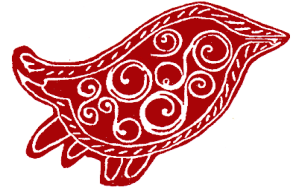


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THE CORK SAVINGS BANK.



INTERIOR OF SAVINGS BANK, SHOWING CRAWFORD STATUE BY HOGAN.

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Journal of the Cork Historical and Archæological Society.

(Twenty-sixth Year of Issue.)

Cork Savings Bank—1817-1917.



ON July 11th, 1817, "An Act to encourage the establishment of Banks for Savings in Ireland," officially entitled 57, George III., cap cv., received the Royal Assent along with a couple of other Acts of philanthropic purpose, one to exonerate charitable institutions from the Land Tax, and the other to provide for the establishment of asylums for the lunatic poor of this country. On the following day an exactly similar Act was applied to England, but it was not until two years later that a Savings Bank Act was passed for Scotland.

Previous to the Act Savings Banks had existed in many parts of England and Scotland, but the funds were entirely invested or deposited upon private securities, the most usual plan being that every £100, when it was received by the Bank, was placed in the hands of some gentleman of landed property, who consented from philanthropic motives to give large interest upon it for the benefit of the small and poor depositors. The Act of 1817 did not oblige the managers of Savings Banks to depart from this practice, but provided them with special facilities for depositing their funds with the Government at call, if they preferred to do so instead. It also fixed the status of Trustees, and provided that as long as they carried on their business according to a set of approved rules their personal liability was properly limited. The advantages of such an arrangement were quickly recognised by those who were even then interested in social progress, and Savings Banks were soon established under the Act in London, Dublin, Belfast and other places, where their benefits were extensively felt by the classes for whom they were intended. The City of Cork was in no way behind-hand in the movement, and on December 2nd, 1817, a scheme for a Bank in Cork was so far advanced that it was laid before a public meeting specially called for the purpose at the Commercial Buildings, South Mall. The meeting was advertised for two o'clock, but for some reason which does not appear the proceedings did not commence until 3.30, at which hour the chair was taken by the Protestant Bishop of Cork and Ross.¹ No list of those who attended is available, but in the newspaper reports of the time the meeting is described as "very numerous and most respectable." The principal organiser of the plan was the Roman Catholic Bishop, the Rt. Rev. John Murphy, D.D.,² who proposed the first resolution, and in a

¹ The Hon. and Rt. Rev. Thomas St. Lawrence, D.D., b. 1755, second son of the Earl of Howth; was Vicar of Brinny, 1795-1806; Dean of Cork, 1796-1807; succeeded Lord John George Beresford as Bishop of Cork and Ross, 1807. Died 1831.

² Grand-uncle of Mr. Francis J. Murphy, of Shanakiel House, Cork; born 1772; Bishop of Cork, 1815; was one of the best known book collectors of his time, and possessed one of the most valuable private libraries in Ireland. Died 1847.

clear and vigorous speech set forth the advantages which the labouring classes would derive from a bank established in their midst upon the lines which he indicated. These provided for the appointment of 30 trustees and 60 managers; that the clerical work of the bank should be done entirely gratuitously by the Trustees and Managers, and that interest at the rate of 4 per cent. should be paid upon deposits. Mr. William Beamish³ seconded very briefly, expressing entire concurrence with the Bishop's proposals. The Rev. John Quarry⁴ urged that a higher rate of interest should be paid, and as the Government would give the Bank $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on its funds, he thought that the same rate should be given to the depositors, and that the cost of carrying on the Savings Bank should be defrayed by annual public subscription. He also "conceived that there should be more than one Savings Bank in a city so extensive as Cork." The reverend gentleman "dwelt upon these topics with benevolent zeal, and enforced them with appropriate observations," but he was firmly opposed by Mr. Whately, Mr. John Clear, Mr. William Beamish, and Bishop Murphy, who sensibly declared that to command respect the Bank must be self-supporting and independent, and that when one Bank was successfully working it would be time enough, and indeed they hoped then to have branches formed in other quarters of the city.

