

STATEMENT

FOR

HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT,

ON BEHALF OF THE

IRISH BRANCH OF THE CIVIL SERVICE,

ADOPTED AT

A GENERAL MEETING OF THAT BODY,

HELD AT DUBLIN,

ON THE 7<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF MAY, 1869.

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DUBLIN:

JOHN FALCONER, 53, UPPER SACKVILLE-STREET,  
PRINTER TO HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

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THE Members of the Permanent Civil Service of the Crown in Ireland respectfully desire to put before Her Majesty's Government a statement of their claims to be placed, in respect to remuneration for their services, upon an equality with the Civil Servants in England; believing, as they do, that an investigation of the subject would establish, that there are no just or reasonable grounds for the great disparity now existing in the scales of salaries in the two countries.

The Members of the Irish branch of the Civil Service wish it to be understood at the outset, that they do not seek to be placed upon a footing with what may be termed the Great Offices of State in England, such as the Treasury, and the departments of the Principal Secretaries of State. They admit that the greater importance of the interests committed to those departments gives them superior claims, and they will therefore limit the comparison which they propose to institute between the scales of salaries, to departments entrusted with the same, or corresponding duties.

The following table has accordingly been prepared, exhibiting the salaries in certain offices in England and in Ireland, where the



duties are precisely similar, and the officers serving in both countries, members of the same general department, and subject to the same chiefs. It also embraces offices where the duties, though corresponding in character, are performed under the supervision and control of different chiefs:—

DEPARTMENTS AND RANK OF OFFICERS	MINIMUM AND MAXIMUM SALARIES			
	ENGLAND		IRELAND	
<b>COURT OF PROBATE—PRINCIPAL REGISTRY.</b>	£	£	£	£
Chief Clerk and Clerk of Rules, . . . . .	600		600	
Record Keepers, . . . . .	600		450	
Assistant do. . . . .	400		250	
Clerks of Seat, . . . . .	700		450	
Assistant do. . . . .	150 to 450		150 to 350	
Sealer, or Clerk of Seal, . . . . .	300		300	
Clerk to Registrars, . . . . .	300		250	
Examiner of Stamp Fee Account, . . . . .	650		300	
Clerk for Cancelling Stamps, and Record-keeper, } as Accountant, . . . . .				
<b>CUSTOMS.</b>				
Principals of Branches, or Chief Clerks, . . . . .	400 to 500		350 „ 400	
Principal Clerks, . . . . .	310 „ 350		300 „ 350	
Other Clerks, . . . . .	80 „ 300		80 „ 260	
<b>FOUR COURTS MARSHALSEA.</b>				
Keeper, . . . . .	800		742	
Deputy Keeper, or Deputy Marshal and } Keeper of the Papers, . . . . .	400		170	
Turnkeys, . . . . .	70 „ 180		52 to 100	
Watchmen and Messengers, . . . . .	50 „ 55		40	
<b>GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE.</b>				
Secretary, or Chief Clerk, . . . . .	800		400 to 500	
Medical Superintendent of Statistics, . . . . .	600 to 700		500 „ 600	
Superintendent of Records, . . . . .	600 „ 700		300 „ 400	
Second Class Superintendents, Senior Clerks, } and Assistant Clerks, . . . . .	90 „ 550		90 „ 300	
Messengers, . . . . .	75 „ 110		60 „ 75	
<b>GOVERNMENT PRISONS.</b>				
Governors, . . . . .	500 „ 700		300 „ 450	
Superintendents and Deputy, . . . . .	130 „ 350		75 „ 265	
Chaplains, . . . . .	30 „ 400		20 „ 250	
Medical Officers, . . . . .	100 „ 400		100 „ 300	
Stewards, . . . . .	200 „ 300		70 „ 150	
Clerks, . . . . .	80 „ 190		50 „ 130	
Schoolmasters, . . . . .	80 „ 160		60 „ 120	
Schoolmistresses, . . . . .	60 „ 80		45 „ 80	
Warders, . . . . .	51 „ 183		36 „ 100	
Matrons, . . . . .	33 „ 62		30 „ 55	



