore.

BALLINA.—SEPTEMBER 4TH, 1879.

[Before Mr. COTTON and Mr. ROBINSON.]

Mr. JOHN CAROLAN examined.

Mr. John
Carolán.

1. Mr. COTTON.—You are Town Clerk of Ballina?—Yes.

2. How long have you held that post?—For over twenty years.

3. Under what Act is the town governed?—The Towns Improvement Act was adopted 10th December, 1855.

4. Was it previously under any Act?—No.

5. What is the population of the town?—5,551 in 1871.

6. Do you know whether it is increasing since that?—I believe it is.

7. That includes both sides of the river?—Yes. I took the number from some document the constabulary had at the time.

8. Mr. ROBINSON.—Was the Act adopted for all purposes?—Yes.

9. Mr. COTTON.—Has the population increased since 1871?—I think it has considerably.

10. You don't know as a matter of fact, whether it is over 6,000?—Except to offer an opinion, I believe it is.

11. Do you think the census of 1881 will show a population of 6,000?—I think it will.

12. Is building going on to any extent in the town?—To some extent, not very much.

13. What is the area of the town at present?—1,058 acres 16 perches.

14. And the valuation?—£8,295 7s. in 1878.

15. Has the valuation been increasing of late years?—Yes.

16. On how much is the full rate struck, and how much one-fourth?—Full rate is struck on £7,005, and one-fourth on the lands.

17. There are two wards in the town?—Yes.

18. That is the two sides of the river?—Yes.

19. Do you know the separate area of each?—I do. The Ballina ward has an area of 656 acres 1 rood, and Ardnaree ward 401 acres 8 roods 16 perches. The valuation of Ballina ward is £5,845, and of Ardnaree, £1,388. The fishery is valued at £980. There are two electoral divisions in the town.

20. They are also separated by the river?—Yes.

21. Can you give me the rates struck since 1874?—Yes. In 1874 municipal rate was 1s. 4d. and 4d.

22. What was the 4d. for?—For water; that was before the transfer of sanitary jurisdiction to the Guardians.

23. In 1875 what was the rate?—1s.

24. In 1876?—1s.

25. In 1877?—1s.

26. In 1878?—1s.

27. Have you struck a rate for 1879?—Yes, 1s. also.

28. What was the poor-rate in the Ballina ward in 1874 and succeeding years?—In 1874 it was 1s. 10d.

29. In 1875?—1s. 11d.

30. In 1876?—1s. 9d.

31. In 1877?—1s. 5d.

32. In 1878?—1s. 9d.

33. What is it this year?—I do not know, the rate has not been struck yet.

34. Give me the poor-rate in Ardnaree ward for the same years?—In 1874 it was 1s. 10d.; in 1875, 1s. 10d.; in 1876, 2s.; in 1877, 1s. 6d.; and in 1878, 1s. 9d.

35. Does that 1s. 9d. include any sanitary rate?—The Clerk of the Union can tell.

36. What was the county cess in Mayo for 1874 and following years?—In 1874 it was 2s. 1½d.; in 1875 it was 2s. 0½d.; in 1876, 2s. 2½d.; in 1877, 1s. 11½d.; and in 1878, 1s. 10½d.

37. What was the county cess in Sligo for the same

years?—In 1874 it was 2s. 1½d.; in 1875 it was 2s. 1½d.; in 1876, 1s. 11d.; in 1877, 1s. 10½d.; in 1878, 1s. 10d.

38. How many Commissioners are there?—Fourteen.

39. How many municipal voters are there in Ballina ward?—195.

40. And in Ardnaree ward?—Forty-one.

41. Do you know of that number how many are qualified to be Commissioners, if elected?—Seventy in Ballina, and eight in Ardnaree.

42. How is the town lighted?—With gas.

43. Under contract with the gas company?—Yes.

44. For how many lamps?—Fifty-six.

45. At what rate?—Last year's contract was £106 in the lump for lighting and extinguishing. This year it is £90. The contractor also undertook to leave six of the lamps lighted during the entire night, from the railway down to the bridge.

46. And the other lamps are lighted until when?—They are put out at twelve. They are lit from an hour after sunset until twelve, from September until April.

47. No exemptions for moonlight?—Yes; three days before and three after full moon. We had a new project for lighting the town by rock oil, but it was considered too late in the season.

48. You have no project before the Commissioners to acquire the gas works?—Yes, we were the promoters of a Bill in 1874 for that purpose. The boundary proposed would increase the valuation by £4,318 and the area by 7,000 acres.

49. At present you have no project in hands as to the gas works?—No.

50. How is the town supplied with water?—Very badly from wells.

51. Is there any project on foot for a water scheme?—The guardians tried something in that way in 1875; I think it was a pumping scheme.

52. However, it is not under the control of the Commissioners at present?—No.

53. How is the town drained?—Pretty well, indeed. The guardians expended some money on it latterly; something like £1,000.

54. Mr. *McAndrew*.—How many years had the Town Commissioners charge of the town before the sanitary authority?—From 1855 to 1874.

55. Did the Commissioners during that time divide the town into sewage districts?—No.

56. Did they ever lay out a farthing on the sewage of the town?—No, but I will give you a reason. The reason is, that in consequence of the town having to pay county cess the Commissioners thought it would be a hardship to divide the town into districts, and impose additional taxation, but we made application to the presentment sessions for years.

57. Mr. COTTON.—Have the Commissioners had before them our queries?—Yes.

58. Did they come to any resolution whether extension or alteration of any kind was desirable?—They did not come to any formal resolution, but the majority of the Commissioners decided not to extend the boundary.

59. Is that resolution on the books?—Yes.

60. What is the date of it?—19th February, 1879.

61. How many Commissioners attended on that occasion?—Six.

62. What is the quorum?—Five. It was before them at two meetings before that.

63. But that was the one at which the Commissioners adopted the resolution?—The Commissioners decided not to suggest any changes in the town boundaries at present.

64. Was that carried to a division?—It was.
 65. How many voted for it, and how many against it?—Four for and two against it.
 66. Do you know whether that resolution represented the views of more than four of the Commissioners?—I don't know.
 67. Was the question whether any re-arrangement of wards was necessary before the Commissioners?—No.
 68. Have the Commissioners ever applied to become the urban authority?—Yes.
 69. When?—Last November.
 70. What was the result of the application?—The result was, it was opposed at the time, and the Local Government Board said they would not proceed with the provisional order.

71. They refused to issue the provisional order?—Yes; on account of the opposition of course.
 72. Why did they wish to be the urban authority—was it because they were dissatisfied with the way the sanitary work was carried out?—No.
 73. Are they satisfied with the way the guardians carry out the work?—I would rather leave that to the gentlemen themselves.
 74. I take it, you sought to be the urban authority for the purpose of acquiring control of the roads?—Quite so.
 75. And the provisional order was not granted?—No.
 76. There has been no alteration as to the boundaries since 1855?—No.

BALLINA.
 Sept. 4, 1879.
 Mr. John
 Carolan.

Mr. BERNARD EGAN examined.

Mr. Bernard
 Egan.

77. You are a Town Commissioner?—Yes.
 78. How long have you been a Town Commissioner?—About six or seven years.
 79. Were you one of the Commissioners attending this meeting?—Yes.
 80. At which it was decided not to extend the boundaries?—Yes.
 81. Do you know the feeling of the Commissioners who were not present?—Well, I do not.
 82. Were you for or against extension?—I was against it.
 83. On what ground?—On financial grounds. I don't remember the grounds on which I opposed extension.
 84. What extension was proposed?—A two-mile radius.
 85. You were against that extension on what ground?—On the ground first that that would court opposition.
 86. Do you think the two-mile extension would be desirable, putting opposition out of the question altogether?—I do not think it would.
 87. Why?—From a financial point of view, in my opinion, it would not be a benefit to the town.
 88. How so?—The expenditure would not be in proportion to the rates.
 89. What would be the expenditure?—I forget the figures, but I went into it at the time.
 90. Did you consider it simply a question of bringing a two-mile radius under the control of the Commissioners, as they are, or with the future possibility of their being the road authority?—With the possibility of their being the road authority. We thought that by-and-by the county cess would be transferred to the Commissioners, and the control of a great many of the roads converging on the town, and we thought the income accruing from extension would be not equal to the expenditure, if we had got these roads. We believe we would be in a better position by leaving the boundary as it is.
 91. Did you consider the question of contracting the present boundary?—Certainly not; we were rather

- in favour of some slight modification in the present boundary—there might be some little extension.
 92. Does any extension occur to you as being desirable?—I would be in favour of the mile and a half radius.
 93. On what ground?—I cannot very well define it, but, if I had the figures before me on which I founded my opinion before, I could define it. It struck me this mile and a half would be more beneficial to the Commissioners than the two-mile extension—that two miles would be rather too far.
 94. Did you consider it at all from the point of view that the people to be brought in should be contributory to the town?—We thought that to have a two-mile extension would be too great, but that those living within a mile and a half do benefit very much from any improvement we have in Ballina, from lights, markets, and schools; but we thought it would not be fair to extend the boundary to two miles.
 95. You think that two miles away the people don't derive sufficient benefit?—No.
 96. But you do consider that the people within a mile and a half are so interested?—Yes, an English statute mile and a half.
 97. That is your private opinion?—Yes.
 98. But the only question before the Commissioners that day was the hard and fast line of two miles extension?—Yes.
 99. You did not consider the question of an intermediate extension between two miles and the present boundary?—No; it was the hard and fast line between two miles and the present boundary.
 100. I am taking it as your own opinion?—Yes; that a mile and a half would be very fair.
 101. That you think those living within that mile and a half have considerable benefit from their proximity to the town?—They frequent the town more than those living at a greater distance.
 102. Have you considered how many people would be taken in by that boundary of a mile and a half?—No.
 103. Nor the valuation of it?—No.

Mr. CAROLAN recalled.

Mr. Carolan.

104. What is the present radius—from the centre to the north?—Three-quarters of an English mile.
 105. And to the west?—An English mile exactly at one point.
 106. And to the south?—About seven-eighths of a mile.
 107. And to the east?—The same.
 108. Then in fact it is roughly a circle of seven-eighths of a mile?—Yes.
 109. What do you consider the central point of the town?—I took the cross.
 110. That is the cross at Knock-street, and Bridge-street?—Yes.
 111. How many electoral divisions would the two miles radius go into?—Into two and the angle of a third.
 112. How many beyond Ballina and Ardnaree?—Into two; Ardnaree north and Ardnaree south.
 113. What others?—None others.
 114. I thought it went into four?—Yes, it goes into Carramore.
 115. Then it would go into Ballina; Ardnaree north, Ardnaree south and Carramore?—Yes.
 116. What is the valuation of the part beyond the present boundary within that radius?—£4,318 10s. That was obtained in 1870 when extension was first spoken of.

BALLINA.
Sept. 4, 1879.
Mr. Carolan.

117. The line between the two boundaries has that valuation?—Yes.

118. Mr. ROBINSON.—I suppose if you were to adopt that two miles radius it would bring the population over 6,000?—Oh yes, considerably, and the number of rates brought in would be about the same as that in the town.

119. Mr. COTTON.—Do the guardians perform their sanitary duties to the satisfaction of the townspeople?—I believe they do. They are doing nothing at present, but they have done a great deal for the town and have done it satisfactorily.

120. And as far as the sanitary matters are concerned you would not care to become the sanitary authority yourselves?—Not particularly; the Commissioners could do the duty no better as far as they have gone. I happened to be a Poor Law Guardian myself at the time the arrangement was come to as to sanitary matters; the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of this Board are members of the Poor Law Board. Some people expressed themselves in favour of having the sanitary authority vested in the Commissioners.

121. I want to get your own opinion?—Well so far as the sanitary laws are concerned they could not be better executed by the Commissioners than they have been and are being executed by the Poor Law Board as far as they have gone.

122. Do you know what sanitary rates have been struck of late years?—I do not. Of course there is this in it; the townspeople complain of having so many cesses to pay, and the Poor Law Board have their sanitary officers, and the Town Commissioners have their sanitary officers, and they are all paid out of the rates, and the people have to pay for them all. Sometimes they clash rather than otherwise and they don't pull well together.

123. What sanitary officers?—The town inspector to look after scavenging, and the Poor Law Board have a similar officer.

124. They don't look after the scavenging?—No, we have the supervision of the work.

125. Are the streets cleaned by the Commissioners or the road contractors?—By the Commissioners.

126. Mr. ROBINSON.—Are there any improvements required in the town which the Commissioners would carry out if they had an increased income?—Yes.

Mr. Carolan.

134. What is the amount of the county cess?—£800 a year.

135. How much of that is for county-at-large charges?—Less than a half.

136. And how much of the £400 is expended in the town?—£170 a year is expended, and the remainder goes into the coffers of the Grand Jury. The entire county cess at 2s. amounts to £807 16s. The county-at-large charges, as ascertained in 1873, before Dr. Roughan, amount to £321 (that was the average for five years), and that leaves £486 16s. for the maintenance of the roads and footpaths within the town:

Mr. CAROLAN further examined.

£208 12s. 7d. was spent, and that leaves £278 3s. 5d. to be spent on the town.

137. The inquiry by Dr. Roughan was when you sought the provisional order for separation from the Grand Jury?—Yes.

Sir Charles Knox Gore.—The Mayo Grand Jury rejected it.

Mr. Egan.—The money the people pay in the town is expended in other parts of the county. The town is paying more to the county than they receive to the extent of about £300, and if that was kept in the town it would relieve the townspeople of a considerable amount of taxation.

Mr. Owen
Keeveney.

Mr. OWEN KEEVENEY examined.

138. You are a Commissioner?—Yes.

139. Are you of opinion there should be any alteration in the boundaries?—I think the majority of the Commissioners agreed there should be.

140. What is your own opinion?—I think there should be.

141. To what extent?—A mile and a half or two miles.

142. On what ground do you think extension should be made?—The revenue to be derived would be brought in for the benefit of the town.

143. That would be an advantage to the Commissioners?—Yes.

144. Should the people within two miles fairly be expected to contribute?—I think so; they have the advantage of the town.

145. And you would fix the limit of that extension at two miles?—About a mile and a half.

146. You don't know what additional income the mile and a half would bring in?—No.

147. Mr. ROBINSON.—Would the mile and a half cut into four electoral divisions?

Mr. Carolan.—No; it would all be within Ballina and Ardnaree, South.

Mr. KEEVENEY recalled.

BALLINA.
Sept. 4, 1879.
Mr. Keeverney.

148. You said an increase of a mile and a half would bring in additional money to the Commissioners—what do they require it for?—At present they are in debt, and if they had more money they would be able to make greater improvements in the town.

149. It is not properly cleansed at present?—Yes, but it might be done better if they had more means to clean the lanes and other parts of the town.

Mr. THOMAS C. PERKINS examined.

Mr. T. C.
Perkins.

152. You are a Commissioner?—Yes.

153. Do you agree in the evidence given by the Commissioners?—I never applied myself to the question of the boundaries, but what struck me was we were very badly off for water, and the sanitary condition of the town is not good.

154. Do you think the guardians attend to their duties properly as regards sanitary matters?—I think they do remarkably well, but they have not gone to the extent they should. They have only sewered the streets—the connexions to the houses are made in very few instances.

155. Generally, do you think it would be an advantage that the Commissioners should be the sanitary authority?—I do not think it would, for then the occupiers would have to pay all the rates, and, on the contrary, I think I would let the landlord pay portion of it. I think we want water and connexions with the houses very badly. I do not believe there is a town of the same extent in Ireland so badly off for water. There are two or three wells. There is a hole in a certain part of the town which was exposed to the surface water, but since the guardians became the sanitary authority they have built a little wall about it.

156. What is it?—A well, and it is open at the top, and anyone could dip any vessel into it, no matter how filthy. The whole supply depends on two pumps, and the people in portion of the town must come at least a quarter of a mile for their water. If the guardians would give water, and make connexions from the houses into the main sewers, cleanse the lanes, and send their sanitary officers up Ardarae and get these houses cleansed, it would be well. The lanes are in a most filthy condition. There are no public privies.

157. Sir Charles Knox Gore.—I don't think, as chairman of the Board of Guardians, I can allow this to pass without observation. In a large town like this cleansing is a matter of time. We are doing all the law admits of doing, and doing it in the way government would suggest—by degrees. We must work by degrees.

158. Mr. COTTON.—If the town was larger, and the Commissioners were the urban authority?

Sir C. Knox Gore.—Yes, it would bear very much

150. Mr. ROBINSON.—Would they apply that money to the improvement of the markets?—They would.

151. And are they in a bad state at present?—They are. The fairs are held on the streets. There is no fair green: there is a small patch of a place, and it is not half sufficient for the purpose.

Mr. Carolan.—I find that a mile and a half boundary would cut into three electoral divisions.

on that question, for they would have additional money to carry out these works; but they have no urban authority, and apparently will not for some time. At the time the Commissioners had control, I am not aware that the matter was much better. I have spoken to a great many in the town, and their opinion is that, as things stand, they would incur greater responsibility than the income would meet, and they think it would be better to leave things as they are.

159. Mr. COTTON.—What kind of responsibility?

Sir C. Knox Gore.—For instance, they would have to undertake these roads.

160. Mr. COTTON.—I assume, for the moment, that the Commissioners are to be the urban authority, and not to be the road authority; would there be any object, then, in extending or diminishing the present area?

Sir Charles Knox Gore.—I cannot see any advantage.

161. In the first place, it would bring in some additional money to the Commissioners?—I suppose so.

162. Suppose the boundary was extended to a mile and a half, do you think the people within that area could be fairly asked to contribute to the town?—I think in some respects it would be very unfair.

163. They are too far away?—That they are deriving benefits not at all in comparison with others.

164. That applies to the question whether portions of the present area should not be shut out because they are over a mile from the town?—The intention in enlarging the boundaries from time to time was that, originally, a limit was fixed to a town actually comprising the town; but according as the town improved, as Ballina has, it extended itself in different directions, and then arises the question whether these districts, built upon, may not fairly be included; but to extend it to anything like a mile and a half or two miles, thus running into the open country, is not compatible with common sense. I think you will also agree with me that, by placing one leg of the compass in the centre of the town, and drawing a hard and fast line with the other leg, you will comprise the town.

Mr. THOMAS M'ANDREW examined.

Mr. Thomas
M'Andrew.

165. You are a ratepayer?—Yes.

166. You think the present boundary ought not to be extended?—Certainly.

167. You think it should be curtailed?—I think it is very proper as it is.

168. Do you think an extension of a mile and a half would bring in people who should not be asked to pay?—Yes; and, if a poundage rate be put on, I will probably have to pay 1s. 6d., while the man in the country will only have to pay one-fourth.

169. That is owing to your having house property?—Yes. If you go to clean the streets for a mile and a half into the country, you will have to pay more money.

170. Do I understand that the present Commissioners clean the roads out to the boundaries of the town?—They are bound to do it.

Mr. Egan.—Certainly not; it is the duty of the road contractor.

Mr. M'ANDREW'S examination continued.

171. You think they are bound to clean the roads for a mile out of the town?—I think they are bound by law. They may think that by cleaning the principal street they do enough; but, if they are to cleanse the town, it means the whole area. If it is increased they will have to pay more, and of that sum I will have to pay more than the man in the country.

172. Taking that view of the matter, don't you think the boundary should be curtailed?—I would rather submit to increased taxation than curtail it, for I think the present are the natural boundaries of the town, which should be adhered to.

Sir Charles Knox Gore.—I never heard any question about curtailing the boundaries.

173. Mr. COTTON.—I take it as a matter of fact, the Commissioners do not clean the roads out to the boundary of the municipality?

Mr. Carolan.—No.

The inquiry then terminated.

BANGOR
June 18, 1879.

BANGOR.—JUNE 18TH, 1879.

(Before Mr. C. P. COTTON, C.E.)

MR. FRANCIS POLLOCK examined.