Viewed in the light of a hundred years' experience there is something almost humorous about the speech delivered by Dr. Herbert Baldwin, who pleaded passionately and at length for private security investments instead of depositing funds with the Government. "Unequal connexions," he declared, "were always dangerous. The poor labourer and his petty frugality could gain nothing by an alliance with the Commissioners for the Redemption of the National Debt. It was not at such a school that lessons of minute economy were most likely to be enforced or imbibed. It was dangerous to the constitutional liberties of the subject," he added, "to make the poorer classes creditors to the Government. The interest of their deposits must be paid out of the taxes; and if Ministers should choose to impose an oppressive and inquisitorial tax, such, for instance, as an Income Tax, they would only have to raise a cry that unless the tax was imposed the property of the lower orders would be gone, and it would ensure for the Government the voice, and if necessary the strength, of the lowest orders of the community in support of any system of taxation, however objectionable." Mr. John Clear made an effective answer to Dr. Baldwin, but soon afterwards the meeting seems to have got slightly "out of hand," for according to a newspaper report the discussion now assumed an "ardent" character, and presently the Chairman advised an adjournment, which was agreed to after some opposition, and the following gentlemen were appointed a Committee to re-consider the original plan and submit fresh proposals to a new general meeting the following week:—

The Recorder of Cork, Counsellor McCarthy, Dr. Baldwin, John Clear, Sheriff Newsom, Counsellor Connell, Rev. John Quarry, George Whately, William Beamish, James Roche, M. J. Farrell.

The adjourned meeting was held on December 8th, the Bishop of Cork

³ William Beamish of Beaumont, died April 17, 1828. His monument by Hogan in St. Michael's Church, Blackrock, is one of the finest of the sculptor's works.

⁴ Then rector of St. Mary Shandon, father of Ven. John Quarry, Archdeacon of Cork, who died 1899.



MOST REVEREND BISHOP JOHN MURPHY.
(From a Portrait in possession of the Ursuline Convent, Blackrock.)

and Ross again presiding, and it was then announced that this Committee, so far from agreeing upon proposals, had "come to the determination of dissolving themselves." The meeting, which consisted of 119 persons, appeared to be unanimous on the main principle of desiring the establishment of a bank, but a long and animated discussion took place on the question of Government or private security, and on a poll being taken a decision in favour of the former was recorded by a majority of 15 only! Other resolutions were then put and carried unanimously, as they related merely to details, and finally, upon the motion of Mr. Beamish, seconded by Mr. Whately, it was resolved that the clergy of every religious persuasion be permitted to assist at all meetings of the Trustees and Managers.

The Bank apparently commenced business a fortnight later on Saturday, December 20th, 1817, in a room at the Cork Institution. The first Secretary was Mr. John Clear, and the Treasurer was Mr. James Roche,⁵ and the hours of business were only two per week, i.e., Saturdays from 12.30 to 2.30. The rules were very simple. No deposit of less than tenpence was to be received. Interest was at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum, but was not allowed until the balance to credit of any depositor amounted to twelve shillings and sixpence. Interest was not allowed for any broken part of a month, nor on any fractional part of a deposit less than twelve and sixpence. The whole clerical work of the bank was done gratuitously by the Trustees and Managers, of whom three were summoned in rotation for duty each Saturday, and any one of these who was summoned and did not attend was fined 5/-. During the following twelve months the sum of £27,455 16s. 1d. was received from 1,269 depositors, and in the same period a sum of £5,568, with interest £65, was paid out to depositors, leaving the Bank at the end of its first year with 911 depositors on its books, to whom it owed £22,236 15s. 2d., including interest. The working expenses of the year were only £45 16s. od., and there was a surplus of £14 4s. 10d. of assets over liabilities.