DEPARTMENTS AND RANK OF OFFICERS	MINIMUM AND MAXIMUM SALARIES			
	ENGLAND		IRELAND	
<b>INLAND REVENUE.</b>	£	£	£	£
Department of Comptroller of Stamp Duties :—				
Senior Clerks, . . . . .	520	620	350	
Other Clerks, . . . . .	90	500	100 to 300	
Solicitor's Department :—				
Chief Clerks, . . . . .	600	800	500	600
Other Clerks, . . . . .	200	550	90	400
Income Tax Department :—				
Inspectors, . . . . .	550	650	500	600
Surveyors, . . . . .	200	500	200	430
Chief Clerk or Assistant Examiner of Claims,	400	500	350	400
Clerks, . . . . .	90	350	90	250
<b>METROPOLITAN POLICE.</b>				
Chief Clerks, . . . . .	350	500	250	350
Other Clerks, . . . . .	100	300	70	230
<b>POOR LAW.</b>				
Clerks, . . . . .	100	600	100	500
<b>PUBLIC WORKS.</b>				
Secretary, . . . . .	1,200		600	750
Asst. Secretary or Chief Clerk, . . . . .	600	800	420	550
Clerks, . . . . .	100	600	90	420
Architect, . . . . .	1,500		800	
Assistant do. . . . .	500	700	300	400
Surveyors of Buildings, . . . . .	500	700	250	350
Clerks of Works, . . . . .	400	800	156	250
Overseers of do. . . . .	130	250	109	120
Messengers, . . . . .	26	100	15	59
<b>QUARTERMASTER-GENERALS.</b>				
Chief Clerk, . . . . .	700		260	400
Other Clerks, . . . . .	90	500	90	250

In connexion with this table attention is respectfully invited to the Appendix to this statement, which presents in detail the case of each department named. It shows that in some instances duties of an important character are performed by Irish offices which do not devolve on the corresponding English departments. The cases of departments to which there are none corresponding in England are also therein stated.

It will be seen from an examination of the table, that in the departments named therein, the salaries, taking the maximum as the basis of the calculation, are, on the whole, 33 per cent. less in the Irish than in the English offices: a difference which the



members of the Irish Civil Service submit, cannot be justified by a comparison of the duties devolving on the officers in the respective countries, either as regards their nature and extent, the manner in which they are discharged, or the time devoted to their performance.

The only ground (so far as the members of the Irish Civil Service are aware) on which this inequality has been defended is, that the cost of living in Ireland is considerably less than in England.

To an examination of this ground they will therefore address themselves, with the view of ascertaining how far, at the present day, it can be maintained.

It is admitted, that in former times the cost of the necessities of life was very much less in Ireland than in England, and that it was but just that in measuring official salaries in the two countries the Government should be influenced by that fact, and should assign a much lower rate of remuneration to the officers serving in Ireland than to those serving in England. For many years past, however, the difference which existed has been gradually disappearing, owing to the continually advancing prices of food of every description in Ireland, and to the increase of house rent and taxes. It now exists but to a comparatively trifling extent.

If proof be demanded on this point it will be abundantly found,—as regards the great increase in the cost of food,—in the Reports (presented annually to Parliament) of the Poor Law Commissioners for Ireland, an authority which, considering the nature of the Commissioners' functions, the opportunities they possess of forming a sound opinion on the subject, and their freedom from bias, will probably not be questioned.

In their report for the year '54 the Commissioners state:—  
“This improvement in the general rate of wages, together with a more continuous state of employment, accounts for the absence of an increased pressure in the Irish workhouses, which might have been expected from the material rise which has taken place in the prices of food since the date of our last report.” And they proceed to show that the average weekly cost of maintenance per head, in the workhouses, had risen from 1s. in September '51 to 1s. 9d. in April '54.

In their report for the year '58, they show that the weekly cost had risen to 1s. 11d. per head, and they attributed that rise to the “increase in the prices of food.”

In their report for the year '62, the Commissioners say:—“The



year ending 29th September, '60, was one of considerably increased expenditure, through an increase chiefly in the cost of provisions."

The Commissioners state, in their report for the year '67:—"In January, '64, the average weekly cost of maintenance in the workhouses in Ireland was 2s.; in '65, it was 2s. 0 $\frac{3}{4}$ d.; in '66, it was 2s. 2d.; and in '67, it was 2s. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. The continuous rise in the cost of provisions, indicated in these comparisons, together with some improvement in the dietaries, has occasioned a material part of the increase of the relief expenditure." So strongly were the Commissioners impressed from year to year with the great and increasing expenditure on maintenance in Ireland, that in the concluding paragraph of their report for the year '67, they expressed a hope that the claims of their clerks for an increase of salary would be re-considered by the Lords of her Majesty's Treasury, on the express ground of the "enhanced cost of living in this country."

In their last published report, dated the 31st March, '68, the Commissioners say:—"The rise in the weekly cost of maintenance has since made further progress, and has stood since '67 at 2s. 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per head per week; having advanced to that point from 2s. per head in October, '65."

It is apparent, from the foregoing extracts, that, owing, in a great measure, to the steady and continuous rise in the prices of food in Ireland, the cost of maintenance in the Irish workhouses has risen from 1s. per head per week in the year '51, to 2s. 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. in the year '68, being an increase of more than 150 per cent. within the seventeen years embraced in that period.