Mr. Francis
Pollock

1. Mr. COTTON.—You are the Town Clerk of Bangor?—Yes.
2. How long have you filled the post?—Since the town has been put under the Act of 1854—in 1864.
3. The town is under the Towns Improvement Act?—Yes.
4. As far as you know, had the town been previously under any other Act?—No, sir.
5. What is the area of the township?—814A. 2R. 17P.
6. And the date when it was put under the Act?—The 21st of December, 1864.
7. What is the population of Bangor?—About 2,600 at present.
8. What was it last census?—In 1871 it was 2,560.
9. And do you mean to say that it has only increased 100 since then?—Yes, sir; it was the police gave us the number as 2,600.
10. Well, in the census of 1871 it was 2,560?—Yes.
11. Has it been increasing since that time?—Yes, I think so.
12. What was the last valuation?—£9,176 8s.
13. There are no wards in the town?—No, sir.
14. In what union is it?—In Newtownards.
15. What electoral division?—In Bangor.
16. Do you know yourself anything about the size of the electoral division of Bangor—how far it extends?—It is in the parish of Bangor.
17. Does the electoral division extend more than two miles all round the town?—Yes, it does.
18. There is a recommendation of the Committee of the House of Commons that electoral divisions should be made the municipal boundaries. Is the electoral division of Bangor too large to be made the municipal boundary?—Yes, quite too large.
19. Will you now give me the rates for the last five years?—In 1874 it was 6d.; in 1875, 6d.; in 1876, 6d.; in 1877, 6d.; in 1878, 6d.; and in 1879, 4d.
20. Have the Commissioners any property?—No, sir.
21. You have got the dog tax, and you have half the fines?—Yes, sir.
22. Have you any other sources of income?—Car licenses.
23. Have you bye-laws?—We have, sir.
24. Regulating the cars?—Yes, sir.
25. What was the poor rate in those same years?—The poor rate in 1874 was 8d.; in 1875, 8d.; in 1876, 10d.; in 1877, 1s.; in 1878, 1s. 2d.; and in 1879 no rate has been struck.
26. You are not the urban sanitary authority?—No.
27. But you have petitioned to be one?—Yes.
28. And the Local Government Board have approved of your application, but it has not yet been confirmed by Parliament, I think?—No.
29. It is in course of confirmation?—Yes.
30. And of the poor rate struck in 1878, was any portion of that a sanitary rate?—In 1878—no, I believe not.
31. Has any sanitary rate been struck since 1874 by the Guardians?—No.
32. What has been the county cess for those years?—In 1874 the county cess—the two rates—amounted to 1s. 7d.; in 1875 it was 1s. 11½d.; in 1876 it was 1s. 9d.; in 1877, 1s. 10d.; in 1878, 1s. 11d.; and in 1879, 1s. 9d.
33. What is the number of your Commissioners?—Nine.
34. What is the number of voters in the municipality?—274 was the number on the last roll.
35. How many are qualified to sit as Commissioners if elected?—Ninety-one.
36. Have the Commissioners considered the question as to the desirability or otherwise of any extension of the municipal boundary?—They have.
37. Was it considered at a regular meeting of the Commissioners?—It was.
38. When was that meeting held?—It was held on the 4th of November, 1878.
39. How many Commissioners were present at that meeting?—Five.
40. Did they come to any resolution on the subject?—They did. I will read the resolution for you:—
“Proposed by Mr. Harvey, seconded by Mr. M’Kenzie—That Mr. Dinnen be consulted respecting the enlargement of the present boundary by adding Ballyholme to it, and that the chairman and Dr. Bell be deputed to wait on Mr. Dinnen concerning same.”
41. Is there any further resolution?—No. There is a resolution here:—
“Proposed by Mr. Bowman, and seconded by Mr. M’Murray—That Mr. Russell, chairman, and Dr. Bell and Mr. Pollock be appointed a committee to answer the queries submitted by the Municipal Boundary Commissioners.”
42. Were the five Commissioners unanimous about that?—Quite so.
43. What was the feeling of the Commissioners about what extension they desired?—They came to an understanding that they would like the boundary extended to the old Corporation, with Ballyholme added to it.
44. What do you mean by the old Corporation?—I have traced this map before you with a blue line. That indicates the boundary of the old Corporation.
45. Then on this map the red line represents the present boundary?—Yes.
46. The blue extension, plus Ballyholme, represents what you would wish to take in?—Yes.
47. And the blue line represents the old Corporation?—Yes.
48. Very well; that shows us what you wish for, at any rate. Have the Commissioners considered what additional area that would give?—No. We have had no means of ascertaining that.
49. Did you not estimate the number of people that would be brought in by this extension?—No.
50. I mean the Commissioners had not that before them?—They had not.
51. Had you not a valuation made of the additional land?—I made inquiries.
52. Can you give me any idea of it?—About £1,300.
53. That will be the additional valuation?—Yes, of Ballyholme, but not of the whole boundary.
54. But of the old Corporation, you have not ascertained that?—We have no means of ascertaining that.
55. Have you any idea how many additional voters it would bring in?—No, I cannot say that.
56. Can you form an opinion?—I cannot.
57. On what ground is the extension of the old Corporation boundary desired, or are you able to speak to that?—No, I am not; perhaps the chairman can.
58. How is the town lighted?—By gas.
59. How many lamps have you?—Fifty lamps.
60. A contract with the Gas Company I suppose?—Yes, sir; by the 1,000 cubic feet.
61. And how much per 1,000?—7s. 6d. was the last contract. With an abatement of £15 off.
62. What is the abatement?—£15 for the man that lights the town.
63. How is the town supplied with water?—By pumps.
64. How many pumps?—Fourteen.
65. You are not in charge of the pumps yet?—No, sir, not yet.
66. Do you know what the inhabitants think about

that—do they think that the supply is good or fair?—Yes; I have had no complaints about it.

67. Either in quantity or quality?—Well there have been some complaints as to the quality. Dr. Bolton, had some samples analysed, and the analyses was very satisfactory.

68. However you will be the Urban Sanitary Authority in a few months?—Yes, we expect so.

69. How is the town drained?—There is no scheme of drainage.

70. Is there any drainage at all in it—any main

drains through the streets?—Yes, through the main street.

71. From the railway down to the sea?—Not yet from the railway; from the head of the main street.

72. The railway drains into the river I suppose?—Yes.

73. Has there been any system of sewerage proposed hitherto?—Yes, there was; by the Board of Guardians.

74. Do you know anything about the estimate of it?—I do not.

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MR. ROBERT RUSSELL examined.

Mr. Robert
Russell

75. Mr. COTTON.—You are the Chairman of the Town Commissioners?—Yes.

76. How long have you occupied the position?—About one year.

77. And you were a Commissioner before that?—I was.

78. Were you a Commissioner at the time the Towns Improvement Act was adopted?—I was not, sir.

79. The Commissioners have come to the conclusion that they would wish for an extension—I may say two extensions, because they are two different things, so we will say the old Corporation extension first—Have they any idea of the area that would be added by it?—We have not been able to arrive at that.

80. What was the object to be gained by that addition?—There has been trouble with regard to the taxation from time to time.

81. In what way?—Some of the townlands run into the old Corporation. In allotting them the taxes it did not work satisfactorily.

82. In what way?—For instance, portions of some townlands run into a street, and it appeared that in assessing the rate, the whole townland had to be embraced in that.

83. In assessing the municipal rate?—Not the municipal, but the poor-rate.

84. I do not clearly understand you; just explain?—I never knew of any difficulty with regard to the assessing of the town rate; there was no difficulty with regard to that; but there was great difficulty for instance with the poor-rate, and matters of drainage, and with regard to the pumps. There is part of a townland comes in here to Church-street—part of the townland of Ballyvarnon.

85. That is on the south-east side of Church-street?—Yes, well under the Act that was brought before the Commissioners, and also under the notice of the Poor Law Guardians, and it appeared that the whole townland of Ballyvarnon had to be assessed at the same rate as this street.

86. There has been a difficulty with the Poor Law Guardians to know how the sanitary rate would be struck, and as to what the contributory district for the sanitary rate should be, and how is that obviated by adopting the whole of the Corporation boundary?—Because if we had the whole of it in—

87. No, if this blue line represents the Corporation boundary you don't take in the whole of that townland at all?—No, but we take in that street.

88. Is there any other reason that presents itself to you that you would wish for this large increase, because it is a large increase?—There is a good part of the ground that will probably let for building ground; and there has been from time to time, sewerage schemes before the town, and it would be necessary that the Town Commissioners should have control, as we would get our water from some of those sites here (pointing to map) to flush our sewers, and not only that, but we would like to embrace new buildings, and to place them under the influence of a sewerage scheme when we follow it out.

89. On what roads are new buildings likely to be

built?—There is this road leading to Dundonald running along the railway.

90. Are there any buildings going on there?—No, but some are contemplated. They have not been commenced yet, because these are bad times.

91. Are there any buildings likely to be erected within your present boundary?—Yes.

92. But there are none at present going on in that direction?—None at present. That (pointing to the map) is the road leading up to the Clondeboye Demesne.

93. Do you know Fort Hill and Church-street—Are there any buildings likely to go on in Church-street?—That is not a progressive place.

94. On the Crawford's-Burn road—are there any buildings up there?—No, sir.

95. Then there is another one running out here by the church to Newtownards. Is there any building going on along there?—Not just at present; but the sites are splendid along there, and there is no doubt there will be building there sometime.

96. Have you any reason for bringing in these Corporation lands as we may call them—meaning the old Corporation boundary, except the probability of building out beyond your present limits?—Yes, and to embrace it in our sewerage scheme.

97. That is for the sake of getting additional opportunities for a sewerage scheme?—No; for this purpose—suppose we were obliged to go in for an extension at a future time we would have the control of the sewerage—a great number of people instead of having a regular system of sewerage make cesspools, and they become a nuisance, and if they are outside our boundary we have no control over them.

98. But the Guardians should see after them?—But if we are the sanitary authority the Town Commissioners could look after them.

99. It will be in your jurisdiction?—I mean in this proposed extension.

100. That seems to me a very slight reason for going in for an extension of something like 800 acres—between 600 and 800 acres?—There is another thing—it has been found to be a great hardship in the case of the Bangor demesne—we only embrace about one-half of it.

101. What hardship is there in that?—We think we should derive rates from the whole of it.

102. Then it comes to rates in the long run?—Yes, of course; but there could not be much rating on the land as we only charge one-fourth on the land.

103. But then it is a very large area?—Yes.

104. You don't know the valuation, but I suppose it would be something like 30s. an acre on the land?—Scarcely that—towards the town £2 10s., in the country 25s. to £1.

105. Take the Ballyholme direction—what is the reason this extension brings in so much in that direction?—The principal desire is to get as nearly as possible all the land that is built on. It is valuable property there, and nearly the whole of it is built on.

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106. There is a good deal of room yet?—The bulk is built on, and there is building there every year. At present there are buildings going on there, and we find that in that place they have no system of sewerage whatever, and the parties building houses are using tanks for holding nuisance.

107. Cesspools?—Yes, and sometimes these things are not attended to, and complaints have been made.

108. The Guardians are perfectly competent to deal with that?—Yes.

109. And to deal with it now?—Yes, of course they are.

110. So that that is hardly a reason for taking them in. Is there any other reason why they should contribute to the town?—I might say in addition to that reason that we would like to embrace them in our sewerage scheme because we will complete one if we can get it.

111. But it strikes me—I don't know whether you have considered it properly—it strikes me there would be some difficulty in bringing all that into one drainage scheme. I don't see how it could be done at first sight?—We have not consulted our engineer with reference to this question. It has only suggested itself to us.

112. Is there any other reason?—Another reason is that these houses are occupied by people coming to and from Belfast, and they are fast becoming permanent residences, and they are a very short distance from the railway, and they have no light along there, and, as we purpose to buy the gas works, we would light that place with lamps all the way, and light the houses with gas.

113. You propose to extend the lighting all through Ballyholme?—Yes; all through Ballyholme.

114. Have the people living in Ballyholme the advantage of the town of Bangor as a market?—Yes; and they are obliged to pass through it to the train and boat from here to Belfast.

115. Do they market in Bangor or do they get their things from Belfast?—They do a great deal in Bangor.

116. What is the number of houses in Ballyholme?—There are upwards of fifty.

117. And the buildings are going on at present?—Yes, buildings are going on at present, and high-class buildings. There is another reason why we would like to embrace Ballyholme. In the matter of bathing great complaints have been made from time to time as regards these Ballyholme people. People come into Bangor and make complaints of parties bathing along the strand without any regard to decency. There is no provision for a gentlemen's bathing place, and those who cannot swim take the shallow water where the ladies bathe.

118. Would that come within your bye-laws?—Yes; we have bye-laws under which we would confine ladies and gentlemen to two different places when bathing, and make the gentlemen wear bathing dresses.

119. Have you any idea how many people would be brought in by the extension as voters and rate-payers?—We have not gone into that.

120. In Ballyholme how many additional voters would be brought in by the addition of that district?—They would be every one voters, because all the houses are above the valuation.

121. Are they all in such occupations as would give votes. If they are only taken for a few months in the year there might be only one vote out of a whole terrace—if it is owned by one man, and he only rated for it?—I know the district well. There would be about thirty voters out of fifty houses.

122. Thirty occupiers who are on the rate books?—Yes.

123. How many of these would be qualified to act as Commissioners if elected?—All those thirty, because all the houses are above the valuation of £12.

124. Have you considered the question—supposing such a suburb as Ballyholme was added to Bangor—of whether there should be any division of the township into wards?—Well, that has never been entertained. I brought it before the Commissioners as I thought it a wise thing to do, but they did not seem to take that view.

125. Have you any view yourself on the subject?—I think it would be better to do so, because if the town was divided into wards it would make the Commissioner, who represented a particular ward, examine more closely into the carrying out of the business.

126. Supposing there was a division into wards what would you suggest?—I have not gone into that.

127. Ballyholme is increasing every year?—Yes; increasing every year in the number of buildings.

128. Have you any idea of how many of the fifty houses were built last year?—Four houses.

129. I see there has been a good deal of expense on the new road at Ballyholme. Who is doing that?—The county. However, Mr. Lyle, the owner of the property at Ballyholme, has done a great deal too.

130. Is there much building going on on the other side of Bangor?—Within the township?

131. Yes?—There are a great number of houses being built.

132. But not outside the town?—No, sir.

133. The Town Clerk gave me an estimate of the valuation that would be added by the Ballyholme extension as about £1,300, is that correct?—That is quite correct; it is taken from the county cess collector.

134. And every house built would add to that?—It would, sir.

135. Do you know what the ratepayers think of the proposed extension—what opinion they have formed concerning it?—No; except beyond that it is their opinion that they were in favour of having this extension. We consider Ballyholme as a portion of Bangor.

136. Have you heard any opinion expressed by the Ballyholme people?—I have, sir, and some of them are opposed—

137. They are aware of the fact that you are intending to take them in?—They thought this inquiry would take place before the guardians. On one occasion when I was before them I saw three gentlemen present as a deputation to oppose it.

138. Do you know the feeling of the people in the Corporation extension?—No, sir.

139. How do you happen to know that it is the old Corporation boundary?—The clerk has taken it from the map.

140. Have you got the map?—Yes.

[Map produced.]

141. When was this map prepared?—This was prepared at the time the town was put under the Act of 1854.

142. Was Bangor an old Corporation?—Yes, sir; very old.

143. When did it cease to be a Corporation?—Indeed I could not tell you, not in my time. I could not speak safely as to that.

144. Because there were a great number ceased to be Corporations in 1837?—Yes. We had a Seneschal Court here at one time.

145. Is there anything else you would wish to add to your evidence?—No.

Dr. HENRY BELL examined.

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Bell.

146. You have heard what the Chairman has said?—Yes.

147. Do you agree with the way in which he has expressed the opinion of the Commissioners?—Yes.

148. Do you think it represents the feeling of the rest of the Commissioners?—Yes.

149. With reference to your opinion, Dr. Bell, as to the extension that has been proposed—there are two—one extension, I may say, inland, and the other the Ballyholme extension?—Well, as far as the inland extension is concerned, I must confess I don't know anything of it. I don't see any particular reason for that, except for what the Chairman has stated, that is, that we might require to draw water from some of those districts, and it might be perhaps better to have the control of the district; but as far as the extension to the old boundary is concerned, I do not see any reason why that should be done.

150. Apart from the possibility of having to go to some portion of that district for water, and for having drainage control over it, you don't see any other reason?—I do not.

151. And as regards the Ballyholme extension?—I consider that that would be both for the benefit of Ballyholme and Bangor.

152. How for the benefit of Ballyholme?—Well, it would be under proper control.

153. Under your by-laws?—Yes; under our by-laws.

154. And do you propose to extend the gas?—We propose to light it, and we propose to embrace it under the sewerage scheme that we propose for Bangor.

155. The drainage scheme?—Yes; but should we not do so, because I do not consider perhaps that the two are likely to work together—

156. Would you form a separate system for Ballyholme?—Yes.

157. And you would undertake the drainage?—Most decidedly, and I look upon it as a most important matter, because Ballyholme being at the present time a sandy soil that is likely to contaminate the water, it would not be long before it would be contaminated.

158. How are the Ballyholme houses supplied with water?—By pumps. At the present time there is no system of sewerage, and, therefore in the end the water taken from them would be contaminated.

159. Generally speaking, you would look after the drainage of Ballyholme, and so benefit the inhabitants there?—Yes.

160. In what way would the taking in of Ballyholme be of advantage to the town of Bangor?—I did not say it would be of any advantage.

161. I thought you said there would be a reciprocal advantage?—It would be an advantage in the shape of the rates of the property it would embrace.

162. Have you gone into any calculation as to whether the rates you would receive would do more than supply the cost of gas and drainage?—I have not, but I think it would be of advantage to the people down in Ballyholme to have gas.

163. And that your by-laws should apply there?—Yes. At the present time we light to within, I suppose, 400 yards of Ballyholme.

164. You do not light beyond your own boundary?—No; but we light to within 400 yards of Ballyholme.

165. Do you light up to your own boundary at Ballyholme?—We do.

166. Along the present road to Ballyholme how far do the town lights go?—Merely to the end of the town; merely to the end of the street.

167. Why you would, in fact, have to light nearly a mile and a half of additional road?—No sir; not a mile and a half; it would not embrace that. The whole distance would not cover more than three quarters of a mile at the furthest.

168. To the end of Ballyholme from the end of the street?—No, sir; not more than that at the very out-

side. I think half a mile would embrace the whole of Ballyholme.

169. It would be fully a mile more to the end of Ballyholme?—Yes.

170. And the proposition is—the intention is to light it and drain it in exchange for the rates?—Yes; that is one of the principal reasons in asking for Ballyholme to be included.

171. Of course in the case of the Ballyholme people their access to the rail and steamer is through the town of Bangor?—Yes, sir; and it is very dangerous on dark nights driving from the train to Ballyholme. Some of the Ballyholme people would be delighted that we should have the control of their district.

172. When you talk of the Ballyholme people, Dr. Bell, do you mean the present occupants or the owners of property there?—Merely the present occupants.

173. They would not be the ratepayers?—No, sir; but we have to study their comforts. The actual revenue of the owners is drawn from those people, and in the first place to satisfy the people that they draw the actual revenue from, and I think it necessary that they should be satisfied.

174. Put it in this way: do you think that Ballyholme will, when lit and drained by you—that that would add to the rents of the houses?—How do you mean?

175. The rents of the houses. That people would be willing to pay higher rents for a season?—I don't know that it would. I would not say that.

176. How is the drainage of Bangor itself?—Well it is not in a condition that I consider satisfactory.

177. How is it drained?—We have one main drain running from, you may say, the market house to the bridge at the foot of Main-street, and we have another drain—

178. The main drain running down Main-street, and are the houses connected with that main drain?—Only some. There is a different outlet for the sewage as well as that main drain.

179. What is the other outlet?—The outlet is something similar to, but has no connexion with, that main drain.

180. Whereabouts is it?—It runs at the rear of the houses in Main-street.

181. Does that go along the new road opened up near the railway?—No, it is in a different direction.

182. There is one at the bottom of the valley?—There is a good system of sewerage along there.

183. There is an open drain?—No, it is not open now. It is covered by a culvert.

184. That takes the drainage of the houses about it?—That takes the drainage of that district.

185. Then how are the houses drained that are up at the west side of the bay—up on the hill?—They have no main drainage.

186. At all. Those are new houses?—No main drains. They have cesspools, and the cesspools are connected, and, with the surface water, the sewage passes into the sea.

187. The surface water goes to sea and the sewage of the houses into the cesspools?—Into the cesspools. They are merely receptacles for solid matter.

188. You don't consider that a good state of things?—Well, I don't consider it the best. It is fair generally.

189. Is it one you would alter under a drainage scheme?—Decidedly. I would allow no surface water to pass into the bay.

190. And Ballymagee-street, Fisher's-hill, and Quay-street, how are they drained?—Ballymagee-street is only semi-drained.

191. What do you mean by that?—A drain running half-way up, and merely attached to one side of the street.

192. Are the houses connected with it, or is it merely a road drain?—I don't think there are more than six houses in the street attached to it.

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Bell.

193. The houses in the other part of that street, how are they?—The other part of the houses have dry water-closets.

194. Privies; and the stuff, is it removed to the land?—Yes.

195. Now about the water supply, what do you think of that? Do you think fourteen pumps sufficient?—Anything but sufficient.

196. Has there ever been any scheme for a high pressure water supply to the town from any distance?—No; there has been talk about it, but nothing more than talk.

197. Do you consider the town fairly lit now?—Well, yes; I consider the town fairly lit.

198. Were you a Commissioner at the time of the adoption of the Act?—No, sir. I don't know whether I mentioned about Ballyholme being under any control or not. That is one of my reasons. For instance the bathers—

199. I asked you whether the application of your by-laws was one of the things that Ballyholme should be included for?—Yes.

200. With regard to the bathers; and is there anything else that the by-laws would specially apply to?—They would apply to cars and car-drivers.

201. You would have control over the cars plying from the railway station to Ballyholme?—Yes. At present when they go beyond your boundary you have no control over them.

Mr. James
Pollock.

Mr. JAMES POLLOCK examined.

202. You have heard what the Chairman and Dr. Bell have stated?—Yes.

203. Do you coincide with them?—I do, in regard to Ballyholme, but I do not go in for taking much of Ballyvarnet.

204. It adds in a good deal of the Corporation area, but the proposition before me here does not take in any more of Ballyvarnet than is at present in the town?—There is a little, some twelve acres. I have seen a difficulty arising at the Newtownards Board of Guardians about that very piece of land.

205. About that twelve acres?—Yes; the Guardians had no power to assess anything but the whole area of the townland of Ballyvarnet, and I saw there was a difficulty arose at different times. I think there is now a law empowering to assess part of a townland. There are many matters connected with this town

lying over for this purpose, and the Guardians don't want to do anything with the sanitary state of affairs of Bangor.

206. You don't think there is any occasion to take in any land out Ballyvarnet way?—None. The Guardians thought it would not be fair to tax a farmer outside there for the sanitary affairs of Bangor. That is the feeling in Bangor.

207. What is your opinion about the extension to Ballyholme?—I think it would be for the benefit of Ballyholme. I think the Ballyholme people would receive great benefit by it, both in lighting and in sanitary matters.

208. You would be prepared to fully light it?—Certainly. I would go in for lighting, and see that they are not forgotten. I think it would encourage building to go on there.

Mr. David
M'Kenzie.

Mr. DAVID M'KENZIE examined.

209. You are a Town Commissioner?—Yes.

210. How long have you been a Commissioner?—Three years.

211. You know the extension to Ballyholme that is proposed?—I do.

212. Would you kindly give me your views as to that?—My views coincide perfectly with those expressed by the Chairman and the other Commissioners examined regarding Ballyholme, and I was labouring under another impression with regard to the extension of the boundary to the lands at Ballyvarnet, and I am satisfied that the boundary there should be as it is.

213. But you would not go further out?—I would not go further.

214. Do you know a place called Rathgill?—I do, sir.

215. The proposed extension goes more than a quarter of a mile beyond that, out along that road? Do you think that would be too far?—I think it would be quite too far. Rathgill would be no benefit, and it would be an expense to take lamps, or any other sanitary arrangement so far as that, going up a hill.

Mr. David
Harvey.

Mr. DAVID HARVEY examined.

216. What are your views on the question of the proposed extension?—I agree with what Mr. M'Kenzie

has said, both with regard to Ballyvarnet and Ballyholme. I wish to state nothing further than that.