The first Annual General Meeting at which this account was presented was held "at the Council Chamber," and Bishop Murphy, who took the chair, was specially thanked for the interest he had taken in the work, and his constant support of the Bank. Among certain other "judicious observations" contained in the report was one which deprecated the fact that 94 of the depositors appeared to be persons who were too prosperous to expect to benefit by the use of the Bank, for it was pointed out:—

"This species of deposits, if continued, would eventually close the Bank, as no gentlemen could be got to give their time gratuitously as Managers to conduct the money dealings of their equals and in many cases their superiors in rank and property."

Mr. John Clear appears to have resigned the Secretaryship soon after this, as on February 1st, 1820, when the second annual meeting was held, Mr. Thomas Exham⁶ was "Acting Secretary." At that meeting the chairman was Stephen Roche,⁷ and those present included "a large proportion of that truly respectable class, the Friends." The principal speakers were Sir Anthony Perrier, Messrs. Cotter, sen., Lecky, Mark, McClure, and Cummins, and the accounts showed that the total funds of the Bank had

⁵ One of the firm of Stephen and James Roche, Bankers, Camden Place, Cork.

⁶ Grand-uncle of Messrs. Henry and Alfred H. Exham, solicitors.

⁷ The elder of the two banker brothers. He married a daughter of John Moylan of Cork.

increased to £29,067 16s. 11d. The third annual meeting held on January 17th, 1821, showed that the funds were then £34,523, with a surplus of £263. Mr. Exham was voted an acknowledgment of £50 per annum while he pleased to fill the situation of Secretary, and the Treasurer at that time was Mr. Gerard Callaghan.⁸ Referring to the Bank at that time, the *Cork Mercantile Chronicle* said :—

“Whatever difference of opinion may be entertained as to the political effects of the Savings Bank system, by which the poorest depositor is rendered vitally interested in support of the present taxation of the country, there was no one, we believe, who attended the meeting of the 17th who was not compelled to admit the extreme value of the Bank in this city during the last year, who did not enjoy the pleasing reflection that through its means upwards of thirty-four thousand pounds have been rescued from the gulph into which so much property of the rich and poor of this city was swallowed by the failure of our local Banks.”

Among the local Banks which failed about that time was Roche's Bank, carried on by Messrs. Stephen and James Roche, the latter of whom was first treasurer of the Savings Bank.

No figures seem to be available concerning the bank's work in its fourth year, but it may be inferred from those of the next and succeeding years that its annual report was always a record of progress and expansion. In 1823 deposits were received amounting to nearly £68,000, and the bank closed its year with a total of £118,715 due to 3,203 depositors for principal and interest. At the general meeting which received and adopted that report Mr. John Lecky moved and Sir Anthony Perrier seconded :—

“That the place where the Bank is at present held is totally inadequate and unfit for carrying on the business, and that a Committee be appointed to look out for a situation more eligible for the purpose and to make their report to a General Meeting of Trustees and Managers.”

which motion passed unanimously, and the following Committee was accordingly appointed :—Sir Anthony Perrier, James Murphy, Nicholas Cummins, John Lecky, Jacob Mark, John Swete.

At this time the surplus funds of the Bank over and above its liabilities appear to have amounted to only £421, but in June, 1824, a plot of ground exactly 52 feet square facing on Pembroke Street was leased from Mr. (afterwards Sir) Thomas Deane,⁹ at a rent of £24 per annum, and a building erected upon it for the purpose of the Savings Bank. Information as to this building, its cost, and the date of its occupation are meagre, but many will recollect its appearance, for it was in existence as a General Post Office up to about 15 years ago. A photograph of the front, taken just before it was pulled down, was kindly lent to the writer by Messrs. John Delany and Co., and is reproduced on another page. It is described by Windele as “a small but elegant structure, having a portico and pediment in front, the latter supported by two fluted Ionic columns and two pilasters.” The interior was in form that of a semi-circle, and it was lighted from the sides. The Savings Bank carried on its work there up to August, 1842, when it moved into its present premises, which again had been built specially for it

⁸ Afterwards M.P. for Cork. He was a director of the Cork branch of the Provincial Bank, and also of the Commercial Buildings.