It may, however, be objected, while admitting the perfect accuracy of these statements of the Poor Law Commissioners, that the articles of food in use in the workhouses, being few in number, and, in the main, coarse in quality, the Commissioners' reports do not afford sufficient data for determining the extent to which the cost of the articles consumed by persons occupying the social position of members of the Civil Service, has risen in Ireland within the same period.

The Poor Law Commissioners themselves have, to some extent, supplied an answer to any such objection, in the recommendation contained in their Report for the year '67 above referred to, that the salaries of the clerks in their department should be increased on the ground of the enhanced cost of living in Ireland: a recommendation by the chiefs of one of the principal public



departments, of much importance and weight, in support of a similar claim on behalf of the Irish Civil Service at large. In addition to this evidence, it has been deemed advisable to prepare from the market notes in the newspapers of the year '51 and of the present time, the following table, for the purpose of showing exactly the extent to which the advance in prices has affected the principal articles coming under the general designation of "necessaries of life," and entering into the consumption of the better classes in Ireland. It will be found to exhibit an increase of 56 per cent. in the present prices of the articles therein named, as compared with their prices in '51. With regard to house rent and taxes, it has been estimated by competent authority that they have increased in Dublin and its vicinity from 12 to 20 per cent. within the same period:—

TABLE of Average Prices, in Dublin, of the following Articles in the beginning of the Months of April, 1851, and April, 1869, respectively.

Year	Beef per lb	Mutton per lb.	Bacon per lb.	Bread per 4 lbs.	Butter per lb.	Eggs per 120	Potatoes per stone	Coals per ton delivered
April, 1851, - -	d. 5½	d. 5½	d. 6	d. 5½	d. 10	s. d. 5 2	d. 7	s. d. 14 6
April, 1869, - -	9	8¾	10½	7	16	10 0	9	21 0
Increase in '69 } over '51, - }	3½ per lb.	3¼ per lb.	4½ per lb.	1½ per 4 lbs.	6 per lb.	4 10 per 120	2 per stone	6 6 per ton

A further table, compiled from similar sources, is also submitted, exhibiting the prices of the *same articles* in London and Dublin at the same periods—namely, in April '51 and April '69 respectively—from which it will be seen, that while at the former date the prices of those articles were 42 per cent. less in Dublin than in London, at the present time the difference in favour of Dublin is only 12 per cent.; a sum which, other items of expenditure being about equal in both cities, represents, in the case of a family of five persons residing in Dublin, and having an income of £200 a year, a difference in their gross annual expenditure, as compared with that of a family of equal extent and income in London of,



only about ten pounds, or 5 per cent., and, of course, a lower percentage where the income is larger.

Although it is conceded in the preceding paragraph that "other items of expenditure" are about equal in both cities, many of the most important of those items are probably somewhat lower in price in England than in Ireland, considering that almost all the clothing materials used in Ireland are imported from Great Britain, and that while the Excise and Customs duties on all articles of consumption are identical in both countries, a considerable portion of those articles, such as tea, sugar, &c., reach Ireland through the port of London, or some other port in Great Britain.

TABLE of Average Prices in London and Dublin, respectively, of the following Articles, in the beginning of the Months of April, 1851, and April, 1869.

Year	City	Beef per lb.	Mutton per lb.	Bacon per lb.	Bread per 4 lbs	Butter per lb.	Eggs per 120	Potatoes per stn.	Coals per ton deliver'd
April, '51,	{ London, .	d. 8	d. 8	d. 9	d. 9	d. 14	s. d. 8 6	s. d. 1 9	s. d. 25 0
	{ Dublin, .	5½	5½	6	5½	10	5 2	0 7	14 6
Excess of London over Dublin, in 1851, . }		2½	2½	3	3½	4	3 4	1 2	10 6
		per lb.	per lb.	per lb.	per 4 lbs	per lb.	per 120	per stn.	per ton
April, '69,	{ London, .	10¼	9¼	11¼	6½	16	10 0	1 6	25 0
	{ Dublin, .	9	8¾	10½	7	16	10 0	0 9	21 0
Excess of London over Dublin, in 1869, . }		1¼	0½	0¾	Nil*	Nil	Nil	0 9	4 0
		per lb.	per lb.	per lb.				per stn.	per ton

The steam engine and the electric telegraph have been amongst the principal agents in bringing about this close approximation of prices in the capitals of the two countries, and their agency must continue to operate in the same direction; to the advantage, no doubt, of the food producer in Ireland, but manifestly to the disad-

\* Bread appears to be dearer at present in Dublin than in London.



vantage of residents in that country who, like the members of the Civil Service, are only food consumers, and living on fixed incomes.