Mr. John
Robinson.

Mr. JOHN ROBINSON examined.

217. Are you in favour of the proposed extension?—On behalf of the portion of Ballyholme that is held under Lord Dufferin, I oppose this extension.

218. The portion that is proposed to be taken in, at least that the Commissioners wish to be taken in, is represented by the blue line on the map. The eastern half of the Ballyholme district is the one that you are interested in?—Yes.

219. Do you own the property?—I own portion of the property.

220. There is a good deal of building going on upon your property?—There is no building but one double house at the present time.

221. Then you don't own the front?—I own portion of the Dufferin Villa property.

222. Are there any buildings along the eastern portion of Ballyholme?—There are five villas at the eastern end of Ballyholme.

223. Are you interested in those?—I am interested in two of them—two blocks.

224. How many houses are there in that terrace altogether?—There are included in the Dufferin Villa property eight houses walled round, and with a complete sewerage scheme.

225. There are eight houses there?—There are.

226. And they have a sewerage scheme of their own?—Yes.

227. What is that scheme, just describe it? Is there a main drain running in front of those houses?—Behind them there are large cesspools, and each house empties the sewage into the cesspools, and the overflow from the cesspools goes into the bay.

228. From each house?—No, one pipe conveys the overflow from the houses.

229. There is one cesspool for the eight houses?—Yes, a large cesspool.

230. And the sewage of each house runs into that cesspool?—Yes.

231. And the overflow from that goes through a covered pipe out into the bay?—Yes, but at present there is a scheme before Mr. Banks to sewer Lord Dufferin's property.

232. Is Lord Dufferin's the Ballyholme property?—Yes.

233. And what is that scheme?—It is proposed to sewer the whole of his property facing the bay there.

234. Will you kindly tell me how far from the houses that cesspool is?—It is about twenty yards from the houses immediately in the rear.

235. What size is it, have you any idea?—It is about 10 feet by 8.

236. And how deep?—Six feet deep, and covered 3 feet below the surface.

237. And there is in contemplation a perfect system of drainage for that part of Ballyholme, when it will be fully built on?—No, at the present time Lord Dufferin is intending to sewer, or Mr. Pattison, the agent, has a proposed scheme with Mr. Banks for the sewerage of his property there, and when it is built on each one will have to pay an additional rate.

238. The scheme is looking forward to its being built upon?—Yes.

239. And do you as an owner of property there object to its being brought in?—Oh, yes, I do, and I may say also on behalf of the other gentlemen who have the other houses, and they are not here to-day, they would object too.

240. You don't consider that keeping the roads lit up to that place, and getting this drainage done for

you would be a fair exchange for the rating of the property?—I don't see that it would be an advantage at all. In fact those houses that I own portion of are only let, except one of them, in the summer months. In the summer season there is no darkness at all; there is no requirement of gas along the country road to Bangor. It is a mile and a half nearly from the foot of Ballymagee-street to the end of Ballyholme; to the end of this proposed extension.

241. And you are not willing then to be rated in exchange for those advantages?—Not at all. There is no doubt this sewerage scheme will be carried out before long, and I think it will not be required to be continued from Bangor.

242. Do you consider that in a place like that where the strand is used for bathing purposes it is a proper system of sewerage to discharge out in the bay?—That is the reason that this proposed scheme is contemplated.

243. What is the scheme, to take it away from the bay?—To empty all into one cesspool, and this cesspool will be emptied into water and filtered before entering the bay.

244. Then it is the purifying system?—Yes, the purifying system, and we have a good supply of water, no better. It has been analysed several times. I don't see that we could derive any benefit from coming into the Bangor municipal boundary.

245. Your tenants, I presume, come from Belfast generally?—Yes.

246. And of course while they are here they are frequently going backwards and forwards?—Yes.

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Mr. John
Robinson.

Mr. ROBERT MURRAY examined.

Mr Robert
Murray.

247. You are a ratepayer of Ballyholme?—I am rated at from £108 to £100 in Victoria-terrace in Ballyholme.

248. And you are not willing that the boundary should be extended as proposed?—I would not wish the boundary extended to include Ballyholme, and I came here to enter my protest against it as far as I could.

249. And you don't consider that getting the roads lit and the drainage looked after by the Commissioners would be a fair exchange for the rating?—I certainly don't. I think we are rated very high at present, and I think we give Bangor some advantage, and I don't see what advantage Bangor could give us in Ballyholme.

250. You don't consider that it is of importance to your tenants, whether the streets between you and the railway station are kept in good order or not?—The streets up to the present were in very fair order. At the present time they are making a sort of cutting there—that is county business—that interferes with their comfort. The street before our houses, we made it ourselves, and spending the Grand Jury money not that of the Commissioners, and as for the water we have had it analysed by Dr. Hodges and he gave a good report, and we have an abundant supply.

251. What arrangements have been made with

regard to the sewerage and where it goes?—In the centre of the bay, as far as Victoria-terrace is concerned.

252. And how are the houses drained?—They are drained by a cesspool, a cesspool at the foot of the grounds.

253. One for each house?—No, for seven houses belonging to me. We have a cesspool for the drainage of those seven houses which I got regularly made.

254. And is the matter distributed on the land?—Yes, distributed on the land for the purpose of manure, and the surface water runs into the cesspool.

255. There is no connexion of that cesspool with the Bay?—Not the slightest that I am aware of, as it all runs down at the back—120 feet. My idea altogether is against the extension that is proposed to include Ballyholme. I don't think we would derive any benefit from it.

256. And you would have to pay the rates?—Yes, we would have to pay the rates for which we would get no benefit in the world that I can see. I know houses that certainly do not pay the expenses upon them. We only have—

257. But there is building going on there?—Well there has not been much of late years. There is some still going on. There is still some but not very much.

Mr. JAMES GAW examined.

Mr. James
Gaw.

258. You don't think you derive any advantage that would justify the proposed extension?—I think not. I don't see any benefit that I could derive.

259. You have not any buildings?—Nothing but a cottage and the garden marked; but my valuation is about £13 a year. I don't see if they put anything upon me that I would get any compensation for it.

260. However I may take you as objecting?—Yes, please sir.

261. You know you would be only rated at a fourth of the valuation?—Yes.

262. James M'Dowell, John Patterson, and John Hamilton, stated they were all opposed to the proposed extension.

263. Mr. Murray.—There are other owners of property in Ballyholme who are opposed to the extension, but they could not attend to-day.

264. Mr. Patterson.—I don't know any resident or owner of property that is not opposed in the very strongest manner to anything of the kind.

The inquiry then terminated.

BALBRIGGAN.—MAY 13TH, 1879.

(Before Mr. C. P. COTTON, C.E.)

Mr. DANIEL SYNNOTT examined.

BALBRIGGAN,
May 13, 1879.Mr. Daniel
Synnott.

1. You are clerk of the Town Commissioners of Balbriggan?—Yes.

2. For how long have you been so?—Three and a half years.

3. Under what Act is the town?—The Towns Improvement Act, 1854.

4. When was it put under that Act?—The Act was adopted so far as lighting is concerned, on the 23rd April, 1860, but on the 22nd July, 1876, it was adopted for all purposes.

5. Including water supply?—Yes. There are no water works but the Act was adopted for all purposes.

6. Was the town previously under any body of Commissioners?—No. That was the first time any Act was adopted, and they had no other power except that of lighting.

7. What is the area of the town?—Five hundred and twenty-eight acres one rood and twenty-one perches.

8. What is the population of the town?—Two thousand three hundred and eight.

9. That was in 1871?—Yes. That return is taken from Thom's Almanac.

10. What is the valuation of Balbriggan?—Three thousand eight hundred and ninety pounds fifteen shillings.

11. That is the last valuation?—The last valuation, as certified by the clerk of the union.

12. You know the shape of the town—does it extend equally in all directions from where we now are?—I think on the average the town extends about a quarter of a mile from the centre of the town.

13. Are they whole townlands comprised within the town or only parts of townlands?—Whole townlands. They are the townlands of Balbriggan and the townland of Tankardstown. There are three.

14. That comprises the entire town?—Yes, sir.

15. There are no wards?—No wards.

16. In what electoral division is the town?—it is in the electoral division of Balbriggan.

17. Do you yourself know the size of the electoral division?—No; but as far as I heard it is something about two and a half English miles from the court-house all round except to the sea-coast.

18. How many Commissioners are there?—There are nine Commissioners.

19. How many voters are there?—There are ninety-three ratepayers qualified to vote.

20. And how many of them are qualified to sit as Commissioners if elected?—Twenty-seven are eligible to be elected.

21. Have the Town Commissioners had under their consideration the queries sent down to them by us?—Yes, sir.

22. Have they come to any resolution on the subject?—Yes.

23. Were they unanimous in their decision?—Yes, sir.

24. What resolution did they come to?—"The Commissioners as a body considered the question of the boundaries and they were unanimously in favour of leaving them as they are, inasmuch as any extension of the boundaries would merely have the effect of putting additional taxation on those who already bore the principal part of it."

25. That is that the owners of land outside are already ratepayers inside?—No. The Town Commissioners were unanimously opposed to any extension of the boundaries and were satisfied with the present boundaries, that is what they said, and I wrote this out myself.

26. What were the grounds on which they came to this resolution?—On the ground that the land is so

thinly populated outside the boundary, and that if you added half a mile to the boundary the land brought in would only pay one-fourth; and if the Commissioners had to supply that district with gas the revenue derived would not pay for the lighting, and there are a good many of the Commissioners' owners of house property, and they pay nearly all the rates themselves.

27. That is on the supposition that the lands would contribute only one-fourth, and that the Commissioners would be bound to give light and other facilities to the extended area?—Yes, sir, and all they could recover would be one-fourth, which would not pay for the additional expenses.

28. Do you know the country round well enough to say if there was an extension of half a mile how many people would probably be brought in?—No. I think there would not be many within half a mile. There would be Hampton and Black Hall.

29. That would be only two places?—Yes, sir. There might be a few farmers brought in.

30. How far is Balrothery from this?—It is a mile or more.

31. What size is Balrothery?—It is a small place. The population of it is about 200.

32. The Commissioners never considered the question of bringing in Balrothery?—No, sir. The houses there are nearly all cabins, and there would not be much derived from them; they are all poor people living there.

33. You have not got a valuation of it?—No, sir.

34. What rates have been struck in the town of Balbriggan since 1874?—For 1874 the town rate was 10d. in the £.

35. For 1875 what was it?—For 1875, 8d. in the pound.

36. For 1876?—It was 7d. in the pound.

37. For 1877 how much?—6d. in the pound.

38. For 1878?—It was 7d. in the pound.

39. You have not struck a rate this year yet?—Not as yet.

40. Can you tell me the poor-rate for these years since 1874?—Yes, sir; in 1874 the poor-rate was 1s. 6d. in the pound; in 1875 it was 10d.; in 1876 it was 1s. 2d.; in 1877 it was 1s. 6d.; and in 1878 it was 1s. 6d. also. That includes 2d. sanitary rate.

41. In what year?—That is in 1875.

42. That is included in the 10d. rate for that year?—Yes, sir, 2d. sanitary rate in 1877 also, and 2d. in 1878.

43. What was that sanitary rate for?—That rate was for sewers. There was a main sewer made through the town, and there was £300 borrowed for it.

44. Was this sanitary rate all for this sewer?—Yes. In 1874 the Commissioners were the sanitary authority, and the £300 was borrowed in about September of that year, but the passing of the Public Health Act then took the authority from them and the guardians became the sanitary authority. The Commissioners then handed over the £300 to the guardians, and this 2d. rate was made for the purpose of redeeming that loan, paying interest and redeeming part of the principal.

45. Do you know how much has been repaid of that loan?—£15 is paid of the principal every year, and 5 per cent. interest on the balance.

46. Did that 2d. rate cover anything else—was there any other sanitary work undertaken by the guardians?—No, sir. There is part of the rate to pay the executive sanitary officer. I don't think it would take the whole of the 2d. rate to pay the interest and part of the principal.

47. But there were no other works done?—No.

48. On what district was that 2d. rate struck?—On the town of Balbriggan.

49. That is on the municipal area?—Yes. It is

called the electoral division of Balbriggan, but no one outside Balbriggan pays that rate.

50. A special sanitary rate of that kind would be struck upon a special district?—It is on the town of Balbriggan and no other place.

51. What do you mean by the town—do you know the municipal area?—Yes, sir.

52. When I asked you what was the township of Balbriggan you said three places—the town of Balbriggan, the townlands of Balbriggan, and the townland of Tankardstown—you mean the entire of the 528 acres?—Yes, sir.

53. Have you anything to show what district the special sanitary rate was struck on—what was the contributory district?—Yes, sir (produces notice).

54. After the year 1874, when the guardians struck a special sanitary rate, did they strike it on the town of Balbriggan, the townlands of Balbriggan, and the townland of Tankardstown—the whole of the 528 acres?—Yes.

55. What was the county-cess during these years since 1874?—In 1874 it was 1s. 8½d.

56. That was for the whole year?—Yes, sir. In 1875 it was 1s. 6d.; in 1876 1s. 5½d.; in 1877 1s. 5½d.; and in 1878 1s. 5d. In that year, 1874, the municipal rate was 10d., and that included 3d. for a special sanitary rate.

57. Was that sanitary rate in 1874 collected?—On the 7th December, 1874, there was a resolution passed—

“Resolved—That the secretary be requested to write to the clerk of Balrothery Union on the subject of the loan for sewage purposes in the Balrothery Union, intimating that the Town Commissioners are prepared to transfer to the guardians the amount of the loan subject to the conditions on which it has been obtained.”

58. Did they hand over the 3d. sanitary rate to the guardians?—No. They handed over the loan. It is entered on the minutes—

“That our Chairman lodge the balance of the loan of £300, borrowed for sanitary purposes to the credit of the guardians, and that the secretary notify such to that body.”

59. How is the town lighted?—It is lighted with gas by contract with a private company.

60. At so much a lamp?—Yes, sir. £2 5s. per lamp, for twenty-three lamps.

61. How is the town supplied with water?—By pumps. There are six pumps and two public wells.

62. In what state are they? Have they ever been the subject of any inquiry as to the quality of the water?—I think the quality of the water is good, but some allege that the water is scarce, and more say it is plentiful enough.

63. Is there any allegation about its being bad?—No, sir.

64. The guardians took over charge of the pumps?—Yes, sir.

65. How is the town off for drainage—has there been any complaint about it?—No, sir. The only thing is that the Commissioners think if they were invested themselves with the sanitary powers, the sewerage would be looked after in a better manner, and that it would not be as expensive. The dispensary committee, appointed by the Board of Guardians, have to report any matters to the Board of Guardians, and if they find anything wrong it will be some months before anything is done to remedy it. If, for instance, there is a sewer bad, the dispensary committee report it to the Board of Guardians, and then there is delay.

66. Have the Board of Guardians done anything in the way of repairing other sewers, than this one for which the £300 was borrowed?—No, sir.

67. They have done nothing in the way of extending them?—Yes, there is one sewer in Skerries-street, which they have made.

68. Then they had this sum for other purposes besides the one drain?—Yes, and there is something of it expended for keeping the pumps in repair.

69. Have the commissioners considered the ques-

tion, whether they should apply to be made the urban authority, and get control of the sanitary matters themselves?—Yes; the commissioners would be in favour of transferring the sanitary powers to themselves, believing that the work would be better and more expeditiously done, and at less expense.

70. Is that the effect of a resolution they adopted, or what you know to be their feeling?—That is their feeling.

71. But they have not sent forward any memorial?—No, sir; this was only their expressed opinion.

72. But if they would like it why don't they ask for it?—They would rather wait for a little while longer, until they see how it would work in other towns similarly situated—other towns with as small a population as Balbriggan.

73. Surely they must know how it operates when they had the power up to 1874?—Yes, sir; they did not consider they would get any further powers than what they had before under the Sanitary Act.

74. They did not think they would get any additional powers?—No, only the same as before.

75. You reside here yourself?—Yes, sir.

76. Do you know the feeling of the ratepayers generally with regard to the boundaries?—I think the ratepayers decline giving any opinion. I think they would be satisfied with the present boundaries.

77. What were the receipts in the year 1878, from the rates?—There was no rate collected that year, the collector being sick it was held over until next year. The financial year terminates on the 15th October every year.

78. What balance had you at starting?—The balance in hands on the 16th October, 1877, was £52 19s. 2d.

79. What did you receive during the year?—There was £300 received as a loan from the Board of Public Works, for the erection of a market-house.

80. What else?—There was interest from the Northern Bank on that sum of £1 17s. 11d. The £300 was lodged in the bank, and interest accrued; then there was the dog tax, £7 11s. 1d.; petty sessions fees, £10 3s. 3d.; for list of voters, 1s.; for rent of stables in the new market premises £4; and there was a new rate made of 7d. in the pound, but it was not collected. It was struck on the 1st July, and the rate collector was in hospital, sick, and the rate was held over, and there was none collected until November, so it doesn't appear in that year.

81. Is that all the receipts for the year?—That is all the receipts.

82. What is the expenditure?—The total, including what was laid out for the erection of the market-house, or in detail?

83. Give me the items of the expenditure for the year?—For lighting, £29. There was only a half-year paid in consequence of the rates not being collected.

84. That is paid on account?—Yes. £28 15s. for lighting, and 5s. to a man for taking down the lamps in summer; salary of Town Clerk, that is the only salary paid, £12.

85. Is that for a half-year or a year?—A year.

86. Copy of rate-book?—£2; printing, stationery, and postage, £8 2s. 6d.; election expenses, £1 3s. 9d.; Local Government Board for audit, £3 13s. 6d.; incidental expenses, 10s. 10d.; for the market-house, erection of the market-house, and drawing plans and specifications, and for instalment to the Board of Works in repayment of the loan, £317 15s. 5d.

87. That left you a balance of what?—£2 6s. 5d.

88. What is the amount uncollected of that rate of 7d.?—£79 18s. 2d., and there are arrears out of that which would leave £78 14s. 11d.

89. Were there any things that should have been paid for in that year carried over, except the half-year's lighting?—No, sir, except a few small bills for stationery, and fees of £4 to the collector, who, of course, would not be paid until he collects the rate.

90. The £79 includes the poundage?—Yes.

91. The town commissioners consider they have

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enough money to do their ordinary work within their present powers with the 1s. rate?—Yes, sir.

92. Would they have enough with the 1s. rate to carry out whatever they would want for sanitary works in case they became the urban authority?—I think so; the rate never exceeded 10d. in the pound.

93. And with the 10d. they did what they wanted?—Yes, and there was more laid out then than now, for there were more improvements made.

94. And they don't want any special rate for any other purpose?—No, sir.

95. Is there any other information you wish to give regarding the subject?—No.

96. The commissioners have considered the question as to the transfer of the management of the roads?—The commissioners decline for the present to give any opinion as to it.

97. They don't wish to become the authority for the maintenance of the roads within the district?—At the present time they don't, but hereafter they may change their minds on the subject.

98. What fairs are there held in Balbriggan?—Four fairs, I think.

99. Are they large fairs?—They are. They are held on the 29th April, 29th September, and second Monday in December, and first Monday in February—four in the year.

100. There are markets held here?—Yes; on Mondays.

101. Are there any schools in Balbriggan?—Yes; a National school.

102. From how far round do you think the children come to that school?—I think they are nearly all from the town.

103. There are no farmers' children from outside, attending them?—No.

104. Are there any schools outside the town?—Yes; one at Balrothery.

105. A National school?—Yes; a National school.

106. Do you know whether the people living near the present township boundaries wish to be included in the town or not?—Speaking with some of them I think they would have an objection.

107. Has the fact that we were going to sit here been notified in any way?—Yes, sir; it was posted outside the police barrack.

Mr. Terence
O'Neill.

MR. TERENCE O'NEILL examined.

108. You are a town commissioner of Balbriggan?—Yes.

109. How long have you been a commissioner?—For 16 years.

110. And a resident in the town?—Yes, sir.

111. You have heard Mr. Synnott say the commissioners were unanimously in favour of leaving the boundaries as they are?—Yes.

112. They wish to become the urban authority for sanitary matters in the district?—They do. For, as Mr. Synnott stated, it is a slow sort of system at present. The dispensary committee under the Board of Guardians meet here once a month, and if any nuisance occurred within that time, and particularly in summer, the pumps very often get out of order, there will be delay in setting the matter right. I recollect on one occasion the attention of the Board of Guardians was called to the fact that the pumps were out of order, and we were left at least three months without water; one body reported to the other—the dispensary committee reported to the Board of Guardians, and the Board of Guardians sent back the report, and then it seemed the work could not be carried out by the dispensary committee, and we were left without water.

113. We have nothing to do with the transfer of authority, and the only question is whether you consider the present township, with its present power of rating, is sufficient to enable the commissioners to carry out the sanitary arrangements if they became the sanitary authority?—Yes; I think so.

114. And they would not want the help of any additional rates for sanitary matters?—Certainly not. I think we would find we could do with less rate.

115. Your rates have never come up to the shilling yet?—No.

116. Has there been any proposition for a supply of water from any other source than at present?—No; the people are quite content with the supply.

117. There is no complaint as to the quality of the water?—No, sir; but there is some complaint of negligence in keeping the pumps in order.

118. But the quality of the water is good?—Excellent.

119. That opinion of the Commissioners was shared in by the other Commissioners?—There were eight Commissioners at the meeting. There was only one absent Commissioner.

120. Is there anything else you wish to add regarding this question of the boundaries?—No, sir.

121. Do you know the feeling of the ratepayers immediately inside or outside the present boundary?

—I think the feeling outside would be against extension, for this reason principally—they are farmers, and they imagine if they were annexed they would forfeit their right under the Land Act.

122. Independent of that, do you know of any objection to the extension?—I don't think there would be any objection.

123. Would there be any objection if they knew they would have to pay something more in the way of taxes?—I think so.

124. Something small?—They might. It is principally land, and it pays only one-fourth.

125. Are the holders of land within, say, a distance of a mile from the centre of the town, but outside the present boundary, residents in the town?—No, they are not.

126. Then the adjoining lands are not in the nature of townparks?—No, they are not.

127. These people outside live on their own land?—Yes.

128. Do you know where the children go to school who live, say, a distance of a mile and a half from Balbriggan?—I do.

129. Do they come into Balbriggan?—No; an English mile—from Clonard—they come into Balbriggan, but there are schools all round.