⁹ Born 1792; High Sheriff of Cork, 1815, and again in 1830, on which occasion he was knighted by the then Lord Lieutenant, the Duke of Northumberland. He was the designer of many public buildings in Cork, including the Commercial Buildings, University College, and the present Savings Bank buildings. He was for many years P.R.H.A., and died October 2nd, 1871. He is buried at Blackrock, Cork.



SIR THOMAS DEANE, P.R.H.A.

to make room for its expanding business. The Pembroke Street Bank building was then let to a society known as the Cork Small Loan Fund, which became extinct in 1857, after which the premises were leased to the Postmaster-General for a Post Office, and the Cork Savings Bank still receives an annual rent of £60 under that lease.

In 1836 a man of very remarkable character became associated with the Cork Savings Bank, and his genius was destined to leave a mark upon its system which remains much to its advantage to the present day. John Craig, grandson of Sir William Edmondstone, Bart., of Duntreath, and lineally descended from Robert the Bruce and King Robert III., the first of the Stuart Kings of Scotland, was born in 1790. In the earlier years of his life he realised an independence in the ownership of a Cheshire salt-mine, after which he set up a line of steamships between Dover and Calais. At that time steam as a motive power was in its infancy, and one of his steamers, the "Rob Roy," sold by him to the French Government, is said to have been the first steamship France possessed. He was then for a short time instructor in steam navigation to the French Admiralty. In 1834 he succeeded his uncle as agent of the Sligo branch of the Bank of Ireland, and in 1836 was transferred to the position of Agent at Cork. In that post he was ex-officio Treasurer of the Savings Bank, and he appears at once to have taken a keen interest in and devoted much time to its working and management. In the minute book it is recorded that he was elected a trustee on April 16, 1839, and thereafter he was an active and regular attendant at its meetings, and for a considerable time he appears to have more or less regulated all its proceedings, while the rest of the Trustees and Managers obediently followed his rulings. Mr. Craig and Sir Thomas Deane were, no doubt, the principal movers in the plan to expend part of the Bank's large surplus in 1839 on the present fine building at the corner of Parnell Place and Lapp's Quay. At that time the total funds of the bank slightly exceeded a quarter of a million sterling, but the Trustees had a considerable surplus of assets over liabilities, and it was, no doubt, considered that this might well be expended in giving employment in the City of Cork. The Building Committee, which undertook the whole management of the affair, consisted of the following gentlemen, many of whose names will be familiar, for their sons, or grandsons in some cases, are still prominently associated with the public affairs of the city:—George Whately, Michael Salmon, Sir A. Perrier, James Daly, Thomas S. Reeves, John Bagnell, Joseph MacMullen, F. W. Beamish, Abram Abell, John Craig, Samuel Lane, Abraham Beale, Michael Roberts, Joshua Hargreave.

On November 1st, 1839, Sir Thomas Deane resigned his Trusteeship of the Bank, and was then employed to design and superintend the erection of the new building. In this he was assisted by Mr. Kearns Deane, his younger brother, and the handsome Savings Bank building near Parnell Bridge may be considered as a monument to the professional skill of these gentlemen, and to the very judicious Building Committee which supported their efforts. The Trustees were happy in their choice of a site for their premises. It has a double frontage (108 ft. 0 in. on Parnell Place and 62 ft. 0 in. on Lapp's Quay), and an unencumbered view can be had for a considerable distance. Externally, simplicity and dignity are its key-notes. Limestone from the Ballinlough quarries was used, and the sharpness of detail testifies to the lasting qualities of that material. The ground floor