The members of the Irish branch of the Civil Service cannot think that any consideration, based on the geographical position of the portion of the United Kingdom in which their services are rendered, can influence Her Majesty's Government in dealing with this question, now respectfully submitted to them.

The larger area and population, and the vast commercial wealth of England, necessarily create an important difference in the aggregate business transacted in the respective departments in both countries; but it should be remembered that the staff in each English department is proportionately larger, and that where the true test is applied, namely—the amount and quality of the work which devolves on each individual, it will be found that in this respect the Irish Civil servant stands in no inferior position.

The Irish branch of the Civil Service has had its character tested, especially within the last quarter of a century, in various ways, and successive Governments have borne willing testimony to its efficiency. Now that it has been demonstrated that the only valid ground on which the great disparity in the salaries of the Civil servants in the two countries has hitherto rested, exists in only a very modified degree, the members of the Irish branch submit that the inequality should cease, and that they should no longer be retained in a position of inferiority, in point of salary, to their brethren serving in England.

As a set-off against the small saving that may still be effected by a residence in Ireland, it will be recollected that Irish officials are placed at a serious disadvantage, compared with their English brethren, in not possessing the same opportunities of advantageously placing their children out in the world, owing to the limited extent of commercial enterprise in Ireland. To this may be added a consideration of the diminished chances of promotion which the smaller departments in Ireland present to the Civil servants.

The Irish Civil servants further respectfully submit that, in any view of the question, this small saving of (at the utmost) 5 per cent. per annum on their incomes, by living in Ireland, cannot justify the great difference of 33 per cent. per annum between the scales of salaries in the two countries.

It may be here observed that there are several departments in Ireland in the enjoyment of English scales of salary. They are the Paymaster-General's, the Stationery, the Legacy and Succession



Duty, and the Excise branch of the Inland Revenue. These departments have been amalgamated with the corresponding departments in England, and now form but one establishment. The equality of the Civil servants in both countries is thus practically recognized, but only to a very limited extent; its effect being to render the inferior position of the rest of the Irish Civil servants the more remarkable.

The Prime Minister in discussing, not long since, the question, "What is to be the nature of our policy towards Ireland," used these words:—"If you ask me what contribution I have to offer towards the solution of this great and most pressing problem, I have only to say that past history teaches us that there is a marvellous power of enchantment in the promotion of just and fair dealing.

You must be prepared for a long and patient well-doing towards Ireland, up to the full bond of reason and justice, though not one jot beyond them."

The Civil servants of the Crown serving in Ireland, respectfully desire that their case may be considered in this spirit. Forming as Ireland does an integral portion of the United Kingdom, it does not appear unreasonable, that they should seek to have extended to them the standard of remuneration enjoyed by the Civil servants in England.

COMMITTEE ROOMS,  
212, GREAT BRUNSWICK-STREET.



# APPENDIX.

## COURT OF PROBATE.

### PRINCIPAL REGISTRY.

STATEMENT showing the relative position, salaries, &c., of the Officers of the Principal Registry, Dublin, and of the Officers holding similar positions in the Principal Registry, London.

LONDON		DUBLIN	
Official Title of Officers	Annual Salary	Official Title of Officers	Annual Salary
	£		£
Clerk of the Rules and Orders, and Principal Clerk to Judge, .	600	Chief Clerk, and Clerk of Rules and Pleadings, .	600
Assistant do., . . . . .	250	Assistant to do., <i>as such</i> , .	<i>Nil</i>
		[NOTE.—The First and Second General Clerks, designated below, are also <i>nominated</i> as Assistants to Clerk of the Rules, but the salaries received by them are attachable to their offices of General Clerks only.]	
Record Keepers ( <i>two</i> ), each .	600	Record Keeper ( <i>one only</i> ), .	450
First Assistant do. ( <i>two</i> ), each .	400	Assistant do. ( <i>one only</i> ), .	250
Clerks of Seat ( <i>six</i> ), each .	700	Clerk of Seat ( <i>one only</i> ), .	450
First Assistant do. ( <i>six</i> ), each .	450	First Assistant do. (do.), .	350
Second do. do. ( <i>six</i> ), each .	250	Second Assistant do. ( <i>one only</i> , who receives his salary as Clerk of <i>Seal</i> , and has no payment as Assistant Clerk of Seat), .	<i>Nil</i>
Third do. do. ( <i>six</i> ), each .	150	Those Officers perform duties analogous to those discharged in London by the Assistants to Clerks of Seat.	
Sealer, . . . . .	300	First Clerk of Entries, .	250
Clerks to Registrars, <i>each</i> .	300	Second do., . . . . .	200
Examiner of Stamp Fee Account, .	350	First General Clerk .	175
Clerk for Cancelling Stamps, .	200	Second do., . . . . .	150
(Record Keeper as) <i>Accountant</i> , .	100	Clerk of Seal, . . . . .	300
		Clerks to Registrars, <i>each</i> .	250
		Superintendent of Public Department and Accountant, .	
			300



# CUSTOMS.

## CLERKS.

### COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of the Salaries paid to Long Room Clerks in London and Dublin.