130. I suppose the farmers use Balbriggan as a market town?—They do; and respectable farmers send their children into the Convent schools here.

131. The people who live within a certain distance, say, a mile derive advantage from having the town properly kept?—Yes.

132. And their land is of higher value on account of being near the town?—No doubt they derive greater value, if it was for no other purpose than that of gathering seaweed.

133. But that is because the town happens to be on the seashore?—Just so. Of course as Balbriggan is improved it would benefit the neighbourhood around, as it would become a better market.

134. How far into the country do you think any special benefit accrues to the residents and farmers?—I would say two and a half miles north, west, and south, or I would say about three miles, as this is the principal market place to those people resident out there.

135. I see that Balrothery is a small village within a short distance of Balbriggan—has the question of including it been considered?—It never has, but it would not come under the same category as other places, for there are very few people there except the parish priest and the rector, and a few people like that, who would pay taxes.

136. The union workhouse is in Balrothery?—It is three miles beyond Balrothery.

137. In what place is the workhouse situated?—In Balrothery.

138. Is there anything else you wish to state in reference to this question?—No. The Commissioners held a special meeting with the view of considering this subject, and they instructed Mr. Synnott to answer any questions, and he has embodied their general opinions on all the subjects on which he has given evidence.

139. Mr. Synnott.—The electoral division, I find, extends as far as Barnageera on one side; that is about two and a half miles to the south, and it extends to the sea?—A very short distance.

Mr. O'NEILL recalled.

140. You know the extent of the electoral division?—Yes, I do.

141. It has been one of the recommendations of the Select Committee which gave rise to this inquiry, that where it was feasible the municipal boundaries should be made conterminous with electoral division boundaries; in your opinion, would it be out of the question to make the boundaries of the town of Balbriggan conterminous with the boundaries of the electoral division?—Quite out of the question.

142. On account of the immense distance to which the electoral division extends?—Yes, and bringing nothing in but land.

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C'Neill.

Mr. SYNNOTT recalled.

143. Is Balbriggan increasing in population?—There are a good many improvements in regard to building houses but the population is not increasing.

144. The valuation has slightly increased within the last few years?—Yes; and I think next year it will be further increased, for a good many houses have been built, and have not yet been inserted in the rate-books. They will add a good deal to the rate.

145. Business houses?—No, sir, private houses.

146. Is the business of the port increasing?—I don't know, I am not long enough here to say.

147. Mr. O'Neill.—It is very much decreasing.

148. Mr. Synnott.—The electoral division extends on the east to the sea, and on the west to a place called Winnons, and on the north to a place called Delvin, and on the south to Barnageera.

149. How far are these?—They are about two and a half miles distant.

The inquiry then closed.

Mr. Synnott.

BRAY.—MAY 3RD, 1879.

Before Messrs. W. A. EXHAM, Q.C., Chairman, and C. P. COTTON, C.E.

BRAY.
May 3, 1879.

1. Mr. *Edward Breslin*, Chairman of the Town Commissioners.—It is my duty, as Chairman of the Town Commissioners, to correct a misapprehension that appears to have gone out, and to say a few words. The Town Commissioners, when the queries were sent to them, were perfectly ignorant of the holding of the Commission so far as they were themselves concerned, and as to what were the requirements. The impression that has gone abroad is that this inquiry emanated from the Town Commissioners. They, however, knew nothing about it until they received these queries, and the inquiry is purely a Government one as I understand it. The Town Commissioners have made up their minds after carefully and minutely going into the question to have nothing to do with an extension. It would be totally out of the question to bring in a district to pay rates only on one-fourth of the valuation. After seriously considering the matter the Town Commissioners decided not to have an extension. They think that our funds are not quite sufficient, even now, to carry out all the improvements that are required, and would not at all be equal to the increased responsibility and burthen.

2. CHAIRMAN.—It is, of course, a misapprehension to suppose that the Town Commissioners have in any way originated or promoted this inquiry. It is held in pursuance of a recommendation of a Select Committee of the House of Commons contained in the report before me, and the warrant issued by His Grace the Lord Lieutenant under which we act. [Mr. Exham read portion of the warrant.] There was no

suggestion or statement made that the district brought in should only be liable to one-fourth of all the taxes. The owners or occupiers now pay county cess to the county for keeping up the roads and county-at-large charges, and I did not hear anyone say that because they were taken in they were to get the benefit of paying only one-fourth of the county rates. The extension would, in point of fact, so far as that matter was concerned, make no difference to them, for it would be only the hand that receives that is changed. No one suggested that by being brought in they were to be relieved of the responsibility of the entire county rate.

3. Mr. *George Keogh*, Solicitor for the Dublin, Wicklow and Wexford Railway Company.—What guarantee have the ratepayers that the legislature hereafter will give effect to your recommendation, and may not the result be that the present township with its obligations will find itself extended with additional obligations, and without any additional benefit whatsoever. A recommendation may be of itself very equitable, but where different parts of the country have taken different views as to what that recommendation should be, it is hard for us to be quite content that it will not affect us unfavourably.

4. CHAIRMAN.—Whatever are the county-at-large charges, we cannot alter them, and in any extension that is proposed by us it will be practically only the hand that receives that will be changed so far as this rating is concerned.

Mr. EDWARD DEMPSEY examined.

Mr. Edward
Dempsey.

5. CHAIRMAN.—You are the Town Clerk of Bray?—Yes.

6. What is the area of the town at present?—1,044 acres 15 perches.

7. What is the entire valuation?—£23,304 15s. made up of £1,535 10s. for land, and £20,769 10s. for houses; and the balance, £999 15s., is for railways, water and gas mains, and half annual rents.

8. What is the population —In 1851 it was 3,156; in 1871, 6,086; the 6th September, 1876, it was 8,773.

9. When was it taken in 1871?—On the 1st of April.

10. At all events we may assume that the population is increasing?—Yes.

11. Is there a good deal of building going on?—Yes. The valuation since last year alone has increased by £920.

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Mr. Edward
Dempsey.

12. What was the valuation in 1871?—£20,162, and at present it is £23,304 15s.

13. What were the rates for the three last years?—Since 1874, 3s. 6d., except 1877 when they were 3s. 2d.

14. Was that the minimum for the last five years?—Yes.

15. Did you strike any separate sanitary rate?—No. The improvement rate covers all.

16. Then 3s. 6d. is the maximum?—Yes; that includes 2s. 4d. improvement rate, 5d. water rate, 7d. special rate for the sinking fund, and 2d. under the special Act.

17. What debts do you owe?—The present debt amounts to £6,702 8s. 1d., that includes the two Government loans of £1,800, and £1,100 borrowed for sanitary purposes in 1870 and 1872; there is, I should say, £2,002 8s. 1d. due on them.

18. Are they being paid off by sinking fund?—By annuity.

19. How much a year do the annuities amount to?—£144 9s. annually on the £1,800, and £88 5s. 6d. on the £1,100.

20. What are the other debts made up of?—£4,700 private mortgages in sums of £2,000, £900, £1,100, £600, and £100.

21. What is the interest?—Five per cent.

22. Are you applying any sinking fund to that?—Yes; we have in New Three per Cents £1,451 11s. 4d.

23. How much is the sinking fund each year?—£157—the thirtieth portion of it.

24. Is that £4,700 all in one loan?—No. I have mentioned the separate sums.

25. Who manages the roads in the town?—We do.

26. Under your Act?—Yes.

27. Is the cost paid out of the rates?—Yes; the improvement rate.

28. How do you manage the county-at-large charges?—They average about £600 a year. The Wicklow Grand Jury send in a warrant for its amount, and we pay it out of the general rate, and also about £50 a year to the county Dublin Grand Jury.

29. What is the county cess payable immediately outside the boundary?—From 1s. 6d. to 1s. 8d. on an average.

30. Are you the urban sanitary authority?—We are.

31. What are the poor rates in the township?—The rate for the present year is 10d., but it averages 1s. to 1s. 3d.

32. Will there be a sanitary rate?—Not on the township.

33. What is the poor rate outside?—About 1s. to 1s. 3d.

34. How much is the sanitary rate outside?

Sir George Hodson.—Two pence.

35. CHAIRMAN.—Have the Commissioners, as a body, considered the question of extension of the boundaries of the town?

Mr. Dempsey.—They have not.

36. Have the people in the town expressed any opinion on it?—So far as I have been able to learn, the opinion of the people of the township is opposed to any extension, except a very small one.

37. Mr. COTTON.—Have the Commissioners ever applied for an extension?—Well, Mr. Brett's report was under the consideration of the Board some years ago, but it was strongly opposed.

38. *Sir George Hodson.*—I did not think it could apply at all.

39. CHAIRMAN.—Is Little Bray included in the present township?—It is.

40. Does the present boundary follow townland boundaries?—Yes.

41. Is the present boundary in one electoral division?—No; it is in two.

42. Would an extension of say one mile bring it into another electoral division?—No.

43. Has there been any meeting here, so far as you know, of ratepayers to consider it?—No.

44. Mr. COTTON.—How many wards are there?—East, West, and Little Bray.

45. Can you give the area and population of these?—The area of Little Bray is 127A. 1R. 36P., and of East and West wards jointly 918A. 0R. 9P.

46. Cannot you separate them and give the valuation of each?—No.

47. Can you give the number of voters?—Yes; 184 in East ward, 69 in West ward, and Little Bray 50; total 303.

48. Can you separate the valuation?—No.

49. Can you tell, out of these voters, how many are qualified to sit as Commissioners?

50. I find there are about 350 ratings at £7 and up to £30, and 270 ratings at £30 and upwards. A large number of those who are so rated are females.

51. How many Commissioners are there?—Fifteen: nine for East ward, three each for Little Bray and West ward.

52. Mr. COTTON.—Have the Commissioners ever discussed the question of the alteration of the ward boundaries?—When the queries were sent here it was referred from one meeting to another, but no definite decision was come to on the matter.

53. Mr. *Breslin.*—They did not come to any decision on the matter, but the last time the Commissioners discussed it, there was a unanimous opinion that we could not attempt to take in any additional district.

54. How is the town supplied with gas?—We pay 5s. per thousand cubic feet to the Alliance Gas Company. We have 114 gas lamps, and twenty-two metre lamps; the average cost for four years was £170 (cost of gas) £55 for wages, and £20 to £25 for repairs.

55. Do you supply water by arrangement with the Corporation of Dublin?—Yes.

56. CHAIRMAN.—What was the balance on the last yearly account to the credit of the township?—We had a balance to our credit at the end of the year 1877 of £722 17s. 4d.

57. What were your receipts?—Car licenses, £28 1s. 9d.; rent and tolls, &c., £36 8s.; fines, £72 9s. 1d.; dog licenses, £17 17s. 1d.; miscellaneous, £62 7s. 9d.; £23 6s. 8d. Government contribution in lieu of sanitary officers' salaries. That is for 1877.

58. How did you stand last year—you borrowed no money?—Last year the balance due to the treasurer of the Hibernian Bank, at the end of the year, was £1,182; and for the year ending 31st December, 1878, the receipts were—rates, £2,667 16s. 10d.; car licenses, £29 15s. 3d.; rent and tolls, £40 6s. 3d.; fines, £108 5s. 10d.; dog licenses, £15 15s. 7d.; miscellaneous receipts, £102 15s. 1d.; which includes £44 10s. 1d. of Government contributions for salaries and rates on Government property.

59. You owed that?—Yes. The Grand Jury charge for the year was £1,183 19s. 8d.; there were law and parliamentary expenses £435 13s. 10d. that was all paid in 1878.

60. How much was it the year before for the Grand Jury?—£671 2s. 1d.

61. How could it have increased so much?—First there was £200 compensation for the value of ground taken for a road, and we had to pay three warrants that year to the county of Wicklow Grand Jury. Before that the warrants were not collected so quickly, but we had to pay all we owed that year.

62. At the time you owed the balance last year what rates were in arrear?—£2,826 1s. 9d.

63. Outstanding?—Yes.

64. Were these good rates?—Yes, except some small sums.

65. Up to what time was the balance sheet for last year made out?—Up to the last day of December.

66. When was the warrant for these rates?—In August some time.

67. What was the entire amount of the warrant?—About £4,000.

68. And how came there to be some £2,000 due?

—Well, the collection was not made as quickly as it ought to have been.

69. Mr. COTTON.—What state is the sewerage in?—Very good, generally speaking.

70. Is there any loan for sanitary purposes?—Yes. The two loans of £1,800 and £1,100, which I mentioned before.

71. CHAIRMAN.—Were they entirely for your own area?—Yes.

72. Mr. Edward Breslin.—From the clear and explicit statement you have made, Mr. Chairman, my mind is greatly changed, and I would be in favour of some extension of the boundary. For instance, I would be inclined to do what would develop the rural districts. There is the Old Connaught-avenue to Shankhill-bridge. I would take from the Old Connaught-road to Shankhill-bridge.

73. CHAIRMAN.—That is where the Old Connaught-road passes under the railway bridge?—Yes, I would ask you to take the right and left of that road; there are about twenty-two gentlemen's residences, and there is only that straight line of road, no intermediate road at all. I think that to take that in would enhance the township, and be most beneficial to the district. It will be borne in mind that there is a very poor population in Tullystown, between 500 and 600, and they are very badly off for water. The water, in fact, has been described by the last analysis, to be of a very impure character. Now I would not go in for taking the land, except what the houses stood on, such as in the case of these detached houses. I have no doubt the value would increase and improve by lighting and watering. The lighting and watering is really wanted, and is sought for by several gentlemen residing along there, who are anxious to get water. They called a meeting of the Rathdown Union to advocate the necessity of meeting the great want of pure water.

74. Mr. COTTON.—With regard to land, would you exempt arable land altogether?—Yes, except what houses stand on.

75. You don't mean to say you would run a line around the houses?—I would take a straight line right down by the railway, down to Judge Lawson's.

76. Mr. Ryall, J.P.—What breadth of land would you take in?—I would go to the sea, and I would go to Shankhill-bridge; I would come round by the town, into Ravenswell. There is Lord Plunket's place; that is a large place, and I would take that in.

77. CHAIRMAN.—You go say a mile from the centre of the town, to take in Old Connaught?—Yes.

78. Are there a good number of gentlemen's seats around Bray within a radius of say two miles from the Post Office?—Yes.

79. Is it your opinion that these gentlemen, living adjacent to the town of Bray, derive exceptional advantages from the town, having it as a town to come to and use for the purposes of marketing, going to the railway, &c.?—Yes. You have hit upon a knotty point, the market. A market is a thing wanted badly, for it takes place here at about four in the morning.

80. Do they derive the benefit of having their places of worship in the town, and of sending their children to schools in the town?—Yes, most decidedly, and they have the full benefit of the lighting, cleansing, and so on.

81. Do you think that the occupiers of land, and the owners of land, derive exceptional advantages from their proximity to the town?—I do, most decidedly. For instance, there is Mr. Longfield, who has light to his own gate.

82. Does the land near the town pay a higher rent, say within a radius of two miles, than land further off?—Yes, from my experience that is decidedly the case, sometimes £6 an acre.

83. In almost every place we have been, it is admitted that land within a short distance of the town, derives exceptional advantages and benefit, and higher rents are paid?

Sir George Hodson.—But not for a radius of two miles from the town.

84. CHAIRMAN.—To what extent, Mr. Breslin, would you say the owners and occupiers of land derive exceptional advantages from their proximity to the town of Bray?—I know land at Shankhill which brings £5 an acre, and if it were three miles off it would average about £3.

85. CHAIRMAN.—Does the occupier make a profit out of it by having a market town so near?—Yes.

86. Sir George Hodson.—That does not affect my district at all.

87. Mr. Breslin.—Land within a mile of the town goes up to £6 an acre. I was offered, by a butcher named Smith, £6 for every acre I have at Crinken, and about a mile beyond that the land decreases in value.

88. Within what distance would you say gentlemen's seats, or the owners of these seats, derive exceptional benefit from the town, how far would you go?—Well, I would go as far as the Glen of the Downs. Everywhere gentlemen's seats are, they derive exceptional benefit from the town of Bray. I am giving this evidence, as it were, in favour of an extension, from the inference I have drawn from your conversation. You have explained, so far as I could understand it, that the proposal is that the Town Commissioners should receive, if the boundaries were enlarged, the same rate as the county cess is.

89. CHAIRMAN.—I may tell you what is said elsewhere. It is not because they are brought into a municipality that outsiders as I call them, are to get the benefit of all the advantages whatsoever they be that are enjoyed by the parent body. Am I to understand that your proposition or suggestion, would be to take in up to Shankhill and Judge Lawson's place, and that you would give them light and water?—Yes, if they required it, and they should pay for it.

90. That is if they paid the same taxes altogether that anyone living in the town does, you would give them light and water?—Yes.

91. CHAIRMAN.—It would only be the duty of the Commissioners to lay the mains; it is for those who want the supply to put in the branches?—That is so.

92. Now take it this way; if there was an extension, of say a mile, or a mile and a half outside the town, would this be your view, having considered it after what I said, that the persons living in that district, within the boundary so extended, should only pay a proportion of the rates payable in the town, that is for merely lighting, watering, and scavenging the town, but that they should pay the same road rate; and that, with this addition, that if they chose to pay all the rates (the same as the inhabitants of the town) they should get all the advantages enjoyed by the townspeople?—Most decidedly; and that would enable the rates to be considerably reduced each year if proper management were exercised, and the Commissioners elected for the added districts would be able and in a position to look after the affairs of their respective constituencies. Good Commissioners, gentlemen of position and intelligence, would be selected.

93. The further question then would be, if you had an extension carried out and if you got from those people brought in under it what they pay at present, would you be able to keep them as cheaply as the County Grand Jury?—That would greatly, or to a certain extent depend on the branch roads; it is more a question for Mr. Brett. I think myself, to give my own general knowledge of the roads, there is scarcely enough to keep the branch roads in as proper order as one might wish to have them in.

94. Take a radius of a mile and a half, and looking at the map, are there many gentlemen's residences that would be taken in?—Well, except in regard to the one district, I have not considered it, but I may here mention that another great advantage it would have, would be to give the Commissioners power over all the carmen, so as to establish certain rates, and in

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that way to a great extent tend to develop the beauties of the place. We have no power at present beyond four miles of the post office.

95. CHAIRMAN.—Oh, well, no one would extend it beyond that.

96. Mr. Breslin.—It is a great pity there could not be more extended control over them.

97. CHAIRMAN.—Is not the boundary of Bray rather exceptional and curious?—Yes, it is certainly irregular. It goes considerably over a mile to the east and south-east.

98. And takes in a large portion of Bray Head?—I am sorry to say not a large portion, except Mr. Butler's place. It goes about a mile and a half; at the northern side it does not go a quarter of a mile. What I would suggest is this: I would recommend that we should go to the south of Bray Head and take in round Bray Head, coming round to Windgates, taking the whole of that, and at the south end of Bray Head cut up a nice plot and have a cemetery formed, for I may mention that Kilmacanogue is overcrowded, indeed nearly all the burial-grounds about are overcrowded, except Kill-o'-the-Grange.

99. Then you would, as I understand you, take in Kilruddery demesne?—Part of it. Lord Meath has been anxious to take in the whole of Kilruddery. The road around Bray Head is badly kept and it would be a great thing to have it properly kept and improvements effected. If it was in another country it would be a second Switzerland for beauty and attraction.

100. CHAIRMAN.—Is it in the hands of any one at present?—No.

101. Mr. Cotton.—Your suggestion would be to take in Bray Head or some of it near the sea, and not extend towards Enniskerry, would you extend inland at all?—There is a piece of road between the county and Bray, a piece belonging to no one, it is just between the two counties, and I would go as far as Mr. Troy's or the Dargle gate.

102. Mr. Cotton.—You were a member of the Board in 1863?—Yes.

103. Do you remember instructions being given to Mr. Brett to prepare a report on the subject of extension of the boundaries?—Yes, that was chiefly at the instance of Lord Meath.

104. Was Mr. Brett given instructions on the subject?—Yes.

105. Is the result indicated by the line marked yellow on the map?—Yes.

106. Was Mr. Brett's report, so prepared in conformity with instructions, sent in?—Yes.

107. Was any application made to the Lord Lieutenant?—No. The suggestions made were opposed by a great many.

108. Were the Commissioners unanimous on the subject?—Well, not unanimous.

109. Was any resolution adopted on the report, or with reference to it?—Yes, the Town Clerk will be able to tell you from the minutes.

110. The Town Clerk.—On the receipt of the report, I find a resolution of December 2, 1872, was passed at a meeting, Lord Meath in the chair. At that meeting the report from the Surveyor, Mr. Brett, was read on the subject of extension, and on the motion of Mr. M'Creevy, seconded by Mr. M'Neill, it was resolved—

"That Mr. Brett's report on the increase of the Bray township, just submitted by him to this Board, be printed and circulated among the ratepayers."

And at the last meeting that year it was resolved—

"That a Committee be appointed, consisting of Messrs. Breslin, Sutcliffe, O'Neill, and Birtchill, to consult with and obtain the opinion of the proprietors of the lands proposed to be added to the township of Bray, and to report upon the steps necessary to be taken for such enlargement with the instruction that the maximum taxation shall not exceed in amount the Grand Jury cess paid at the same time by the proprietors, and that the proprietors shall not be charged for water, gas, or for sewerage, unless upon

their requisition to be supplied with same. All further motion on this resolution is postponed until after the consideration of the report."

111. Mr. Cotton.—If that proposed extension were adopted, what was contemplated with regard to a subdivision or other arrangement of wards?

Mr. Breslin.—I do not recollect. As far as I remember concerning Mr. Brett's proposition on making inquiries we found that a large majority of the landowners were very much opposed to it.

112. Mr. Cotton.—Has there been or was there then any meeting of ratepayers generally?—No.

113. But they knew of it?—Yes.

114. To your own knowledge do these gentlemen occupying seats outside and their families use the town of Bray largely?—Yes, decidedly.

115. Do they drive in and go through the town to the railway and so on?—Yes, constantly. Mr. Verner now has gas and water to his very gate.