walls are faced with ashlar, having bold square sunk joints, and form a solid and massive base for the superstructure. This superstructure, comprising the first floor, is broken up on both elevations by the insertion of attached Ionic columns, four in each elevation. Those on the western front are flanked by projecting pilastered wings crowned with pediments, so as to fill up the greater width than that in the southern front. Internally the planning suits its purpose. The entrance vestibule is plain, but in the banking hall the architect gave rein to his decorative skill with almost prodigality. This hall measures 53 ft. 0 in. by 39 ft. 0 in., and occupies the greater portion of the ground floor. The coffered ceiling, cornice, and doorways are richly covered with delicate ornamentations upholding the true spirit of Greek art. The fittings, executed in Spanish mahogany, are in keeping with these noble surroundings, and they have mellowed to a beautiful rich tone after their life of some seventy years. A large committee room over the entrance vestibule, having a plain coved ceiling, occupies the upper floor, the remaining space being given up to the lofty banking hall and the staircase. The contractor for the work was Mr. T. Fitzgerald, and the total cost of erecting the Bank building, which is certainly one of the architectural features of Cork, was about £111,000. Needless to say, nothing like it could be produced for that sum to-day. It was occupied for the first time on Saturday, August 20th, 1842. On that occasion the Trustees met at breakfast in the Boardroom, the chair being occupied by Mr. Thomas Lyons,¹⁰ then first Mayor of the reformed Corporation of Cork.

In 1843 the friends and admirers of the late Mr. William Crawford¹¹ subscribed for a statue of him by the famous sculptor Hogan, but on its completion it was found that no other public building suitable for its reception existed, and the Trustees were invited to erect it in the fine hall of the new bank, where it remains up to the present. For many years an ink line was to be seen on one of the legs of the figure. This was made by the sculptor himself, who came into the bank some time after the statue was placed there to examine his work. On looking it over he said, "That leg is too thick," and picking up a pen handle he dipped it in an ink-bottle and rapidly drew a line showing where the contour of the leg should be. In course of time this interesting record has unfortunately become obliterated. About the same time another interesting item was added to the art treasures of the Bank in the shape of a portrait of Mr. Craig by William Fisher, a native of Cork, but then an artist of considerable renown and resident in London. This portrait was subscribed for by the Trustees and Managers, the subscription being limited to one pound, and it may be seen in the Bank to the present day. As a work of art it has been very highly commended by connoisseurs.

Up to the time of entering the new building the Bank was open only one day each week for business, but soon after occupying the new office the Trustees decided to open on Wednesdays as well as Saturdays. Three

¹⁰ Thomas Lyons, b. 1782, died 1850; was the eldest of 22 children, of whom the youngest was Dr. Francis Lyons, grandfather of Mr. Francis J. Lyons, of Ashton Place. Another brother became Bishop of Halifax, and is buried at Blackrock Convent.

¹¹ William Crawford was the youngest son of James Crawford of Crawfordsburn, Co. Down. He came to Cork about 1780, and established the Brewery in partnership with the Beamish family in 1792. He was grandfather of Mr. A. F. Sharman-Crawford, of Lota Lodge, Co. Cork.



MR. JOHN CRAIG.

(From a Portrait in possession of Mr. H. B. Craig, Marmullane.)

years later Monday was added to the days of business, "for new accounts only," and after eighteen months of that arrangement all classes of business were undertaken on Mondays. After May 20th, 1849, the Bank, however, reverted to Wednesdays and Saturdays only as the days for business, and that remained in force until 1906, when the Trustees changed the days of business to three per week—Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday—which arrangement continues up to the present.

In 1843 Mr. Craig induced the Trustees to adopt a new system of accounts, which was entirely devised by himself, and which he called the "Balance" system. It is in use up to the present in the Cork Bank, and also in the Limerick Savings Bank. A separate paper might be written on Mr. Craig's system, which, from an accountant's point of view, is marvelously ingenious and effective, but it will be sufficient to mention that it provides the Trustees and Managers with an accurate daily balance of their accounts, so that at the end of each day's business, no matter how many transactions have occurred, they can tell in a moment the precise sum due to any particular depositor, or to the whole body of depositors, with interest to that date. As to its other features, the remarks of its author, writing in 1844, may be quoted:—

The system I have devised is simple and exact. If it does not exclude error, it unfaillingly detects and corrects it. Instead of creating, it has lessened labour. It as certainly ensures a perfect and correct balance in an inconceivably short time, as the old method, after much delay, was certain to ensure one incorrect and inconclusive.