LONG ROOM—LONDON			LONG ROOM—DUBLIN		
Principals of Branches,	5* £400, by £20† per year to £500		Chief Clerk, .	1	£350, by £10 per year to £400
Principal Clerks,	6* £310, ,, £15† ,,		Do. do. Second, .	1	£300, ,, £10 ,, ,, £350
First Class Clerks,	8 £230, ,, £10 ,,		First Class Clerks, .	3	£200, ,, £10 ,, ,, £260
Second ,,	17 £150, ,, £10 ,,		Second ,,	7	£130, ,, £10 ,, ,, £190
Third ,,	24 £80, ,, £5 & £10 ,,		Third ,,	9	£80, ,, £5 & £10, ,, ,, £120
	—			—	
	60			21	

\* Principal Clerks in London are One in every Six against One in every Ten in Dublin.

† Annual increments, £20 and £15, against £10 only in Dublin.

The general average of the Dublin Salaries is 18 per cent. less than the average in London.

The Dublin Customs Clerks complain, that their Salaries are on an average 18 per cent. less than the Clerks in London; and that the proportion of Senior Clerks, who also enjoy a larger annual increment, is greater in London than in Dublin.



In justification of their claim to the London scale, they submit that the cost of living in Dublin is equal, or nearly equal, to that incurred in London.

That Dublin collects upwards of One Million per annum, or nearly one-half of the Customs' Revenue of Ireland.

That the duties performed by the Dublin Clerks are equally onerous, and far more varied than those required from the officials in London, where, owing to the magnitude of the departments, a clerk may be continued for years at one particular duty; whilst the Dublin Clerk, in the course of one month, may have to receive duties, pay salaries, pensions, and Army and Navy bills, register vessels, keep cash books and stock registers, arrange thousands of documents, and perform other matters that never come under the notice of the Long Room Clerks in London.

That it is unreasonable to pay clerks in an expensive city, like Dublin, only at the same rate as clerks in the smaller Out Ports, and that Dublin should be made an exception in Ireland, as London and Liverpool\* are in England.

#### FOUR COURTS MARSHALSEA.

QUEEN'S BENCH PRISON, LONDON				FOUR COURTS' MARSHALSEA, DUBLIN			
Salary				Salary			
£ s. d.				£ s. d.			
Keeper, . . . . .	800	0	0	Marshal, . . . . .	742	0	0
Deputy Keeper, . . . . .	400	0	0	Deputy Marshal, . . . . .	170	0	0
8 Turnkeys, from . . . . .	70	0	0	{ Chief Turnkey and Store-keeper, . . . . .	100	0	0
	to						
	180	0	0	3 Turnkeys, or Hatchmen,	52	0	0
3 Watchmen, from . . . . .	50	0	0	1 Night Watchman, . . . . .	40	0	0
	to			1 Messenger, . . . . .	40	0	0
	55	0	0	Hospital Matron, . . . . .	31	10	0

There being at present no department in London exactly analogous to the Four Courts' Marshalsea, the Queen's Bench Prison, which was abolished in 1862, has been selected as the most appropriate for the purpose of comparison.

\* Liverpool Long Room salaries are 20 per cent. over all other Out Ports, and 2 per cent. over even the Long Room, London.



It will be seen by the above table, that the deputy marshal's salary is less than half that of the deputy keeper of the Queen's Bench Prison, although the salaries of the keeper and the marshal were nearly the same. The deputy keeper was also keeper of the papers, for which purpose he was allowed a clerk to assist him, and the keeper had three clerks. The deputy marshal keeps the papers, makes out all reports and returns, collects money from prisoners for rent, furniture, and servants' attendance, and keeps accounts of same; independently of the important and responsible duties of carrying out the rules, and maintaining discipline, receiving and discharging prisoners (for the latter purpose frequently receiving large sums of money, the amount of their detainers), taking affidavits in Bankruptcy and Insolvency and in the Superior Courts, and performing all the duties of the marshal during his absence from any cause.