116. Mr. Wingfield.—He has not gas or water.

117. Mr. Brett.—Mr. Verner applied to us for water, and we could not give it to him. If the Commissioners were made aware of what Mr. Exham has stated they would not be opposed to the extension. What I advocate on the north side would leave a large surplus. The value of the houses and out-offices along that road is large, and even getting one-fourth on the land and full valuation of the houses, mansions and out-offices we would have a margin. We went into a calculation to show that.

118. Mr. Wingfield.—If we pay county cess, will we not, if taken in, have to pay 10*d.* besides?

119. CHAIRMAN.—Yes.

120. Mr. Wingfield.—And get nothing for it?

121. CHAIRMAN.—No, you get the light of the town, which is so largely used by you.

122. Mr. Wingfield.—Well, all I can say is, that so far from considering it to be of advantage, this proximity to the town that has been spoken of, I think it does not tend by any means to our benefit to be near it. It is a disadvantage instead of any advantage. We have a lot of idle people, loafers and vagabonds, running riot about the place, everything is stolen from us, and we can't trust a single soul. It is nothing but robbery and dishonesty. We who are the occupiers have to pay higher for our land than if we were not near, that is the only advantage, if you can call it an advantage, to be near thieves and vagabonds. We have the whole of this dreadful population of Bray (worse than is in the world) prowling around and stealing what they can put their hands on.

123. CHAIRMAN.—I should mention to you, Mr. Wingfield, that there is a very strong opinion expressed by the Parliamentary Committee, that the rates should be distributed between the landlord and the tenant, and then the 10*d.* or 10½*d.* you pay would be only 5*d.* The question comes to this, ought not the people living within a certain distance of a municipal town enjoying the lighting, cleansing, keeping of the streets clean, and other advantages of the kind which they use largely, pay a share of the expenses attending those benefits they enjoy?—But we don't enjoy them, we would rather be without them.

124. Mr. Griffin.—I derive more advantage from Dublin than Bray, and more from London than either.

125. Mr. Verner.—I don't see the advantage of living near a place where you have to be watching every individual who comes near your house, and as to the market or cattle, why I should like to know what is the great advantage you derive from shopping here, everything is so dreadfully expensive. Indeed so expensive is it that I deal for my beef and mutton in the Queen's County.

126. CHAIRMAN.—But if you do you have to have it brought by train, and then carried along the roads to your house?—Well, yes, but then that would apply to any other part of the country.

127. Mr. Cotton.—I intended to ask you, Mr.

Breslin, are the ratepayers, as a rule, satisfied with the arrangement of the wards?—I have not heard any expression to the contrary.

128. Do you know the number of voters in East

ward?—One hundred and eighty-seven. There has been an increase of property in East and West wards and Little Bray of £920 in last year.

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Mr. JOHN BRUCE examined.

Mr. John
Bruce.

129. CHAIRMAN.—You are a Town Commissioner of Bray?—Yes, for fourteen or fifteen years.

130. Do you yourself own any land outside the present boundary?—Yes, and in it.

131. Does the land outside the present town, say for a mile and a half or a mile, pay more rent in consequence of being so close to town?—Yes, I pay £6 an acre for land.

132. Is that inside or outside the present boundary?—Inside the boundary.

133. Have you any outside?—Yes.

134. What is that paying?—From £4 to £6 an acre.

135. What would land of the same quality bring were it further off, say a mile or between that and two miles?—About £3.

136. Is the tenant to pay that increased rent from having a market close at hand, at his very door?—Well, yes; from the advantages of the position of his land.

137. Does the landlord also get an advantage by being paid a larger rent by his tenant?—Yes, quite so. Manure is near at hand, and the cows' milk is sent in and sold.

138. Does the traffic, occasioned by the persons who send in their produce in that way to the town of Bray, and bring out manure and so on, tend to injure and dirty the roads?—Yes.

139. In your opinion should they, in justice, contribute something towards it?—Yes.

140. What would you consider a fair rate to be put on the land?—I would put very little on the land now.

141. But, Mr. Bruce, supposing there was a re-valuation of the land, we are to suppose that whoever would do that would do it fairly and in accordance

with the times, would you think one-fourth too much, or ought it to be one-half?—I think one-fourth would be enough.

142. Do you think these rates ought to be apportioned between landlord and tenant?—Yes.

143. Now with regard to this extended district, would you say they should continue to pay still the same road rate?—Yes.

144. Would you add on one-fourth for the benefit they get from the town?—Yes.

145. You heard Mr. Breslin's suggestion to go up to Judge Lawson's, and meet the road that goes to the back of Old Connaught?—I would not go much to the west at all.

146. Mr. Breslin.—I would take in Ellerslie, and all the houses there.

147. CHAIRMAN.—That is the road between Shank-hill Castle and Ellerslie?—Yes. It is all studded with houses.

148. Suppose the lighting is not extended beyond the present area; but to having regard to the advantages derived by these people, what would you say to the extension running to the west of Old Connaught and these people brought in only to pay one-fourth, the one-fourth to be divided between the landlord and tenant, what would you say to that?

Mr. Bruce.—I would be in favour of that.

149. Would it be your view, Mr. Bruce, to extend the boundary as suggested by Mr. Breslin?—Yes; and take in Thornhill—Sir Edward Hutchinson's.

150. CHAIRMAN.—Mr. Bruce, do you know Riversdale and Herbert Cottage?—Yes.

151. Do you think the extended area should take in these?—It would be too much I think.

152. Do you know Killarney Cottage?—Yes; that is a very small extension from the present line.

Mr. HENRY BRETT, C.E. examined.

Mr. Henry
Brett, C.E.

153. CHAIRMAN.—You are county surveyor of Wicklow?—Yes; and the surveyor of the township.

154. Have you made any calculation as to the cost of the roads, outside the present boundary, if extended as Mr. Breslin suggested?—No; not beyond what is suggested in my report (produced).

155. Could the roads, as mentioned in your report, be kept by the authorities here as cheaply as by the Grand Jury?—Certainly.

156. Could they be kept for the county cess?—No doubt about it; and probably there might be some saving?

157. Mr. COTTON.—You prepared a report, Mr. Brett, in 1872?—Yes.

158. What were the instructions you received when you defined that yellow boundary?—Lord Meath and the Commissioners went over the map, and the line as marked in the map (marked yellow) was what appeared to be what the general approval seemed to point to.

159. Do you know any principle that guided them?—No. It was chiefly advocated by Lord Meath, who was anxious to bring in his demesne.

160. Was there any reason given why they did not go further off to the north?—No; but they seemed to think that by taking in the portions marked on the map they would be doing what was of advantage to the whole. It was entirely caused by Lord Meath's desire.

161. At the time they were considering it did they discuss how they should distribute the wards?—No;

they did not enter into details at all; the thing was allowed to drop as not being generally favourably received.

162. Suppose it was increased, as suggested by Mr. Breslin, towards Judge Lawson's, following the road to Old Connaught, could the roads be kept for the same amount?—Yes; there would be a considerable margin for the township.

163. Mr. George Keogh.—Do the Grand Jury at present strike more than is requisite for the roads?

Mr. Brett.—No.

164. Mr. Keogh.—How then if the Grand Jury, as I presume they do, only strike sufficient for the roads and county-at-large charges—how do you make out that there is a margin, or that there would be a margin if it was taken away from the Grand Jury?—I mean the Grand Jury of the county of Dublin.

165. Taking in Wicklow 1s. 8d. or 1s. 6d. to be amply and simply sufficient for the maintenance of the roads and the county-at-large charges, how do you make out that if you take away the Grand Jury and substitute the Commissioners there will be a saving and a large margin of profit to the Commissioners?—Because the proportion of the valuation in this portion of the township is larger than the rural portion of the barony. The valuation of the part of the county proposed to be added on the Wicklow side is £4,716, the county cess payable out of which is 1s. 8d. in the pound, £393, and the road charge applicable thereto, £114, and county-at-large proportion about £110 (£224). There is a clear gain of £170 to the township

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in this way; this district which is highly valued and has but a limited road charge has to pay for the roads in the district parts of the barony, where the valuation is small and the road charge large; the same rule applies to the Dublin side where we propose to add in a district, the value of which is about £8,000, and the county cess payable at present is about £700 per annum, the road charge thereout would be about £200, and charge on county-at-large about £150, making a total outlay of £350 and showing a clear gain to the township of an equal sum, and this is caused by the like circumstances as on the Wicklow side, namely, that the highly valued lands near Bray have to pay for the remote districts of the barony of Rathdown.

166. But once you go outside the present boundary does it not then become just the same as the rest of the rural district?—No; for the first mile or so the value is increased, and then it decreases until you go to the extreme end of the county.

167. Mr. Keogh.—How much an acre is the land valued at between the present boundary—half way between the present boundary and Sir George Hodson's demesne and the land of Mr. La Touche?—As a general rule the land within a mile of the town is valued at double what it is at Delgany.

168. Could you tell us what the value is per acre above Mr. Wingfield's and Sir George Hodson's?—No. I could give you general results.

169. Mr. Keogh.—Well now Mr. Brett, has the township had funds to light even the roads within the township—at the present moment are they all lighted?—They have not sufficient funds to make all the improvements that might be deemed necessary or advisable.

170. Take one matter, take lighting, is there a single lamp beyond the Herbert Road—is the Herbert Road all lighted in fact?—No.

171. Well now take the portion between my gate and Mr. Wingfield's—the township boundary comes to the corner of Mr. Wingfield's land—is there a lamp in that place?—No. I think there ought to be a lamp there.

172. There are none on the Herbert Road?—No. There are some as far as it is built on.

173. Mr. Breslin.—The reason we did not do this was because it was only this month we got the money.

174. Mr. Wingfield.—Mr. Keogh might go further and ask are the lamps near enough?

175. Mr. Brett.—I may mention that the object of that report was to enable the Commissioners to procure larger funds and distribute them over a larger area.

176. Mr. Keogh.—Is it not a fact that the chief object municipal corporations and commissioners are created for is to give municipal benefits, is not that so?—Yes, and when there is a small or limited area of jurisdiction, you cannot carry out all that is required except gradually. It would be different if you had a large rated area like Kingstown, but here where there is a limited area it is different.

177. CHAIRMAN.—What you mean by limited is as to funds?—Yes.

178. Mr. Keogh.—Well what municipal object would there be secured by taking in a number of square miles—if you are unable to do to your satisfaction the work required by the existing area—except to become road makers?—There would be advantages such as lighting great county roads, jurisdiction over carmen and so on.

179. Mr. Keogh.—Jurisdiction over carmen; they have that as far as they are likely to get it, and as for lighting, if the extension were made to say Shankhill would you contemplate having a row of lamps like Sackville-street?—No, certainly not like Sackville-street.

180. Would the 10d. pay for painting the lamps alone to say nothing of anything else?—Yes, for the gas company would be glad to lay the mains and contribute to portion of the expenses.

181. Was there not a good deal of difficulty in getting them to lay down the mains, because there was not enough of custom except in respect of the street lamps. On the road in the direction of Mr. Wingfield's, I believe there is no one takes the gas except myself, they all refuse?—I am not aware of that, but I suppose it is because the gas company asked them to contribute towards the mains.

182. Mr. Wingfield.—There was a proposal some time ago made, that each person should take a certain quantity of gas, but although it was laid before the gas company, so little did they think about it that they did not even answer the letter.

183. Mr. Keogh.—The gas company told me there was no one to take the gas.

184. Mr. Brett.—I would not recommend an extension unless benefits were given to those brought in.

185. Mr. Corron.—Is the lighting perfect now to the boundary of the township?—No.

186. Is that because of not having rates sufficient for the purpose?—Yes.

187. If there was additional money and means to complete the lighting, and if it was continued and perfected to the limits of the boundary, would not the people outside be benefited and interested in it, even if the lighting was not continued beyond the limits of the existing boundary?—Yes.

188. Mr. Keogh.—Do you not consider, that the people living outside and who come into the town of Bray and make purchases there, confer benefit upon the shopkeepers?

Mr. Brett.—The town benefits the people outside, and the people outside to a certain extent may be said to benefit the town.

189. Mr. Keogh.—Is not one a fair set-off against the other?—There is certainly what might be called a mutuality of interest.

190. CHAIRMAN.—Should there not also be some mutuality of contribution?—Now take this case Mr. Keogh, you are situated close to Mr. Wingfield's place, you are taxed for keeping up the township and so on, now suppose instead of Mr. Wingfield's being a couple of hundred yards from the boundary, he was just at it on the other side of the road, would you then think it right or fair that he should not contribute?—My answer to that is this: I think the question might go on *ad infinitum*. There must be some one who just adjoins the place that is within the boundary.

191. Yes, and that appears to be the very thing which led the Select Committee to see the great necessity for some revision of the existing boundaries, and of having this inquiry. The existing condition of affairs pointed to the necessity of a general inquiry into the question. In many towns the recommendation and resolution of the Commissioners was that there should be an extension of two miles, or a mile and a half or a mile radius and so on; the reason for that was stated to be that the land around derived exceptional benefit from its proximity to the town; that the occupier was able to pay a higher rent having a ready market at hand and facilities for procuring manure and other advantages, and that the landlord had a large benefit because he derived perhaps double the rent he would get if his land similar in quality was three or four miles off.

192. Mr. Keogh.—All I can say is that the town of Bray ought not to be extended, no matter what the Select Committee thinks. The Commissioners have not money to light within the township, and it would be wrong to give them a larger area and without any more money to work it.

Mr. CHARLES DUFRESNE examined.

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Mr. Charles
Dufresne.

193. How long have you been a Town Commissioner?—Since 1871.

194. Are you a large ratepayer in the town?—Yes.

195. What is your view as to extension?—That land to be brought in should only pay one-fourth of the improvement rate, and the same county rate, the land to receive, as you have expressed it, only being changed. I believe as to gas and water being supplied to the districts to be added to the town, that it would ruin the township if it were made compulsory on the Commissioners to do so. There is an immense deal that could be done in the way of improvement to the district; in fact, Bray could well be made, and ought to be made, the first watering place in the country, if not in the kingdom. A nice walk could be made around Bray Head. This place is frequented by strangers, tourists, and a great number of "cheap trippers," as they are called, and everything ought to be done to develop the natural beauties of the district.

196. CHAIRMAN.—Is it your opinion that for a distance of say a mile or mile and a half outside the town the owners of land and houses derive exceptional benefit?—It is my opinion.

197. Is the letting value greater on account of being nearer to the town?—Yes.

198. You would not think of bringing in those places outside at one-fourth and supplying them with gas?—No.

199. But do you think they should fairly pay something even though they did not get anything more than they have at present?—I think it would be only fair that they should pay something considering the benefits they even now receive, and that the roads would probably be kept in better order than at present.

200. What is your idea of the rates to be paid—would you put one-half on the landlord?—Yes.

201. Mr. CORROX.—I want to ask the Town Clerk was Bray under the Towns Improvement Act?—Yes; the first meeting was on the 9th of November, 1857.

202. Mr. Du Fresne, were you a Town Commissioner when Mr. Brett was instructed to prepare his report?—Yes; that was in 1872.

203. Were you opposed to the extension then proposed?—I was, and for this reason it would have entailed great expense, we would have had to go for a new Act of Parliament, at a cost of £2,000, and we were not prepared to pay that. I was very much opposed on the ground of expense.

Mr. JOSEPH BURKE examined.

Mr. Joseph
Burke.

204. CHAIRMAN.—How long have you been a Town Commissioner?—Since the commencement.

205. You heard Mr. Breslin's observations?—No; unfortunately I did not.

206. Do you think the boundary ought to be extended at all?—I do think there ought to be an extension to take in the north side and join Ballybrack. I would have it to join Ballybrack township.

207. Do you know the road at Old Connaught?—Yes.

208. Mr. Breslin suggested to have that road as a boundary?—Yes.

209. Would that be advisable do you think?—Yes, I think it would be very well to take that.

210. Do you know the neighbourhood of Bray well?—Yes.

211. Now, for a distance of say a mile and a half round the town, in your opinion is land more valuable because of its being so close to the town?—Well, not more than in the town.

212. Yes, but it is more valuable than land would be two or three miles off?—Yes.

213. From being so close to the town?—Yes.

214. Do people keep dairy cattle, and so on, and bring in milk and butter to Bray?—Yes.

215. And take manure away and get it more easily?—Yes.

216. Do the landlords get a larger rent?—Yes.

217. Do they get more than they would if the land were three miles away?—Yes, one-third more.

218. With regard to rates, would it be fair to make them pay, at all events, one-fourth towards cleaning and lighting, and so on?—I think it would not be too much.

219. Mr. Wingfield.—Mr. Burke, do you think it of advantage that in addition to paying more rent for the land you should be charged another 10*d.* in the pound for the advantage of being asked to pay a high rent?—I don't understand.

220. You pay a higher rent because you are nearer the town?—Yes.

221. And is that any reason why there should be additional taxation put on the person who pays that. If I pay a higher rent for my land, is that any reason why I should pay a higher taxation?—No, unless you get some consideration for it.

Mr. COLUMBA DUNNE examined.

Mr. Columba
Dunne.

222. CHAIRMAN.—Where do you live?—On the Old Dargle-road. I would like to get out of the boundary.

223. You are in the boundary then?—Yes.

224. Would you prefer that the borough was made less?—Yes, because they are really doing nothing, and you are in danger of your life in walking on the footpath. There is no gas or sewerage, there are some houses on it built two feet or so over the road, and they are in a terrible state from the bad drainage.

225. Mr. Breslin.—Did you send in a report to the Commissioners?—I complained to the Inspector of Nuisances.

226. The Town Clerk.—The sewerage is now provided for.

227. Mr. Dunne.—I would not come before them with complaints because they had not the money; but now they have the money, and there is nothing done yet.

228. CHAIRMAN.—Well, suppose they do all that you require and bring out the gas, what is your notion about extending the boundary?—I am not well made

up on it, but I heard tradesmen say they would be very sorry there was an extension. There are not many gentry's places about, and the shopkeepers receive as much benefit from the gentlemen around as they do from the town.

229. CHAIRMAN.—Mr. Breslin says he would go as far as Judge Lawson's—he is anxious to be brought in.

230. Mr. Ryall.—Why should other people pay for that?

231. CHAIRMAN.—Mr. Brett says, "we can keep the roads and make money of them—we will keep these roads better than at present;" he says that from his experience he will be able to do that, and do it at less expense than it costs the Grand Jury at present, and the difference will come in aid of the town.

232. Mr. Ryall.—I don't see why an existing tax should be raised to give a bonus to the town which the landowners outside will have to pay.

233. CHAIRMAN.—The saving which would take place according to Mr. Brett, would, of course, go to

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Mr. Columba
Dunne.

the general rates. The parties to be brought in would be getting the benefit of the surplus. In fact as the rates would be reduced the outsiders would be getting the benefit of it.

234. Mr. *Wingfield*.—But would they do that—would the Commissioners do that?

Mr. R. R.
Wingfield, J.P.

Mr. R. R. WINGFIELD, J.P., examined.

238. CHAIRMAN.—You think the boundaries ought not to be extended?—I think they ought not. I don't think the business of the township has been so well managed as to make it at all desirable that the people outside should be brought in.

239. But if you were to extend the town in the way it has been suggested, would you not get a great number of very valuable gentlemen to come in as Commissioners and take their seats here?—I quite disagree with you. There are very few outside who could be Commissioners, who would be able to find time for the duties; and with the present franchise under the 13th section of the Bray Act, you will never get any gentlemen appointed. You can't do it. You will never have any different class of Commissioners from what there are at present.

240. Mr. *Breslin*.—Surely if your ward is formed it is your own party would vote you in, then the other wards would have nothing to do with it. You would be sure to be taken in.

241. CHAIRMAN.—Suppose there was an extension would you form the new district into separate wards?—It would greatly depend upon what the new district is. The extension to the north should be a separate ward, but any extension to the south would not be enough. It has been shown that East ward returns nine representatives, Little Bray, three, and West ward, three?—Yes.

242. Now what would you say to this arrangement of the wards. Suppose this extension towards the north and whatever was taken in there was formed into one separate ward, and if there were still to be fifteen town councillors, then the East ward could be reduced by three, the new ward would have three, and Little Bray and West ward three.

243. That would be an advantage?—I think, however, there are very few of the gentry who would have time to join the Commissioners' body. Down by the sea in that East ward there are a number of gentlemen, who would be very good Commissioners, but not one of them would have the time to spare to devote to the duties.

244. Well, I hope you would be able to get gentlemen who would take sufficient interest in the district. In Rathmines the Commissioners meet regularly at nine o'clock, and yet they are all business men.

245. Mr. *Wingfield*.—But then see the difference of time in getting in, you must allow for that. No doubt there are gentlemen who might meet if they chose to do so. When there is an election of Commissioners, very few of them take any trouble about voting or anything connected with it.

235. CHAIRMAN.—Certainly, if there was a surplus.

236. Mr. *Ryall*.—They would spend as much as they could.

237. CHAIRMAN.—Well, they cannot spend more than 3s. 6d. as the law now stands.

246. Mr. *Breslin*.—The men you speak of are gentlemen who just come down here to live here in the summer.

247. Mr. *Wingfield*.—Yes, but they have their houses permanently.

248. Mr. *Breslin*.—In the rural districts you will find plenty of gentlemen to come as Commissioners to keep down the rates, and it would infuse new blood into the Council, and bring the Board to the status it ought to have.

249. CHAIRMAN.—You know, Mr. *Wingfield*, that the boundary goes at present to the north, to Cork Abbey?—Yes.

250. Does not the owner of Cork Abbey get great benefit from the light of the lamps up there?—Well, I don't know that he does—he might perhaps if he was going in and out constantly to Bray, but I think the people there have very little communication with Bray.

251. Mr. *Breslin*.—Take the case of Sir John Ribton's place, where they are anxious to get the water up.

252. CHAIRMAN.—Take the case of Wilford House and Palermo, would not a larger rent be got for those places from being near Bray?—Yes.

253. Should they not, in your opinion, contribute something towards keeping up Bray?—Well, I think perhaps the owners might, but I don't see that because a man hires a house there and pays a higher rent for it from its being near to Bray, it is any advantage to him. The only advantage to him is from being nearer to Dublin.