An important part of Mr. Craig's scheme was the provision of tables to compute interest for every period of four days throughout the year, and to arrange these so that they could be readily adjusted to any alteration in the rate per cent. which a change of times might require. These tables Mr. Craig himself calculated and worked out at very considerable labour, and though the rate of interest has been changed three times since 1844, the original 92 tables for 4-day periods are still in use, and it is claimed that by them the interest on any sum from a million sterling down to the smallest amount may be deduced with perfect accuracy.

In 1846 the Savings Bank, now well established in its new building, had reached a high state of prosperity, its deposits standing at nearly half a million. In the years that immediately followed it was once again to prove its usefulness, for in 1847 and 1848 many of its poorer depositors were hard hit by the failure of the potato crops and consequent famine. In these two years no less than £372,217 was withdrawn from the Bank, and must have helped greatly to alleviate some of the prevailing distress. At the end of 1849 the Bank funds reached their lowest point, being down to £262,608, but a gradual and steady recovery began immediately, and by 1866 the deposits had again nearly touched the old level, when the Fenian rising caused a fresh run on depositors' balances. It is interesting to observe that while the recovery from the fall in 1848 was very slow the recovery in 1866 was very rapid. In the first instance, there was, of course, genuine poverty and the money was spent; in the latter case the withdrawals were due to public panic, and the cash was quickly returned to the Bank when the country became quiet again.

In 1863 an interesting function took place at the Bank in the form of a luncheon, or, as they termed it at the time, "a collation," to celebrate the twentieth anniversary of the introduction of Mr. Craig's system of book-

keeping. The chair was taken on that occasion by the Mayor (Mr. John Francis Maguire, M.P.), and a sympathetic letter was read from Bishop Delany, who was unable to attend. The following is a list of those who were present on that occasion, and none of them now survive :—

Trustees—James Clery, A. Greer, John S. Haines, R. Hall, James H. O'Brien, W. L. Perrier, R. Scott, W. J. Shaw, Lt.-Col. A. J. Wood.

Managers—William H. Beale, C. J. Cantillon, James Carroll, Joseph Carroll, Joshua J. Carroll, Edward Casey, J. W. Clery, Edward Cleburne, Edward Dale, William Dowden, Victor Fitzgibbon, W. Forsayth, J. G. Gibbings, W. E. Gibson, Daniel Gillman, P. Gould, John Hall, Robert C. Hall, A. Hargreave, W. Harrington, G. N. Harvey, William Hayes, H. Hayes, James Hogg, Isaac Julian, John T. Lamerte, D. McCarthy Mahony, Joseph W. MacMullen, William McNamara, A. McOstrich, junr.; H. Morris, G. Newenham, James Perrier, W. L. Perrier, junr.; George Purcell, J. Reed, junr.; Thomas Robinson, John Scott, E. Scott, Valentine Tomkins, T. M. Osborne, Thomas Waters, G. White, H. L. Young, John Besnard, Secretary, and John Craig.

The last survivor of these gentlemen was probably Mr. Alexander McOstrich, who died on October 12th, 1914.

Since then the record of the Bank's work has been, with the sole exception of the before-mentioned "run" in 1866, a history of quiet but steady progress. Cash flowed into its coffers in good times, and was drawn upon again when occasions arose. Ten years ago the Committee of Management introduced the use of "Home Safes" into the working of the Bank with very interesting results. These "safes" are small steel money-boxes, which are given out, locked, to depositors. Money can be put in through a slot from time to time, and when the safe is returned to the Bank the cash it contains is placed to credit of the depositor's account, and begins to bear interest at once. From their commencement up to November 20th, 1917, a sum of no less than £18,000 had been received in these safes, and had gone to swell the balances of depositors.