He may be considered always on duty when in the prison, being liable to be called upon at any moment during the day or night, Sundays not excepted.

He is provided with a house, coals, and gas.

The duties of the chief turnkey and storekeeper are constant and very responsible. He has quarters in the prison, coals, and gas, and is supplied with uniform clothing.

The three turnkeys, or hatchmen, have charge of the hatch or entrance to the prison, and are on duty about twelve hours daily. They have to search and take down the names of all visitors, the safe custody of the prisoners mainly depending on the vigilance of those men. They are allowed a suit of uniform clothing each, but have no quarters in the prison, neither fuel nor rations.

The night watchman is on duty for twelve hours during the night, and the messenger for twelve hours daily. The duties are constant and laborious. Both are allowed uniform clothing, but no quarters, fuel, or rations.

The hospital matron's duties are constant. She resides in the hospital department, and has coals and gas.



# GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE.

STATEMENT showing the Salaries in the General Register Offices of London and Dublin respectively.

LONDON				DUBLIN			
Number of Officers	CLASSES OF OFFICERS	SALARIES		CLASSES OF OFFICERS	SALARIES		Number of Officers
		Min.	Max.		Min.	Max.	
1	Registrar General,	£	£1,200	Registrar-General,	£	£1,000	1
1	Secretary,		800	Chief Clerk,	400	500	1
1	Medical Superintendent,	600	700	Medical Superintendent,	500	600	1
1	Superintendent (of Records),	600	700	Superintendent of Records,	300	400	1
4	Second Class Superintendents,	450	550	First Class Clerks,	200	300	3
14	Senior Clerks,	300	420	Second Class Clerks,	150	200	5
32	Assistant Clerks,	90	280	Third Class Clerks,	90	150	8
MESSENGERS.				MESSENGERS.			
3	Messengers—First Class,	90	110	Head Messenger,	£75		1
5	Do. Second Class,	75	90	Messengers,	60		2



The permanent staff of this office made application in October, 1865, and again in 1866, for improved salaries; on the ground that the duties performed by the General Register Offices in London and Dublin being identical, the scale of salaries in the two departments should correspond; and as the expense of living in the two cities is the same. Both of these applications were recommended to the Government by the Registrar General. The Lords of the Treasury refused, however, to entertain the applications.

We submit, first—That although as a general rule it is difficult, if not impossible, to institute a comparison between the value of the work performed in two dissimilar offices, yet there are not in the whole service two departments, the work of which can be more readily and accurately compared, than the General Register Offices of London and Dublin. The routine of registration in the two countries is the same, except that the registration of marriages in Ireland is more complicated than in England; but the office work in the two departments is identical.

Secondly.—That although the present establishment of the General Register Office, Dublin, was formed so recently as 1863, it was not an ordinary case of the creation of a new office—the office having been originally formed in 1845 (nearly twenty-four years ago), and the number of officers and clerks increased, to enable the department to discharge the additional duties imposed on it by the 26 Vic., cap. 11, and 26 & 27 Vic., cap. 90. Some of those appointed to the office in the year of its formation (1845), are now in the department; and all those placed in the first and second classes, on the reconstruction of the staff in 1863, were appointed on account of their previous services under the Registrar General. Of the eight third class clerks appointed by examination, seven had previously been in the public service.

We are confident that when the hardship of our case is considered, we will not be called on to support ourselves and our families on salaries, which are insufficient to maintain us in that “independent position” adverted to by the Lords of the Treasury in a recent minute.

Finally, we submit that the work of the two departments being identical, there is now no reason why the salaries paid in Dublin should be lower in amount than those paid in London.

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### GENERAL VALUATION OF IRELAND.

The general valuation of rateable property in Ireland was commenced in the year 1828, under the Act 7 George IV., cap. 62, for the object of the more equal apportionment and levy of grand jury assessments in the several counties of Ireland. Subsequently, on the introduction of the Poor Law into Ireland, the Legislature, by the statutes 9 and 10 Vic., cap. 110, and 15 and 16 Vic., cap. 63, found it necessary to extend the



operations of the service so as to subserve the levy of all public, local, and Government taxes whatsoever, to institute an annual revision of the valuation, and to provide for the contingency of a new valuation every fourteen years. Hence the operations of this service embrace a separate survey and valuation of every house, farm, railway, canal, mine, fishery, and all other rateable property : form the basis for an equitable levy of poor rate and grand jury cess : supply the standard whereby the property qualification for the elective franchise is regulated : are necessary in the transactions of the business of the Landed Estates' Court : and are also available for the use of the Commissioners of Inland Revenue, the Commissioners of Income Tax, and other public bodies. So that their magnitude and importance, their adaptation to the circumstances of the country, and the exigencies of the Imperial Government, have placed the service amongst the most important departments under the Crown, and secured its recognition under Act 23 Vic., cap. 4, as an integral part of the Civil Service of the Crown.