254. He goes to the station at Bray, and uses the streets of the town?—No, he would probably go to Shankhill.

255. Mr. *Cotton*.—May I ask you, Mr. *Breslin*, does your agreement with the Corporation of Dublin enable you to compel them to supply an extended area?—No, we cannot supply anyone with water except with their assent. We have got the water on very reasonable terms from the Corporation, and they are willing and anxious to extend their mains wherever it is required. I believe Mr. *Ryall* has the supply.

256. Mr. *Wingfield*.—They allow you to tap the main on its way.

257. Mr. *Dufresne*.—The gentlemen who would be elected would be most certainly anxious to come to see that their interests are preserved and properly represented. They would be greatly interested with regard to the roads, and would manage the work well, besides being vitally interested in keeping down the rates.

Sir George
Hodson.

Sir GEORGE HODSON examined.

258. I live a good deal outside, and have a small property inside, and wanted to mention to you that that property has been acquired in the Landed Estates Court. As it stood then under the Grand Jury, my payments under the Grand Jury system were £3 5s. to £4, including all. Since then I have got Vartry water and light, both very defective. As to the Vartry the supply is very irregular, we sometimes have the water and sometimes not—not always. In the summer before last things went to such a pitch that I was required by the tenant to put in a force pump in order to secure a supply. That cost £40. The difference to which I wished to call your attention was the rise from paying £3 15s. to £4 under the old

system to paying £11 4s., and on one occasion £13 16s. under the present system. You can't, under those circumstances, be surprised at my wish not to be included in the proposed area.

259. CHAIRMAN.—But, Sir George, this property of yours, to which you refer, is in the township as I am informed?—Yes.

260. Do you then suggest that the boundaries be altered by curtailing them?—I don't do that, for that is out of the question, but I would not like to have the taxation on my own property increased, for it is vastly in excess of what it was under the old system. My valuation is £75.

261. Mr. *Brett*.—You have improved it very much.

262. Mr. *Keogh*.—What was the county cess twelve months ago?

Sir *George Hodson*.—It was up to 1s. 6d.

263. Mr. *Breslin*.—Has not the value of your house been considerably enhanced in rent during the past fifteen years?—Yes; if the matters by which it was increased were perfect, but it is not so. There is neither light nor water perfect.

264. CHAIRMAN.—I forgot to ask as to the wards, if there was the extension suggested by you, Mr. *Breslin*, whether you would include the new district in a separate ward as I suggested.

265. Mr. *Breslin*.—I would be in favour of that.

266. Mr. *Wingfield*.—Yes; I think that would be a good arrangement.

267. Mr. *Phineas Ryall*, J.P.—Some of my land is in Old Connaught. I don't see why the extension should go for a couple of miles on the south and nothing on the east.

268. CHAIRMAN.—It appears Lord Meath wants it.

269. Mr. *Keogh*.—Are you in the boundary at present Mr. *Ryall*?—I am.

270. And you don't want to have an extension;—No. I do not believe the Commissioners could keep the roads for less than the Grand Jury. They do their best for the district, and I do not think that changing the hand of the receiver would by any means enable the work to be done more economically. I have no faith in there being a surplus.

271. CHAIRMAN.—In Wexford, we found there was an actual saving of about £400 a year, by their taking over the roads from the Grand Jury.

272. Mr. *Keogh*.—Wexford is a town entirely built on, with a very small proportion of land, and we know that every perch of road has a much larger contributory cess from the buildings than the rural districts. I am of opinion that the Grand Jury economize as much as any other body do, and I do not believe the Commissioners could keep the roads for less than the Grand Jury, I do not believe that changing the hand to receive would enable the work to be done more economically. The rural district has only acreable value for agricultural purposes, and consequently, though a perch in the country may cost as much as in the town, it has not the same source of revenue. Take in two miles or three, down to Shankhill, and take it that the Commissioners could keep it for less than the Grand Jury do; but even if they do it for the same, then I do not believe the cess is more than sufficient to pay that and the county-at-large charges, and the Commissioners would have to pay that and the expense of the road as well, and where is the profit.

273. CHAIRMAN.—In that view the people in the town who pay on a higher valuation than that on the land would be paying their quota on a very much larger scale than the outsiders.

274. Mr. *Keogh*.—All I can say is this, and I may be very obtuse, I cannot see it. As a ratepayer in the township, I would unquestionably apprehend very dangerous results to the ratepayers if they undertook duties so far in excess of their present.

275. CHAIRMAN.—Except they got money to do it with?—Well, I do not think, with deference to those who are of another opinion that it is likely they would

get any very great benefit at all. I have no confidence in that view at all, and if extension is to be made of a town without water, light, or drainage, being extended, it is rather opposed to my view of what a municipal government ought to be. I think it is absurd to add a rural district where you are to have no gas, no water, no drainage.

276. But the answer to that is what is suggested in other places. A man arrives at the railway station and drives along the streets of the municipal town having the benefits of the lighting, and so on, for say a mile, after that mile he has to proceed in the dark, and they say they have no objection to pay their quota, for the advantages derived from the town as far as it goes.

277. Mr. *Keogh*.—I have not heard any outsiders say they wish to pay anything.

278. Mr. *Breslin*.—Mr. Bruce says he does.

279. Mr. *Keogh*.—The mistake that underlies a good deal of this is, that from Bray to Shankhill, on the right-hand side of the road, it is simply occupied by a limited number of demesnes, not one of the owners of which is going to break down his demesne walls and set the ground for building. It is contrary to all precedent that a road along the side of demesne walls is to be treated as if it was a municipal road that requires lighting, and watering, and everything, as if it were ground built upon or let for building. In Bray we have a large acreage unbuilt on at present, and I think it is sufficient for the interests of Bray to try and develop that instead of endeavouring to take upon themselves other operations, liabilities, and obligations that may prove very enormous.

280. Mr. *Ryall*.—The only land required for building is close to the railway station or the sea.

281. CHAIRMAN.—Don't you think that the people up here at Clifden use the railway very much and pass through the town?

Mr. *Keogh*.—The greater number of them go to Shankhill. They all do that in preference to driving back. I may tell you that I was instrumental in bringing in the Bray Act under which the town is constituted, and we took enormous trouble to ascertain what ought to be the boundary, and everything was taken in that it was thought should be properly and profitably included. As to the Commissioners, I have no objection to there being new Commissioners, and having new blood introduced, nor to raising the standard as much as possible, but as Mr. *Wingfield* threw out, as long as you have the qualification very low, the franchise low, it is a very difficult thing to put in persons above the class of those who are the majority of the people. All I can say is this—my objection is grounded upon this—I think the township would suffer by extension, if I thought it would gain by it I would take the opposite view.

282. Mr. *Brett*.—I may mention that the total charge on the county on the yellow line proposed in 1872, taking the prices for county-at-large charges, what has been proposed to-day would be about as much more, and the valuation to meet that would be very close on £7,000—certainly over £6,000.

283. So that 1s. 8d. in the pound on that would be nearly £500?—Yes.

The inquiry terminated.

BRAY.
May 3, 1873.
Sir George
Hodson.

CARRICK-ON-SUIR, MARCH 10TH, 1879.

(Before Mr. EXHAM, Q.C.)

CARRICK-ON-SUIR.

Mar. 10, 1879.

Mr. William Harding.

MR. WILLIAM HARDING, Clerk to the Town Commissioners, examined.

1. The town is under the Towns Improvement Act?—Yes, since the year 1855.

2. Was it adopted then for everything?—Yes.

3. How were your boundaries settled then, was it by an order published in the *Gazette*, and have you got a copy of it?—I am sure we got it, but I was not Town Clerk then.

4. What is the area of the town?—It is 2,160A. 2R. 16P.

5. How many townlands are in that?—Between townlands and parts of townlands, fourteen, and there is a separate valuation made for the telegraph wires, which extend over several townlands.

6. How many of those townlands are partly in and out of the town?—There are seven townlands entirely in, and the rest are partly in.

7. What is the farthest extent of the boundary from the centre of the town?—From the Butter market, the farthest extent is about two statute miles to the east; about one statute mile to the west; and to the north and south, it is within a stone's-throw, I might almost say, for the boundary does not extend at all out of the town, either to the north or south; on the south, the boundary is about 500 yards from the river, which runs through the town. There are about 800 statute acres of the town in the county Waterford.

8. What is the population?—In 1871 it was 7,792.

9. Are there wards in the town?—Yes, two wards—Carrick-on-Suir in Tipperary and Carrickbeg ward in Waterford.

10. What is the valuation of each ward?—Carrick-on-Suir is £7,308 4s., and Carrickbeg is £1,541 1s.

11. Is the whole town in one electoral division?—No. It is in three electoral divisions—one, Carrick-on-Suir, on the Carrick-on-Suir side; two electoral divisions—Carrickbeg and Fenoagh—on the Carrickbeg side.

12. How much of the municipal area is in each electoral division?—762 acres in Carrickbeg electoral division, and 103 acres in Fenoagh.

13. What is the valuation of each of these?—£873 17s. in Carrickbeg, and £113 5s. in Fenoagh.

14. How many Commissioners are there in the town?—Twelve for Carrick-on-Suir and three for Carrickbeg.

15. Are there poor law wards here?—No.

16. Are the guardians elected off the entire electoral division?—Yes.

17. And the same way in Carrickbeg?—Yes.

18. Are the wards here considered satisfactory, or is it suggested there should be any alteration in them?—Not in the wards, but as regards extension of the area, alteration is suggested.

19. As regards extension of the area, have the Commissioners met to consider the subject?—They did meet on one occasion specially on the subject.

20. Was that since our queries were sent down?—Yes. On the 15th January there was a special meeting convened to consider them, and they came to a resolution that it was not desirable to have any extension; but when I received an intimation from you that you intended to sit here, there was another resolution passed to convene a meeting last Friday.

21. Was that a meeting of the Town Commissioners only or of the people as well?—Of the Commissioners only at both meetings. They came to this resolution at the last meeting:—"Resolved that the resolution of the 15th January last anent the boundary be and it is hereby rescinded. And that our clerk be directed to convey to the Boundary Commissioners, on Monday next, that we are desirous to have a rectification of our present capricious limits, but to what extent we leave it to the Boundary Commissioners after any

general or other manner to recommend as they may think proper."

22. Was that an unanimous resolution?—Yes.

23. How many Commissioners were present at the meeting?—Six, and when the resolution of the 15th January was passed there were seven Commissioners present. The resolution of the 15th January was as follows:—

"That in reply to the queries of the Municipal Boundaries Commissioners they be informed that we do not consider it desirable to make any alteration in the present municipal boundary."

24. Do you know to what extent the Commissioners recommend there should be an alteration?—I do not. At the first meeting they had a map, and the local surveyor attended, and he pointed out the two electoral divisions of Carrick-on-Suir and Carrickbeg, and then they pointed out another boundary more limited, but the resolution they arrived at, on looking at both boundaries submitted to them, apart from the present municipal boundary, was that resolution of the 15th January last. They then thought it was not desirable to alter the boundary. What I mean to convey is that on the 15th January there was a special meeting convened and the two electoral divisions of Carrick-on-Suir and Carrickbeg were submitted to them for consideration as to whether they would recommend an extension, or not to take in the whole of those electoral divisions.

25. Mr. Richard O'Donnell (Chairman of the Town Commissioners).—The object of the meeting was to inquire whether we should have any extension or not.

26. Do you mean to include the whole of the electoral divisions of Carrick-on-Suir and Carrickbeg?—Yes.

27. Mr. William Harding (Town Clerk).—The meeting, after seeing the boundaries submitted through these maps, came to the resolution of the 15th January that it was not desirable to have any extension.

28. When they came to the conclusion the other day that there should be extension, did they say to what extent?—No; they left it to the Commissioners.

29. Mr. O'Donnell.—The original resolution was passed on this basis. We got the surveyor to make an estimate of the valuation of the two electoral divisions, and also of what the additional taxation would be on the valuation of the outlying districts within the electoral division, and we found upon a calculation of the acreage and the Poor Law valuation that the utmost we could gain by the extension would be £90 a year, inasmuch as there are no mansions or villas, and all we could gain would be whatever we could get at the rate of 3d. in the pound on the extreme valuation, but we know nothing of the extra charges that might be on the extension, and we came to the general conclusion that it was better to leave matters as they were. At the same time there is an irregularity in the present boundary. We gain nothing by the extension, and we were under the impression we might be at expense, which would more than counteract the benefit to be obtained, and one of the Commissioners came here afterwards and seemed rather angry that such a thing should have been passed behind his back, and he moved that the resolution be rescinded. I objected to that except by notice, and then there was notice given for an adjourned meeting, to have the resolution rescinded, and there were five or six here, and they passed the resolution. That is the whole history of the matter.

30. To what extent does the electoral division of Carrick-on-Suir extend beyond the present municipal boundary?—It contains 5,185A. 3R. 21P. Carrickbeg

contains 4,039A. 0R. 29P., and Fenoagh contains 3,072A. 0R. 38P..

31. Do these electoral divisions extend in some places four or five miles from the town?—Yes. Very nearly four Irish miles.

32. When you speak of rectifying the boundary, would you think of taking some of it off?—No. The boundaries took a turn and hooked my place in. In about two years after we came under the operation of the Towns Improvement Act; there was a memorial sent to the Government for the purpose of having the area extended, but they refused to entertain it.

33. On what grounds?—They gave no grounds, but simply refused to entertain it.

34. Do you consider the boundary towards the north and the east a fair one?—The east is more in comparison to the west. We derive no benefit from extending the boundary. What we wanted was to have an official boundary on the Ordnance map which would bring in the two electoral divisions.

35. But you don't mean to bring in the whole of the electoral division?—Yes; that was what was proposed, making altogether about 12,300 acres instead of 2,200, which we have at present.

36. Surely you would not be in favour of that?—I would not favour that at all. On the 9th April, 1855, the Commissioners proposed to extend the boundaries, but not so much, and the Government at that time refused. On the 14th May, 1855, a letter was written from the Chief Secretary's office that the Lord Lieutenant did not approve of the extension of the boundary, and then it was resolved—

"That the clerk be directed to write to the Chief Secretary to express the disappointment of the Commissioners at the conclusion the Lord Lieutenant had come to of not altering the boundaries, and they are satisfied that it will give great dissatisfaction to the ratepayers generally if the present boundaries be not altered, as it appears there was a mistake made in the survey of the present boundaries; that the measure would not originally have been carried out even within the present boundaries but that the professional gentleman engaged for the old Commissioners, and who was also conducting the movement for the adoption of the new Act, pledged himself publicly in open court that the boundaries would be so extended, and that he was authorized so to act by a large number of the ratepayers, as also by many of the parties who have since been elected to that office, upon which pledge all opposition to the introduction of the measure was withdrawn."

37. Then the boundary has continued the same ever since?—Yes.

38. What was the boundary then proposed?—There was a map attached to the memorial which is not here. They are now indifferent on the subject here and they don't care what is done.

39. Was it ever considered that if you became the urban sanitary authority you should take up the management of the roads?—No; we refused to do anything of the kind. What we wish to do is to let well enough alone. We don't want to increase any burden upon us, for our means are very trifling.

40. What is your rate?—1s. in the pound improvement rate.

41. And the sanitary rate?—Nothing, we have done away with that for the present.

42. You have a tax of 1d. for keeping up the Green?—Yes; the tax for the Park is 1d.; our sanitary rate is 3d., and our general purposes 8d.

43. You keep within the shilling?—Yes. It is a poor district and a poor town, and we can't afford it. We must keep within it. We are trying as well as we can to keep out of debt and to nurse our little funds; and the only question would be whether it would be desirable to increase it to any extent and to bring in those lands to pay one-fourth; but the area is so large, it would be about 10,000 acres, and if any subsequent legislation should bring these places within our compass here it is hard to know where it would end, if we are to supply officers and inspection and all that.

44. You are the urban sanitary authority at present?—Not for these districts at present.

45. But within the township you are?—Yes; and if we had that increased district it would be a very serious thing.

46. These districts now pay the full sanitary rate, and half is deducted from the landlord, and if they come into the town they only pay one-fourth so that it would be better for them to come in?—We don't want to be burdened with them at all—we don't know where it would end. What we would rather do is to get something that would give us an income quite irrespective of that. We are anxious to get up a butter market here, which would be of vital importance to us, as it would give us an additional income of about £300 a year.

47. I would like to know whether you could suggest what the increase would be?—These gentlemen do not suggest any increase, though they thought rectification would be desirable and they left it to the Commissioners.

48. But rectification might mean decreasing the boundary and not increasing?—Yes.

49. Did any of them, as far as you know, go in for diminution of the boundary anywhere?—No.

50. Then it was a rectification by increasing?

51. Mr. *Harding* (Town Clerk).—What I gleaned from them would be something like this, to increase the boundary all round to its present extreme limit, so that it should be the same distance in each way.

52. Mr. *O'Donnell*.—You see how indifferent these gentlemen are on the subject, for not one of them comes here to-day. These valuable pasture lands, the grass of which is set for £5 an acre, don't extend more than a mile round the town.

53. Do they extend a mile to the north and a mile to the south?—No; some lands are far inferior. Only part of Carrickbeg would produce that, because the hill intervenes, and there is bad land; but on the Kilkenny side the land about the town will set for £5 an acre.

54. They are in the town at present?—Yes.

55. Is it your opinion that land outside the town is of exceptional value?—Certainly. There are lands outside the town which, if they were two miles further off, would not be worth more than half what they are paying at present.

56. Is that from their proximity to the town as a market town?—Yes.

57. Do you think they should pay something towards the keeping up of the town?—No doubt about it. They derive more benefit than the townspeople themselves, for they have the benefit when they come in, and they have a market here, and the closer the market is the less the expense of bringing the produce in, so that they have the advantage of being within a quarter of a mile or half an hour of the market.

58. Do you think, in view of that, that you might safely take in an area of two miles round the town?—I think that would be too far.

59. Would you say a mile and a half?—I think you might fairly go to that distance taking the matter in that point of view.

60. Whether they paid half or one-fourth, would you make the landlord pay half of that?—I would not say how much, but I think they should pay something. My impression is that the landlord derives more benefit from the proximity of his lands to the town than the occupier does.

61. The same thing has been said everywhere, namely, that the person who gets the greatest benefit is the landlord. Do you agree in that opinion?—Yes.

62. If that is so, is it your opinion that he should pay for all that?—I would not venture to say that, but I go upon the principle that he should pay something. I think you should examine Mr. *Harding* on that question as a land agent, and not merely as one of our officers.

63. Suppose the area was extended to the extent you

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Mr. O'Donnell.

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Mr. O'Donnell.

suggest, would there be any difficulty in the Town Commissioners managing the sanitary portion of the work?—That is the difficulty I see all through, that it would involve us in expense which our present funds would not enable us to carry out, but if we get an increase it would be different.

64. With regard to the expenses of any sanitary works, you have power to strike an unlimited sanitary rate?—Yes; but we have a very poor district, and unless we got the help of the landlord, we would not be able to do it, and any addition from extension of the area would be no use to us if we had corresponding liabilities.

65. Certainly not, but would not the sanitary management be very little?—You would have to pay additional to your medical officers, and inspectors, and sub-sanitary officers.

66. Yes, but the ratepayers in the extended district would have to pay that?—Yes, certainly; but we are obliged to regulate our funds very economically. They are very small, and up to the present we have kept out of debt. There is scarcely a little community in Ireland that has so well kept itself clear of liabilities with the little means we have.

67. Of course, I understand that it is not proposed to give these outlying districts any benefit of lighting which you have at present, and that is the reason you propose to make them pay one-fourth or one-half?—Yes; but how would they be affected as regards cleansing.

68. As regards that I suppose unless you took up the roads there would be no cleansing other than for sanitary purposes?—Suppose we got this increased area into our charge and that we taxed it, would we be liable to be called upon by any person in that area to keep the roads clean?

69. That is for the legislature afterwards, and at present we could not say as to that?—I apprehend we might be called upon by any person outside the present boundary who might be brought in, to keep these roads clean notwithstanding that we are not severed from the county. That is a very serious thing for a small community.

70. I take your view to be that if they are brought in they should be brought in paying a portion, whether a fourth or a half, and that they should not get light?—My individual opinion is that if we are to supply them with equal benefits to the town they should be equally taxed.

71. I was putting it in the same way. You could not light these outlying districts for it would cost too much, and they don't want it, and your view is that if they are brought in on a differential rate, it is to be on the understanding that they are not to get the benefit of lighting, and that you are not to be bound to clean these roads outside the present district, but that they should remain with the county as at present for cleansing purposes?—Yes. We object—this is my own individual opinion, and, I believe, the opinion of the other Commissioners also—we object to be separated from the county.

72. You want to remain attached to the county for all road and county purposes?—Yes; but we ought to have the management of our internal affairs. That is what we complain of most. A man may charge by weight or measurement, or whatever he likes, and we have no control whatever.

73. Do you consider it would be more important to get the management of the market than to obtain this extension?—Yes. We would sooner have the management of the market than any extension.

74. Who has the management of the market here?—There is no control over the butter market at all.

75. Who keeps it?—A man named Boyd, who was appointed by the assistant barrister about twelve or fourteen years ago.

76. What does he do with the tolls?—He pockets them, and we want the butter market to be put under

our control, and we want to have sworn tasters and weighers. There is no confidence in the market, and £10,000 or £15,000 a year of the butter goes away to the Waterford market. If that butter was sold here it would be better for the town.

77. Would you get the toll on it if it was sold here?—Yes. We would get threepence in the pound for the benefit of the town.

Mr. HARDING, Town Clerk, recalled.

78. Are you a land agent?—Yes, to some extent.

79. Do you know the value of land near the town?—Yes.

80. Can you say whether land within an area of two statute miles from the centre of the town is more valuable and pays a higher rent than land three miles off?—Yes, it does.

81. To what extent would you say?—I say that land within the two miles area is well worth £4 an acre, and land similar in quality if three miles off is only worth from 30s. an acre to £2.

82. For the same quality of land?—Yes, and the grazing land would be worth £5 an acre. The people within that district use the town largely for selling their produce and buying goods, and getting manure and everything in that way. They also use the schools for their children, and come in to attend their places of worship, and in many other ways they enjoy the town just the same as the people in it.