The centenary of the founding of the Bank was celebrated in a pleasant fashion on November 14th last, on which date one of the senior trustees, Mr. Samuel Henry Newsom, entertained the Patrons, President and Committees to luncheon in the boardroom of the Bank. On sitting down to luncheon, Mr. Newsom had on his right the Bishop of Cork, Cloyne and Ross (Rt. Rev. Charles B. Dowse, D.D.), the Lord Mayor of Cork (Rt. Hon. Thomas C. Butterfield, J.P.), the Recorder of Cork (His Honour Mathew Bourke, K.C.), the Chairman of the Incorporated Chamber of Commerce and Shipping (Mr. Alfred Robinson MacMullen); and on his left the Bishop of Cork (Most Rev. Daniel Cohalan, D.D.), the High Sheriff of the City of Cork (Mr. William F. O'Connor), and Mr. Maurice Healy, Member of Parliament for Cork City. Those also present included many trustees and managers, in addition to representatives of all the other banking institutions in Cork. In the course of an interesting address on the history of the Bank, the Chairman on that occasion referred to the advantages which the Cork Savings Bank offered to clients, who preferred its use to that of the Post Office Savings Bank, and said in conclusion :—

We do not aim at making the Bank an institution where large sums of money will be hoarded up and lie unproductive. We aim rather at making it a place of temporary safe deposit, where in times of prosperity a little money can be put by in perfect security, and where in times of difficulty it can be as quickly obtained again,

without fear of any diminution. For that reason the deposits are always somewhat fluctuating in amount. Early this year, for instance, when the 5 per cent War Loan came out, a large number of our depositors drew money to place in that, and we ourselves hold here for depositors about £10,000 of the last War Loan, besides considerable sums in other Government securities. In the last four or five months we have again witnessed a steady climbing up of deposits, which indicates that when next there is a good investment going, or if there should be any need of money owing to hard times, our depositors will be well prepared to meet the situation.

Much more might be said of the work of the Savings Bank in Cork, and the fact that it has always encouraged not only thrift but temperance, and there have been many minor incidents in its history which have much personal interest, but their appeal is perhaps too limited to entitle them to reference in this brief paper. The Bank has always been fortunate in the members of its staff, and at least one personality still remains who has left his mark upon its development. Alderman Henry Dale, J.P., now the *doyen* of the Cork Corporation and holder of many other public offices of distinction, entered the service of the Cork Savings Bank 54 years ago as a junior clerk, and afterwards passed through every office in the management of the Bank, with the exception of that of Secretary. He has now for many years been a Trustee of the institution, and, owing to his very intimate knowledge of its affairs, is looked on as "The Father of the Bank," and is invariably consulted by the Committee of Management on any occasion of doubt or difficulty. Since its foundation the Bank has had seven Secretaries, Messrs. John Clear (1817-1819), Thomas Exham (1819-1824), John Besnard (1824-1863), John F. Harvey, the elder (1863-1871), John F. Harvey, the younger (1871-1873), Charles Ross Munro (1873-1886), Henry Carr Cave (1886—). Mr. Cave, the present holder of that office, completed fifty years in the service of the Bank last July, and Messrs. Patrick Alexander Fitton (cashier) and Mr. Robert Cox (book-keeper) have forty and thirty-five years' service respectively to their credit. The Bank is thus, both in the personality of its staff and its clients, very intimately associated with the life of Cork City, and its eminent soundness and respectability are due in equal degrees to the wisdom and foresight of past citizens and to the capacity and attention to duty of those of the present.

History of Port of Cork Steam Navigation. 1815 to 1915.

(Continued from page 142.)

By WILLIAM J. BARRY, *Council Member.*

LITTLE PADDY," 1850; 42 tons. Built at Passage West by Samuel Ahern in 1829, as a yacht, for Mr. James Caulfield Beamish; had one mast and square stern. Length 51 feet, breadth 14 feet, and depth 7 feet. In 1850 the engines of the old "City of Cork" (1815) were put into her, and she was converted into a tug boat; she then became the property of Mr. James Denny. Her captain's name was James Gillie, who piloted the sixteen gunboats up the river in 1848, when they came to protect the Custom House,