It is thus with some force that the officers of so important an Irish department feel that a meed of justice is due to them from the Imperial Government. Conscious of the trustworthiness and skill demanded of them, they feel depressed with the comparison which their remuneration bears to that of the other officers of the public service of like importance. Their case is rendered more severe not only from the circumstances that the proportion of the numbers in the several classes is widely different from that of the average of the public service generally (the ordinary proportion between three classes being as 2, 3, 5, while in the valuation service it is 2, 4, 10), but also by the fact that in the last adjustment of the service the employes in the third class, of long and approved service, are in a worse position than if they had been recently appointed, which may be illustrated by the fact that an officer of 23 years' service will require to serve a further term of six years, or 29 in all, before he can reach £180, which is the maximum of his class.

The non-existence of a department in England discharging the same duties as those of the General Valuation, would appear to deprive this service of the means of direct comparison for the purpose of showing, in this instance, the inferiority of the scale of salaries in the Irish to that of the English service. But the fact is, that this circumstance merely indicates the grounds for a comparison more simple and of wider range, for though the national status of the Irish Valuation service is undeniable, the maximum salary (excepting that of the commissioner) attainable by any officer of the service, is restricted to £365 per annum, while in England there is not a single service restricted to this sum, but, on the contrary, the maximum ranges beyond it variously to, in some cases, double the amount; and such a test as this of the inferiority of the scale could hardly be made plainer by any process of tabulation.



## GOVERNMENT PRISONS.

IN submitting the following statistics, which show the difference between the salaries paid to officers in the English and the Irish Government Prisons, we do not consider that a lengthy preface would add force to the facts exhibited by the figures they contain; therefore, we at once invite attention to tables 1 and 2.

Table 1 shows the salaries of officers in the English prisons compared with the salaries paid to officers of similar rank in the Irish branch of the service.

Table 2 shows that in the English prisons there is an officer to every 5·7 prisoners, and that the pay of officers per prisoner is £15 18s. 8d., while in the Irish branch the ratio of officers to prisoners is 7·4, and the pay per prisoner only £9 3s. 5d. From these facts it can be shown, that for keeping the same number of convicts in custody in an English and in an Irish prison, the officers of the latter are only paid 57½ per cent. of that paid to the officers of the former.

We wish further to observe that the sum of £1,842 is paid in the English prisons for extra duties, and to substitutes for chaplains and doctors while on leave, and that the amount allowed under the same heading for Ireland is £74.

The officers in the English service get £14 per annum in lieu of rations; in Ireland the allowance is variable: the year we write of (1868-9) it was estimated at £9 per officer. It was never estimated higher. As far as we can learn, the difference in ration allowance is owing to the English estimates being calculated from a wider basis, and not from the contract prices of provisions being so much higher in England than in Ireland.

[ Table.



TABLE showing the Salaries of Prison Officers in England, with the Salaries of the Officers of similar rank in the Irish Prisons set opposite to them.

(PARLIAMENTARY ESTIMATES FOR THE YEAR 1868-9—LAW AND JUSTICE III.)

TABLE No. I.

GOVERNING DEPARTMENT.

No. of Officers	Rank	ENGLAND			No. of Officers	IRELAND			Departmental Cost per Prisoner for Officers, and Observations
		Minimum Salary	Annul. Increment	Maximum Salary		Minimum Salary	Annul. Increment	Maximum Salary	
2	Governors,	£ 550	£ 15	£ 700	1	£ 450	none	£ 450	Cost England, £1 2s. 7d.
5		500	15	650	1	300	„	300	Do. Ireland, £0 12 11d.
4	Deputy Govs.,	350	10	400	None.	—	—	—	OBS.—The Governor of even the largest of the Irish Prisons (Spike Island) is not assisted by a deputy; yet his salary is £250 less than the pay of English Governors who have the assistance of one or two deputies.
6		300	10	350		—	—	—	
2	Superintendents	300	5	350	1	265	„	265	
1		200	5	250	1	155	„	155	
2	Deputy do.	130	5	180	1	75	„	75	

ECCLESIASTICAL DEPARTMENT.