83. Do they take the advantage of lighting in that way?—I can't say that, because it doesn't extend much.

84. During the winter months, when it is dark here in the evenings, do they get the benefit of the lighting so far as it goes?—Certainly.

85. Suppose you gave them nothing except the benefit they derive themselves from their proximity to the town, how much do you think they should pay towards the keeping of the town—would you say one-fourth, or one-third, or one-half?—At present any land inside pays only one-fourth.

86. Is that too little for them to pay in the town?—I think they should pay at least half.

87. Do you think that the half of that should be put on the landlord?—Certainly.

88. So you would make them pay half, and if the landlord paid half of that, they would only have one-fourth to pay?—Yes.

89. Because if it is a fact that the landlord gets £5 an acre for land for which he would only get £2 if it was further off, he has the benefit to the extent of £3 by reason of his proximity to the town, and the landlord should pay something?—Certainly.

90. Following out that principle, would you think it fair that, within an area of about two statute miles of the town, the boundary ought to be extended, keeping to townland boundaries as near as possible?—I do.

91. Would that go beyond the present electoral division boundary?—No.

92. Mr. O'Donnell.—Perhaps that would be too far, some of the Carrickbeg land is not worth more than £1 an acre.

93. If it is only worth £1 an acre it is only valued at that amount, and if it is to pay on the valuation it only pays its proportion according to its value?—I am speaking of the benefits derived by the landlord.

94. Well, that man whose land is only valued at £1 would have to pay threepence, whereas the man whose land is valued at £4 would have to pay a shilling?—But throughout Ireland we find the bad land is valued too high, and the good land too low.

95. Mr. Howard's view is that within that area they should pay half. Is it your view that they should pay one-fourth, but that in either case the landlord should contribute half?—Yes.

Mr. JOHN RICHARDSON examined.

96. I am under agent to Lord Bessborough, and I live outside the town.

97. Would a good deal of Lord Bessborough's land be affected by this?—No.

98. Do you know the town well?—Yes, I am here every Saturday.

99. Do you think it would be fair that the owners of property and occupiers within a certain district

should contribute?—I don't think the county derives much benefit from the town. There are not many advantages to be got in this town. I don't see any advantage to our part of the county except coming in to an odd market. For instance the butter goes to Waterford. I am outside the two miles, and I have nothing to say to the matter.

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Mr. John Richardson.

Mr. HARDING, Town Clerk, recalled.

100. Suppose there is an extension, what would you say as to the wards. I suppose any extension on the Carrickbeg side should go to the Carrickbeg ward, and the same way with the other ward?—I suppose so.

101. Would there be any further rectification of the wards necessary?—No.

102. How many people would be brought in as voters by the proposed extension?—Not many, because it would be principally land that would be brought in.

Mr. Harding.

Mr. JAMES WALLACE examined.

103. I am one of the Town Commissioners of Carrick-on-Suir. The boundaries of the town are in my opinion too limited and irregular, and they require extension. I would be for going for an extension of about two miles from the centre of the town, keeping to the townland boundaries as near as possible. The land within that area is much dearer than land of the same quality about three miles out. The persons holding land within that area use the town very extensively for buying and selling, and they are enabled in that way to pay a higher rent for the land than they otherwise would. The landlord gets the benefit too, and I think it would be fair that the people holding that land should pay one-half the taxation that the town-people pay, even without getting any benefit from the lighting of the town or watering. In

my opinion the taxes which they should pay should be further divided, and paid half by the landlord and half by the tenant. I think that if the town is extended the extension at the Tipperary side should be added to the Carrick-on-Suir ward, and the extension at the Waterford side should be added to the Carrickbeg ward. I would be brought in for land I hold, but I would not object on that ground as I think it is fair. I do not think it would be any advantage that the Town Commissioners should acquire the management of the roads from the Grand Jury. We are satisfied with the way the roads are kept, and I don't think we could keep them as economically. Whatever district is added should be apportioned to the two existing wards. No further alteration of the wards is desirable or necessary.

Mr. James Wallace.

Mr. THOMAS J. HOWELL examined.

104. I am one of the Commissioners of Carrick-on-Suir. I think the boundaries are too contracted, and very irregular; they require to be extended, and I think they should be extended to the extent of two miles from the centre of the town, following townland boundaries as near as possible. I know of my own knowledge that land within that area pays a considerably higher rent than lands about three miles further from the town, though they are of the same quality. The increased value is caused by their proximity to the town. The tenants who occupy these lands make as much use of the town as those who live in the town; they buy manure in the town, and everything, in fact, they want; they sell their produce daily, to a large amount, in the town, and derive considerable profit from it; and they are thereby enabled to pay a

larger rent than they would otherwise do. They also have the benefit of the lighting of the town, and of its arrangements. I think, in fairness, they should pay one-half of the improvement rate in the town, and that what they thus pay should be divided between the landlord and tenant, as the landlord derives a much larger rent from these lands than he otherwise would. I don't think it would be any advantage to give the Commissioners the management of the roads, which are now in the hands of the Grand Jury; we are satisfied with the way the roads are kept and I don't think we could keep them as economically. Whatever district is added should be apportioned to the two existing wards. I don't think any further alteration of the wards is desirable or necessary.

Mr. Thomas J. Howell.

Mr. DENIS HOWLEY examined.

105. I am a ratepayer in the town. I have business in the town. I know of my own knowledge that lands within a circle of two miles from the centre of the town pay a considerably higher rent than lands of an equal value a little further off. The occupiers of these lands are able to pay, in consequence of the advantages they derive by buying and selling in the town; they make use of the town largely for buying and selling produce, and they get the advantage of the lighting of the town and the cleansing of the streets. I think it would be fair that they should pay one-half of the improvement rate payable by the people in the town, and that should be paid in respect of the advantages they derive from

the town. That half, I think, should be divided between the landlord and tenant, inasmuch as the landlord derives a higher rent from the land than he otherwise would. I do not think it would be advisable for the Town Commissioners to obtain the management of the roads from the Grand Jury, for I don't think they could be as cheaply kept by the Town Commissioners; neither do I think it is necessary or desirable to make any alteration in the existing wards. The land to be brought in, if there is to be any extension of the boundary, should be added to these existing wards.

The inquiry then terminated.

Mr. Denis Howley.

CARRICKFERGUS.—SEPTEMBER 24TH, 1879.

[Before Mr. EXHAM, Chairman, and Mr. ROBINSON.]

Mr. T. DIGBY JOHNS examined.

CARRICKFERGUS.
Sept. 24, 1879.Mr. T. Digby
Johns.

1. CHAIRMAN.—You are the Town Clerk of Carrickfergus?—Yes. Carrickfergus has a form of government of its own.

2. You are the only town under the 3rd and 4th of Victoria, chapter 108, and the 6th and 7th of Victoria, chapter 93?—Yes.

3. Has your municipal boundary always been the same?—Yes, ever since the charter granted by James I. The limitation was then fixed by the charter, and by it the borough and county of the town were made conterminous.

4. Have the Municipal Commissioners met and considered the question of the extension or alteration of the municipal boundaries?—Yes, they had a special meeting yesterday, for the purpose of considering the question, knowing that you were going to sit to-day. They passed the following resolution:—

“That seeing the borough and county of the town of Carrickfergus as at present constituted has been the area of local taxation and jurisdiction from a very remote antiquity with the general satisfaction and concurrence of all the inhabitants thereof, that the Municipal Commissioners are the owners in fee of the entire property, that there is no rate levied or required for municipal purposes within this district, and that the Municipal Commissioners are also the Harbour Commissioners and owners of the entire foreshore of the county and borough. Resolved—that it is inexpedient to extend, limit, or otherwise alter the existing boundaries of the borough of Carrickfergus.”

Mr. James
Louden.

13. CHAIRMAN.—You are one of the Municipal Commissioners of Carrickfergus?—Yes, I wish to remark that there has been some talk about the town contributing more than it gets, and I have made some inquiries on the subject.

14. Do you consider there would be a saving effected if you had the roads under the control of the Municipal Commissioners?—I believe the Commissioners would have things in a better state for the amount of money that the town contributes. The county people are disinclined to do anything for the town. They say, “What right have we to contribute towards the work of the town?”

Mr. JAMES LOUDEN examined.

Mr. Johns.

17. CHAIRMAN.—Then in that view it would be of advantage if you got the Grand Jury powers transferred to you?—There has been no suggestion made in reference to the matter.

18. Under the Act of last session—the Public Health Act—that can be done, and no veto of the Grand Jury can prevent its being done if the Local Government Board approves of it?—We have nothing to do with it at present.

19. In Wexford they have saved enormously by it?—Very likely so.

Mr. Louden.—I have no doubt the town would save £600 or £700 by it.

Mr. JOHNS re-examined.

5. As far as you know, from the ratepayers of the town, is there any desire to increase or curtail the limits of the municipal boundary?—None whatever.

6. Is there any outside district, the people of which would wish to be brought in?—Certainly not.

7. Is the county of the town and the town of Carrickfergus conterminous with the Poor Law Electoral Division?—It is.

8. How far does the electoral division extend on all sides from the town of Carrickfergus—how many miles?—About four square miles. It is very irregular on the west side.

9. What was the poor rate for the past five years?—In 1874, 1s. 6d.; 1875, 1s. 4d.; 1876, 1s.; 1877, 1s.; 1878, 1s.

10. Do you manage your roads yourself?—The Grand Jury of the county of the town of Carrickfergus manage the roads entirely. It is a separate county and has a separate Grand Jury, and they levy a separate county cess.

11. Have you considered whether it would be better to get a transfer of the Grand Jury powers to the Municipal Commissioners so that you would be enabled to manage your own roads?—The Town Commissioners have got enough to do with their own business, and they don't want to interfere with the Grand Jury.

12. Do you think that there would be any benefit derived from it?—I don't think so.

15. Do you consider that you could do the work cheaper and better, and that it would be for the benefit of parties within the municipal area if you got control of the roads and got the county cess?—We have not considered the matter. The valuation of the town is about £6,000, and the average charge is 1s. in the pound, about that every half-year, which makes about £600 a year paid for roads by the town.

16. Do you think you could keep your roads much cheaper if you got that £600 a year, and the Municipal Commissioners had the laying out of it?—Most decidedly.

Mr. Johns.

20. Mr. ROBINSON.—You don't think you get value and that you are consequently paying a quota to the rest of the barony?—Yes.

21. You are the urban sanitary authority here?—No; we are not the sanitary authority. The Guardians of Larne are the sanitary authority.

22. The population is 9,450?—Nevertheless we are not the sanitary authority, and the Municipal Commissioners took counsel's opinion on the subject.

23. Do you think it would be desirable that the Town Commissioners should be the sanitary authority, and have the management of the roads, and of the sewerage, and all that?—I do think so.

Mr. M. R.
Dalway, M.P.

Mr. M. R. DALWAY, M.P., examined.

24. CHAIRMAN.—What are your views on the subject of this inquiry?—As Chairman of the Municipal Commissioners here, I may mention that I consider that there should not be any alteration of the boundaries, and further that it would be desirable in my opinion

that we were made the urban sanitary authority, and that we had control of the roads within the present district, and that the district should not be altered.

Mr. Johns.—If the whole of the county cess of the county of the town of Carrickfergus is devoted to

Carrikerfergus it would make no difference to the town except to give more trouble to the Municipal Commissioners.

Mr. Louden.—I don't consider that there is very much in it, only that sometimes the country people say—"those are town improvements that we should not pay for."

25. CHAIRMAN.—You think, Mr. Johns, there would be no good in getting the powers of the Grand Jury?—I do. There are no complaints about the Grand Jury that I ever heard of, and if any change was effected the Municipal Commissioners would have to employ a surveyor and pay him the same as the Grand Jury.

26. It would probably cost them the same?

Mr. Dalway.—It would cost them just the same.

Mr. Louden.—I think the same objection applies to any alteration in sanitary matters. If that matter was changed the Municipal Commissioners would have to appoint a staff.

27. CHAIRMAN.—Do you think, Mr. Louden, it would be desirable that the Town Commissioners should have in their own hands the sanitary arrange-

ments of the town, and not have to be going over to Larne to get the Board of Guardians to look after them?—I would most decidedly object to the alteration at the present time, because I think it would incur expense to a considerable extent, and in a variety of ways that the Municipal Commissioners should not drop into at present. That is my opinion.

28. Do you think it would not be desirable that you should become the urban sanitary authority?—At the present time I think not. It may be so further on, in two or three years hence. I think matters have gone on pretty satisfactorily. As to satisfaction with the conduct of the Grand Jury, I most decidedly say that I have had good reason to be dissatisfied with their conduct in one or two cases. I had a flooding case which cost me a lot of money.

29. Well, we cannot interfere about that?—Yes; but I do not want it to go forth, when a statement is made as to the satisfactory conduct of the Grand Jury, that it cannot be contradicted. I say most decidedly that there was great ground of dissatisfaction in connexion with their conduct.

The inquiry then closed.

CARRICKFERGUS.

Sept. 24, 1879.

Mr. M. R. Dalway, M.P.

CARLOW.—FEBRUARY 12TH, 1879.

CARLOW.
Feb. 12, 1879.

(Before Mr. W. A. EXHAM, Q.C., Chairman, and Mr. W. P. O'BRIEN.)

Mr. JAMES KELLY examined.

Mr. James Kelly.

1. CHAIRMAN.—You are the Town Clerk of Carlow?—Yes; about five years.

2. I see that the present boundaries of the town were fixed by an Order in Council of the 2nd of January, 1855?—Yes.

3. That was the time the Towns Improvement Act was adopted in Carlow?—Yes.

4. Have the boundaries remained the same ever since?—Yes.

5. Are the municipal and parliamentary boundaries the same here?—They are.

6. The town is divided into two wards?—Yes, Carlow and Graigue.

7. Are Carlow and Graigue Poor Law wards also?—Yes.

8. Mr. O'BRIEN.—Are they wards for Poor Law purposes?—Yes.

9. CHAIRMAN.—Are the wards the same for municipal and Poor Law purposes?—Yes.

10. Is the town in two electoral divisions also?—Yes, Carlow and Graigue.

11. What is the population?—7,842 in 1871.

12. Is it an increasing or decreasing population?—Decreasing.

13. What is it supposed to be now?—About 7,000.

14. What is the acreable area of the town?—546A. 3R. 15P.

15. Mr. O'BRIEN.—According to the return of the Valuation Office it is given as 629 acres?—The total I have given you is taken from the books of the Clerk of the Union, 546 acres.

16. Is that for the two wards?—Yes.

17. What is the valuation?—About £9,460 for Carlow.

18. Are there any waste lands included in that area?—I do not know. The valuation of Carlow ward is £9,465 5s.

19. What is the total valuation?—£10,899 10s.

20. It is quite clear that the return furnished to me by the Valuation Office refers to the same thing, because the valuation given in that return is £10,932, so that there must be some waste land included?—Probably so.

21. CHAIRMAN.—Will you give me the rates which

have been struck here for the last five years?—Yes, they are as follows:—

	Municipal.	Poor Law.	County.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
1874,	1 0	2 11	1 8½
1875,	1 0	2 3	1 10
1876,	0 10	1 7	1 8½
1877,	0 10	1 11	2 1
1878,	0 10	2 7	1 9

22. Have the Commissioners considered the question as to the extension of the boundaries?—Yes.

23. Have they expressed a unanimous opinion on it?—Yes.

24. Are you authorized to state what that opinion is?—I think so.

25. Mr. O'BRIEN.—How many Commissioners are there?—Eighteen, fifteen for Carlow and three for Graigue. Seven members were present at the meeting at which this question of the extension of the boundaries was considered.

26. Was it a specially convened meeting?—Yes; all the members got notice of it.

27. CHAIRMAN.—What is the opinion of the body according to the view taken at that meeting?—The record on the minute book of the Commissioners is:—

"At a meeting held on the 18th of December, 1878, seven members present, it was agreed that the borough boundary be extended to a radius of two miles from the centre of the town—the market cross."

28. What is the present radius from the centre of the town?—Half a mile.

29. In each direction?—Yes, in each direction.

30. Is it uniform in every direction?—Yes, except in the eastern direction, which is three-quarters of a mile from the centre of the town.

31. Would the proposal of the Commissioners carry the bounds outside the Carlow and Graigue electoral divisions?—I think it would, but I cannot safely say.

32. How many townlands would this proposed extension take in?—I cannot say. Mr. Jameson could tell you that.

33. How many townlands are included in the present area, or part of townlands?—Two, Carlow and Graigue.

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Mr. James
Kelly.

34. No parts of townlands?—No, the whole of them.

35. Can you tell me whether the proposed boundary would go beyond the electoral divisions of Carlow and Graigue?—I think it would. It would go beyond the electoral division of Carlow, but not beyond that of Graigue.

36. How many electoral divisions will it take in on the Carlow side?—I don't know the exact number.

37. Will you tell me what would be the extent of the increase, how many acres?—I cannot tell you.

38. Nor the valuation?—No.

39. Do the Commissioners propose a hard-and-fast line of two miles of a radius without reference to townland boundaries or anything of that kind?—Yes.

40. What would be the increased valuation of this two-mile radius?—I cannot tell you, but I can tell you the acreage of the two electoral divisions outside the borough. In the Carlow electoral division outside the borough there are 5,449A. 2R. 12P., and in the Graigue there are 4,241A. 3R. 20P.

41. 546 acres is the entire borough at present?—Yes.

42. How much of that is in Carlow and how much in Graigue?—412A. 3R. 20P. in Carlow, and 131A. 3R. 35P. in Graigue.

43. Then how much do you propose to take in?—4,241 acres of Carlow.

44. And how much beyond that, because you say you are to go into another electoral division?—I cannot tell; I do not know the area outside the electoral division.

45. On what grounds do the Commissioners consider the extension of the present boundaries desirable?—They think it would be a general improvement and advantage both to the town and its neighbourhood in every respect, for instance, in lighting.

46. In what do the advantages consist?—They think it would have the effect of lightening the rates on the townspeople inside the borough.

47. Do they consider that lands in the immediate vicinity of the town are more valuable by having the town to resort to as a market town?—They do.

48. Is it a fact, and do you know that lands near the town, and within this two-mile radius, are let in the market at a higher rate owing to their proximity to the town?—Yes.

49. That is a fact?—Yes.

50. How much more rent would lands near the town bring than lands three or four miles off?—From £1 to 30s. an acre, at least.

51. Is the entire of the town within the municipal boundary lighted?—Yes.

52. With oil or gas?—There are seventy-eight lamps lighted with oil.

53. Have you found that more economical than gas?—A great deal more. For three years we have used oil.

54. Are there many gentlemen's seats that would be brought in by this proposed extension?—I would say about a dozen.

55. How many of the farmer class would be brought in?—A very large number.

56. Occupying farms of what size?—From 10 to 100 and 150 acres.

57. Could you give us about the number?—I am sure there would be 200 ratepayers.

58. Would it bring in persons who would be qualified to fill the office of Town Commissioner?—Yes; a good many. I could not say the exact number.

59. How many persons are eligible at present for that office?—About seventy I should say. Over £12 and under £20 there are seventy-six, and over £20, eighty-two—that is 158.

60. Do the persons living between the existing limit and the two mile-radius dispose of their produce in this town?—Yes.

61. What articles do they so dispose of?—Corn, butter, potatoes and milk, eggs, vegetables, and poultry.

62. Do the persons having a town like Carlow in such close proximity to their land enjoy exceptional advantages over and above persons living at a distance?—Yes.

63. Do they use the town coming to the railway?—Yes.

64. Are the schools in Carlow resorted to by the children of these people?—Yes; they have very good educational advantages also.

65. Have the Town Commissioners considered the terms upon which they should be brought in; have they considered whether the people living in the proposed extended district should pay an equal rate with those in the town?—Yes.

66. Are you aware that under the sixty-second section of the Towns Improvement Act, the owners or occupiers of land within a township pay a rate only on one-fourth of their valuation?—That is 2½d. in the pound here when it is a 10d. rate.

67. Is it the proposal of the Commissioners that it should remain the same?—Yes.

68. Do the Commissioners propose to light all that extended district?—They could not light the whole length of it I am sure.

69. Was that considered by the Commissioners?—Partly; I am sure they would extend the lighting a good way.

70. Was the question of the rate considered?—Yes; the quarter rate on the land.

71. Did the Commissioners consider that under the Sanitary Act of last year—as far as sanitary matters are concerned, they would be only liable to pay one-fourth?—Yes.

72. Would they be satisfied with that?—Yes.

73. Are they satisfied to bring them in on those terms?—Yes.

74. Have the Commissioners considered the queries submitted to them by us?—Yes.

75. In answering the queries did they consider the question of taking up of the roads?—No.

76. Do the Commissioners propose that the roads should remain still in the hands of the Grand Jury?—Yes.

77. Mr. O'BRIEN.—Are they aware of the power given under the Public Health Act enabling them to get possession of the roads?—They are, but they prefer leaving them in the hands of the Grand Jury.

78. Do they get a good equivalent for the money expended on the town?—Yes.

79. CHAIRMAN.—When I last sat here, I remember, there was a great complaint made about the conduct of the Grand Jury in relation to Graigue, that nothing was done for Graigue?—That is the Queen's County Grand Jury.

80. Do you want now to extend the boundary in the Graigue district?—Yes.

81. What do you propose?—Is it that the extended part of Graigue should remain as it is, and that nothing should be done with regard to the roads of it, of which such complaints were made before. We propose to leave it still in the hands of the Queen's County Grand Jury.

82. Although they do nothing?—Yes.

83. Do the complaints still continue?—There were no complaints for the last two years.

84. Have they maintained the roads properly since then?—They have; it was the sewers that were complained of at the time you speak of.

85. Mr. O'BRIEN.—Is the town pretty well regulated both as regards sewerage or water supply?—Yes.

86. Is there any necessity for a large scheme?—No. There is not any water supply; it is all done by pumps.

87. Is there a good water supply in the town?—Yes; there are sixteen public pumps and very good water.

88. CHAIRMAN.—Are you satisfied with the way the Grand Jury keep the roads cleansed in the town?—The Commissioners manage the scavenging, but the Grand Jury repair the roads, streets, footpaths, water-ables, and sewerage in the town.

89. If you take in the roads in the extended district

do you propose to scavenge them for the one-fourth taxation?—It could not be done to the full extent.

90. What do you propose to do for the men living at the furthest extent of the two miles in return for the 2½d. in the pound; do you propose to do anything?—They will extend the lighting and the water supply, but not to the extent of two miles.

91. To what extent do you propose to extend those advantages?—I should say about half a mile further than at present.

92. Then for a mile you propose to do nothing?—I am sure those advantages to which I have referred could not be sent out further by the Commissioners.

93. Have the Commissioners considered the question of taking up the roads, so that there should be one undivided authority, and that you would have the same body looking after the lighting, water, scavenging, and cleaning of the roads, and the sanitary arrangements of the town also?—They would propose to leave the repairs of the roads in the hands of the Grand Jury.

94. Have the Commissioners considered this question with regard to those people outside that are at present in the rural district, that while in the rural sanitary district they pay the full sanitary rate, and have a right to deduct half from the landlords, while if those persons are brought into the town, they will only have to pay one-fourth of the sanitary rate with no deduction from the landlord, except the law be changed?—I am almost sure the Commissioners have considered all that.

95. Will you be able if you receive only one-fourth from them to make all necessary sanitary arrangements?—Yes, but no sewers; they are made by the Grand Jury.

96. The Grand Jury only make surface drains; I am talking of sewers. Suppose the Commissioners become the Sanitary Authority, have they considered what would be necessary for drainage and other purposes?—I think with the present borough rate they could not do that work without striking a special sanitary rate for that purpose.

97. If that was done by the Rural Authority, the occupiers would have to pay the full sanitary rate and deduct one-half from the landlord, but the moment you take them in, and strike a sanitary rate, then they will only pay one-fourth to the town without any deduction. If you are obliged to strike a sanitary rate for the purpose of draining their district they will only pay one-fourth, whereas the people in the borough pay the full rate, and they will have to pay so much in aid of the sanitary rate of the people of the outside district. Have they considered that?—They have.

98. Are they prepared to do it?—Yes.

99. You say there would be an advantage to the ratepayers of the town in having those others brought in, but if the people living within this two-mile area were brought in, and you are obliged to strike a sanitary rate on the entire of the district, the people in the town will have to pay the full sanitary rate for the outside district you bring in, while the people of that district when brought in will only pay one-fourth of that?—Yes.

100. What advantage will it be for the ratepayers of the town, suppose you strike a 6d. sanitary rate. The people outside will only pay 1½d., and the townspeople will not only have to pay 6d. for themselves, but 6d. for those outside; they will pay three quarters extra beyond the people outside the present district. What advantage will that be to the people of the town?—They consider that it would be an advantage, as it would reduce the taxation of the people inside the boundary.

101. How will it reduce their taxation?—In the light in which you have explained the matter I don't see how it could. The Commissioners must not have considered that question fully.

102. Did they consider this question with reference to the Public Health Act of last year, and that, as the law now is, all this land, if brought in, is only to pay

one-fourth of the sanitary rate and the improvement rate?—They were aware that all lands only paid one-fourth of the rate.

103. Are you prepared to say that you are ready to undertake to scavenge all the roads over that two miles of an area, and that the people outside the present boundary are only to pay one-fourth of the cost of doing that, while the townspeople pay the full amount of the rate?—They were aware of that, but I am sure they could not scavenge that two-mile area. They could not go beyond the present boundary, so that the expenditure would not be much heavier for scavenging.

104. Then what do you propose to do; are you to leave the roads of the proposed added district unscavenged, if I may use the expression?—In the case of the country roads, the road makers would do that.

105. The road makers only keep the roads in repair?—Before repairing them they always clean them.

106. Are they to leave them from one assizes to another?—I am almost sure they would, but not from one assizes to another, because they could not clean them out that distance.

107. What are the amounts of the contracts for the repairs of the roads within the town?—I cannot say; we have no control over them.

108. Any one could see from the contracts what it cost the Grand Jury to keep the roads in repair for the town for the last year—what they paid their contractors—then we know what they got from you, so we could see easily whether you would lose money by taking up the roads from them?—I cannot say; I will make out a list for you in a few minutes.

109. Was that considered?—It was, very often, as to the taking up and repair of roads and streets.

110. You are paying the Grand Jury something more than £1,000 a year, and the county-at-large charges would be about £500. The question then is what is the expenditure?—Yes, but I don't know what they pay for the roads.

111. Have you any surveyor here?—We have a town surveyor.

112. Have you any map of the town here as prescribed under the Acts of Parliament?—No map except the one you have before you.

113. But that is not a map at all?—Well it is the only one we have.

114. By the 13th section of the 10th and 11th of Victoria, chapter 34 you ought to have a map of your district, giving its limits and showing the sewerage and so on, accessible to the public, with the proper levels marked on it?—I was not aware of that.

115. Have the people you propose to bring in any objection to be brought in?—I am sure they will oppose the proposition of the Commissioners.

116. Even though they should pay only one-fourth of the rates?—I believe they will object even to that.

117. Mr. O'BRIEN.—Then they prefer to remain as they are?—Yes.

118. I presume they contemplate that the sanitary expenditure will be much heavier on the town than on the rural district?—Yes.

119. CHAIRMAN.—Are the sanitary arrangements in the town satisfactory?—Very satisfactory.

120. Then you don't want any outlay?—I think not, at any rate not anything in the town worth speaking of.

121. Then if there was any sanitary rate it would be for the benefit of the outside district to be brought in?—Yes; for sewers and drains.

122. Are you able to speak for the Commissioners or the urban sanitary authority with regard to the sanitary arrangements within the town at present, and are you in a position to say whether or not the outside district that you propose to bring in would require sewerage and sanitary arrangements to be made for it?—In several districts I am sure it would be required.

123. Don't you know you would have to do that work if you brought them in?—Yes.

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124. How far do the electoral divisions of Graigue and Carlow extend?—I cannot say.

125. Have you a scavenging staff at present for the town?—Yes, we have.

126. Utilising that staff for the purpose of the roads, if you had them in your own hands—what reason is there—if any outside district is brought in, why there should not be one undivided authority in

the town to look after the roads and all?—I don't know; I think they were always in favour of leaving the roads in the hands of the Grand Juries.

127. The sum paid by the Grand Jury to the road contractors for Carlow is £288 8s. 6d. ?—Yes.

128. Does that include all the lanes and everything?—All; inside the present boundary.

Mr. Darby
Herring
Cooper.

MR. DARBY HERRING COOPER examined.

129. CHAIRMAN.—How long, Mr. Cooper, have you been Chairman of the Carlow Town Commissioners?—For a good many years.

130. Were you one of the seven Town Commissioners who met to consider the question of the extension of the municipal boundary?—I was.

131. Is it your opinion and that of your brother Commissioners as far as you know, that there should be an extension of the boundaries of the town?—Yes, but not to the same extent as we stated in our answers to the queries you submitted to us—two miles. After we got your notice we had a meeting to consult over the matter, and to see had anyone considered what had been done in other places, and that if there was a good suggestion from the course pursued by any other place we would take it into our consideration and perhaps do the same thing, but we had no grounds to go upon, and we then mentioned two miles. Since that time, however, we have changed our opinion very much, and we think that one mile would be sufficient for what we want. There is a question that we were ignorant as to up to this and remain so still, and it is whether supposing this mile that we now seek an extension to was granted the people holding land in that extension would be liable to lose the advantages of the Land Act or not?

132. That is a matter outside our jurisdiction?—If we thought any injury might accrue to the farmers immediately about the town by an extension we should call attention to it in our report.

133. Mr. O'BRIEN.—That is that you would not advocate an extension of the boundary if the Land Act was to operate in such a way as to prevent the farmers to whom you refer getting compensation?—As a farmer I would not like to do that and I do not think the Commissioners would either.

134. Therefore in recommending an extension you do so on the supposition that it is to have no effect whatever as regards the operation of the Land Act?—That is my idea and I dare say—though I have not spoken to them on the subject—it is the idea of many of the Commissioners. I don't think they would recommend any extension if they thought it would injure the farmers about us.

135. CHAIRMAN.—You say you are in favour of one mile extension; would that be within the two electoral divisions?—Yes; Graigue is a different thing entirely. The Grand Jury of the Queen's county regulate all matters with regard to Graigue, except sewerage. I mentioned at the former inquiry that they were doing nothing for us; that they made us pay very heavy county cess, and yet did nothing for us. It is a continual source of annoyance, that there is no sewerage. We cannot do anything with them. I believe in many of the houses there is no outfall for the sewage.

136. Have the Grand Jury improved since?—No, they have never done anything and will not. If our boundary was enlarged in Graigue, we would be able to strike a sanitary rate to do that work which the Grand Jury will not do.

137. Mr. O'BRIEN.—Would the extension to the mile radius bring in as much of the Queen's County portion as you think necessary?—I think it would bring in a fair, but a small portion.

138. But the Grand Jury there, might ask what you required the sanitary work for, while you pay county cess to them, and they might prevent you striking any

sanitary rate on that district?—If we had to extend that sanitary rate to Carlow, it would be a great hardship on the people here. We have everything done in this town that is needful to be done by the Grand Jury. There are only one or two streets—newly built ones I may say—in a bad way now.

139. What you propose to do would be to extend the Graigue portion and then to get a sanitary rate for that district alone?—That is the very thing we want to do. The position of Graigue is this, it is composed of a great many poor houses, and very few of them are valued at £4 a year, and therefore it would be very hard to say who it would fall on, but the rate I suppose would fall on the landlords.

140. With regard to those under £4 a year, the rate would fall on the landlord and as to all over £4 it would stand in this way—the district you would bring in, the extended district, would only have to pay under the present law one-fourth of the rate?—I dare say.

141. Would not that be a great hardship on the landlords of the houses under £4, and too great benefit to the occupiers of the houses over £4? But how are you to clean the place? How are you to do it?—It cannot be done without raising money. We have often thought of that, and we find it very difficult to know what to do.

142. The district you propose to bring in at the Carlow side in the Carlow Electoral Division—would that require sanitary work?—We want I may say nothing; there is only one small street or two of newly built houses there that want a drain put to them. Everything is done in the town to keep up a system of proper drainage by the Grand Jury, I am a member of the Grand Jury myself, and have been so for many years, and I am in a position to say, because I know it, that they are very anxious to do everything that is right. The reason why we did not at the time of the last Commission take that question much into our consideration, was that we were engaged with our fairs and markets. At the same time should we see that after a time we could serve the ratepayers of the town by taking up the roads, and the county roads, of course we will avail ourselves of the law, but at present we do not see any reason for that, because we calculate that as we have a County Surveyor who superintends everything, if we took up these county roads we would have to pay a man to do all that and about one-half goes to pay the county-at-large charges, I think if there is not something more—some new things put on us—on the county-at-large charges than the other half there would be hardly anything to be made out of it. I think £300 odd is the contract for the streets.

143. Is that for the whole of the streets including Graigue?—Graigue is different. There is no record of anything relating to Graigue in that office, it being under the Queen's County Grand Jury.

144. If you had the entire of the roads under your charge, and that you got from the people the same money as they pay to the Grand Jury at present, would you be able to manage them?—That is a question we have never considered. We were aware that we had the power of taking the county roads belonging to the Borough, but we never entered into the question minutely.

145. You would not as the law stands at present if you had those roads now, the owners of land, &c., would only have to pay in effect one-fourth

of the cost of keeping them up under the 62nd section of the Act?—Yes.

146. But suppose you got the same amount from the owners of the land that they pay to the Grand Jury, and out of that you paid the county-at-large charges, and kept the rest yourselves, would you be able to keep up the roads if they were put under your management and care?—But we would have to do something to superintend them out of that money. It is a question we have not considered, and therefore could not answer it definitely, but it is my impression that the cost of expending the money would be as much as it is at present. We pay our County Surveyor £400 a year, besides having a Clerk and offices. Then we would have to calculate what it would be if we took up the money and then had to pay, which we should have to pay, a proper person for superintending the work.

147. Do you propose to give the people residing in the extended area the benefit of lighting?—Not for such extension; but we would have more lights at the outskirts of the town than there are at present. At present the outskirts are badly lit. I have a good deal of land in the Queen's County and here myself, and I think it would be of advantage, and desirable, to have better lighting at the outskirts of the town. There is no doubt it enhances the value of the land to be so very near a town, and also so near a good market.

148. Have the pumps been paid for out of the improvement rate?—Yes; we are very peculiarly situated with regard to water. We have the Barrow running through the town on one side, and the Burne in another direction.

149. Do you propose to water the extended district?—If it wanted it we should, and would do so.

150. Even if they only paid one-fourth rates?—I think we would be bound to do it. We should give them something for their money.

151. Do the lands, from your own knowledge of the district around, derive exceptional value in the market from their proximity to the town?—There is no doubt about it that they do. There is a very good price given for land about the town. Townparks and so forth are set at £4 and £5 an acre.

152. What would that land be worth as land two or three miles further off?—I think about 40s. an acre. I think the same quality of land is worth double immediately about the town.

153. Do the people living in the locality largely use the town as a market town?—Of course they do; they send in for everything they want, and when we have our markets and fairs properly established we will be even more prosperous than now. It will be a very great advantage, indeed, to have our markets regulated, indeed they could not be worse than now, but I hope we shall get through it in the course of sometime; but at the same time I don't think any of the Commissioners, as far as I know them, would advocate an increase, or think of increasing the borough boundary if they thought they would injure the farmers immediately about them.

154. Mr. O'BRIEN.—We will take it that all rights they have at present are to be preserved to them under the Land Act?—Yes.

155. CHAIRMAN.—We are anxious to know the views of the people living in and about Carlow, as to this question of taking up the management of the roads, because in other places that we have been to, the general idea has been that the Grand Jury are making money out of the towns in that way, and that if the towns took up the roads they would be able to have a large saving, and keep them in better order, and devote the saving to the benefit of the towns?—Any way we can save money we will take it.

156. At Wexford they got that privilege in 1874, and the witnesses examined there on Saturday stated that they were able to save, and have saved about £400 a year for the last four years, which has been expended for the good of the town, and besides they were able to flag the town, and do other things which

they never could get the Grand Jury to do before?—I know, myself, with regard to the flagging, that it is a very heavy expense, and we are in a very unfortunate position at present, because we must have flags of a particular description, and of a particular thickness, and the county surveyor won't pass any other, and it is a worn out quarry, and they say it will take three years to get good flags again. The Grand Jury are anxious to do their duty. I could not give you an answer on that subject, because we never discussed it, we never consulted about the taking up of the roads, and getting the county cess.

157. You have scavenging in the town independent of the road contractor. Would you propose to clean this extended district the same way as the town?—The road contractor may do it himself. He would be glad to get what it costs us to scavenge the town; but some of the Commissioners would rather have their own scavenger.

158. The question is would you be able to scavenge this extended district of a mile radius?—I suppose we would.

159. But the people in that district would only pay one-fourth of that scavenging, and the townspeople would have to make up the other three-fourths out of the rates?—As I told you the contractor would rather do it himself, because when his men go and scavenge the roads, they do it so carefully, and do not remove or rake up the stones, whereas if we sent out men they would tear away, and not mind or care what harm they would do in moving the stones, and therefore the contractor would rather do it himself.

160. But he would not do it unless he was paid for it?—I think he would sooner do it himself than lose by it, but this is a matter which we did not discuss, because we were taken up so much with our fairs and markets.

161. As the urban sanitary authority would you consider it desirable to take up the management of the roads within the present and the extended area, so as to have one body managing all?—As I said before that is a matter that we did not discuss, but of course if we saw our way and thought we would be able to save anything to the ratepayers we would undertake it, and I dare say we will do so when we get out of our present difficulties.

162. You say at Graigue side you would want extensive sanitary work?—We would.

163. Do you think it would be fair to put the sanitary rate on Graigue district alone?—Certainly.

164. Is there any portion of the Carlow district in this mile radius that would require sewerage?—I think only one—that is in the present boundary—and I intend to try to get that done by the Grand Jury.

165. But it is not with reference to what is within your district at present as the Urban Sanitary Authority that I am asking, but with regard to the district that you propose to bring in; would that require sewerage?—I think not, I don't know of any place that would, and I know it pretty well.

166. Then in point of fact the fourth sanitary rate payable by that district would exclusively be for the benefit of the town?—Yes.

167. Have you any sources of income except what you derive from the rates?—No.

168. Then you have no property?—No. We were very much in debt some years ago, but we are pretty fairish now. We have only struck a 10d. rate, and when we get our fairs and markets we will be able to do it with less.

169. Are the rating powers sufficient for all purposes?—Yes.

170. Are you obliged to leave any necessary works unexecuted in consequence of the limit of your rating powers?—No, nothing of that kind. The only thing that had to be done was to run a sewer through a street, and that was the only thing there was any difficulty in; everything else has been done. The bridges and all those improvements have been done by the Grand Jury, and we are paying a sum every year to the Board of Works that we borrowed from them; so

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that if you add that to the expense of keeping the roads, and also a surveyor's salary, I don't think we would make anything by taking up the roads from the Grand Jury. That is my present view without going very closely into the matter.

171. Are there any persons living within this extended district who would be eligible as Town Commissioners?—Not many; but there are some.

172. What is the reason you have changed your view with regard to the mile instead of the two-mile radius?—We changed our view with regard to that when we saw it would take in too large a district.

173. But if the land within the two-mile radius is as valuable as the land within the one-mile radius, why should it not be brought in?—Well, I don't think it is. The land within the one-mile radius is very valuable. I have land that I could get a very large rent for; but when you go beyond that it is not of the same value. When you go to the two-mile radius I should say that the land has its regular letting value, and is not enhanced by proximity to the town. From a mile to two miles the land would let at about one-third beyond the value, but within a mile the land is of great value. There are people living in the town who would like to get a bit of land outside for cows and so on, and they would pay a high price for that land.

174. Mr. O'BRIEN.—Is there any general suggestion you would like to offer?—There is nothing further than what I have said before, that I would not wish by our act to injure any of the farmers.

175. CHAIRMAN.—Then I understand that your proposal, as the Chairman of the Town Commissioners, is to extend the boundaries to as nearly as possible within a mile from the centre of the town, the Market-cross, and not to have the roads transferred to you at all events for the present, and to take in that external district on the terms even of their having to pay only a fourth?—That is so.

176. May the evidence given by the Town Clerk and yourself be taken to represent the views of the Town Commissioners?—Yes; but there are several here.

Mr. Charles
Casey.

MR. CHARLES CASEY examined.

184. CHAIRMAN.—Where do you reside?—About a mile from the Market-cross.

185. How far are you from the nearest point of the municipal boundary in your direction?—About sixty yards, but I think the boundary extends almost a mile in an eastern direction, and I do not think that the advantages which have been stated by the Chairman are such as on my part would induce me to wish for any change in the boundary. I do not think the lighting comes within a reasonable distance, and the water is at present so close, that in the eastern district at least I do not think we would derive any advantage from being taken into the borough.

186. Do you agree with those that say that lands within a short distance of the town derive exceptional value from their proximity to the town?—That is quite true; all the land contiguous to the town brings a rent of about £5 an acre, whereas the same quality of land further out would not be worth half the price.

187. Do the people holding these lands use the town largely?—Of course they do.

188. Don't you think they should therefore contribute something towards the taxation of the town?—I have no desire to be brought into the town, or within the borough, because I do not take advantage of the town; but I think that farmers who raise stock and grow vegetables and so forth, and make use of the town for the sale of their produce, derive positive benefit from it, and that such if brought in and only asked to pay a fourth, should be made to contribute.

189. That is the law at present, but I cannot say what may be done afterwards?—No.

190. Mr. O'BRIEN.—That is the law as defined by

177. Is there anything they could add?—I don't know, they may have something to add.

178. Are there any other Commissioners present who desire to give evidence in favour of or against extension, because if not we will take the Chairman's views as those of the Commissioners?

Mr. O'BRIEN.—Unless some other members desire to add to or dissent from the views put forward by the Chairman we will not go into further evidence of the Commissioners personally.

179. Mr. John B. Mulhall, Solicitor.—I appear here on behalf of a great many rural gentlemen outside. They object entirely to an extension, first, on the ground that when they took their places, and some of them purchased very recently, they would be deprived of the Land Act compensation if that extension was made.

180. CHAIRMAN.—As far as that is concerned we understand that all evidence given with a view of taking in any outside district or land is on the assumption that all land brought in shall enjoy all the privileges that it has at present under the existing law.

Mr. Mulhall.—That is the principal matter with which my clients' objection has to do.

181. Mr. O'BRIEN.—If that was got over would they object?

Mr. Mulhall.—They would not; and they have very little more to say if that be the case.

182. Supposing that is got over would they object to be brought in on the ground of increase of taxation?

Mr. Mulhall.—They think now it is not worth while to talk about that.

183. CHAIRMAN.—If they are brought in now, as the law stands, they would only have to pay a fourth of the improvement and sanitary rate, and they would not get any deduction from their landlord for their sanitary rate. At present they pay the whole of the sanitary rate, and they have the power of deducting half of that from their landlord. That being so would they rather come in or not?

Mr. Mulhall.—In that view they would rather not come in; they would rather leave things exactly as they are.

the Towns Improvement Act, section 62, that arable land and property of that description is only liable to pay a fourth?—Yes, and you have already stated that any change to be made would be subject to the existing law as regards the Land Act.

191. CHAIRMAN.—Mr. Cooper's proposition on the part of the Town Commissioners is, that any change that is made should be made subject to the existing law, and that the parties should have the benefit of it; but under the 62nd section of the Act the words are, "Any rate to be levied under this Act shall be only one-fourth," and so on. Don't you see the people outside would derive great advantage as far as any sanitary rate is concerned?—There can be no doubt about that.

192. And the landlords would get a benefit because they would not have to pay anything?—Yes; as to improved scavenging, I do not think the area brought in would derive much benefit from it, because the Commissioners could not do it at all, and in the present mile area I do not think we could expect any more from them.

193. Would you think it unfair that persons having land within a mile of the cross should pay something towards the keeping up of the town, if they derive exceptional benefit from it?—You must remember that they pay for the enhanced value of the land which they rent. They already pay £5 instead of £2 10s.

194. That is a benefit the landlord has, and then they are able to pay that rent by the increased value of their land?—They are, by their proximity to the town; there is no doubt about that.