2	Chaplains, (of all creeds)	350	5	400	1	250	none	250	Cost England, £0 13s. 7d.
1		300	5	400	1	200	„	200	Do. Ireland, £0 16s. 6d.
5		300	5	350	1	135	„	135	OBS.—The excess of the Irish rate in this department is owing to the fact of the members of the three prevailing religions of the country having chaplains in each prison. Also two of the prisons have branches with separate chaplains attached to them.
2		250	5	300	1	130	„	130	
3		200	5	250	1	125	„	125	
4		182 10	none	182 10	2	120	„	120	
1		150	„	150	3	100	„	100	
1		136 17	„	136 17	1	75	„	75	
1		120	„	120	1	50	„	50	
1		109 10	„	109 10	4	40	„	40	
2		30	„	30	1	30	„	30	
					1	20	„	20	



TABLE NO. I.—(Continued.)

## MEDICAL DEPARTMENTS.

No. of Officers	Rank	ENGLAND			No. of Officers	IRELAND			Departmental Cost per Prisoner for Officers, and Observations
		Mini- mum Salary	Annl. Incre- ment	Maxi- mum Salary		Mini- mum Salary	Annl. Incre- ment	Maxi- mum Salary	
1	Medical Officers,	£ 400	£ none	£ 400	2	£ 300	£ none	£ 300	Costs England, £0 10s 1d.
1		350	5	400	1	125	„	125	Do. Ireland, £0 8s. 6d.
1		300	10	400	1	100	„	100	OBS.—The Irish rate is in- creased by having a sepa- rate medical officer in the Fort Carlisle branch of the Spike Island Prison.
4		300	5	350					
1		225	5	300					
1		175	5	250					
1		100	none	100					
3	Assist. Surgeons	200	„	200					
2		150	„	150					

## OFFICES AND STORES DEPARTMENTS.

2	Stewards,	225	10	300	1	150	none	150	Costs England, £1 6s. 0d.
7		200	10	300	1	110	„	110	Do. Ireland, £0 9s. 4d.
					1	100	„	100	OBS.—There are four warders employed as clerks, whose pay, if added, would in- crease the Irish rate per prisoner to 11s. 9d. for this department.
					1	70	5	90	
20	Clerks,	140	5	190	1	90	10	130	
43		80	5	130	1	100	none	100	
					1	75	„	75	
					1	65	„	65	
					1	60	„	60	
					1	50	„	50	



TABLE NO. I.—(Continued.)

## SCHOOL DEPARTMENT.

No. of Officers	Rank	ENGLAND			No. of Officers	IRELAND			Departmental Cost per Prisoner for Officers, and Observations
		Minimum Salary	Annul. Increment	Maximum Salary		Minimum Salary	Annul. Increment	Maximum Salary	
7	Schoolmasters,	£ 130	£ 5	£ 160	1	£ 120	none	£ 120	Cost England, £0 10s. 0d.
11		95	5	125	1	100	„	100	Do. Ireland, £0 6s. 2d.
11		80	2 10	90	1	70	„	70	OBS.—This is considered a most important branch of the Irish prison system.
					1	60	„	60	
9	Schoolmistresses,	60	2 10	80	1	80	„	80	
					2	60	„	60	
					1	45	„	45	

## DISCIPLINE DEPARTMENT.

2	Chief Warders,	153	5	183	2	100	none	100	Cost England, £6 4s. 3d.
2		133	5	163	1	90	„	90	Do. Ireland, £3 14s. 4d.
3		103	2	123					OBS.—The Irish rate includes the pay of the four warders employed as clerks; also the salaries of some trades-warders—provided for separately in the estimates for the English prisons.
3	Chief Matrons,	75	5	118					
†1	Principal Warders,	63	1 10	none	1	70	„	70	
48		63	1 10	78	2	65	„	65	
1		62	1 10	77	3	60	„	60	
20	Principal Matrons,	50	1 10	62	1	55	„	55	
					1	50	„	50	
197	Warders,	54	1 5	66	31	52	„	52	
40	Matrons,	38	1 5	48	16	45	„	45	
459	Assistant Warders,	51	1 0	61	63	42	„	42	
					30	36	„	36	
66	Assistant Matrons,	33	1 0	43	14	30	„	30	



# STATISTICS FROM PARLIAMENTARY ESTIMATES FOR THE YEAR 1868-9 (*Law and Justice III.*).

TABLE No. 2.

ENGLISH GOVERNMENT PRISONS						IRISH GOVERNMENT PRISONS					
Prisons	Officers' Salaries and Rations, &c.	Number of Officers	Number of Prisoners	Proportion of Officers to Prisoners	Cost of Staff per Prisoner	Prisons	Officers' Salaries and Rations, &c.	Number of Officers	Number of Prisoners	Proportion of Officers to Prisoners	Cost of Staff per Prisoner
	£				£ s. d.		£				£ s. d.
Brixton, .	6,659	78	550	1 to 7·1	12 2 2	Mountjoy, } Female, }	3,561	58	550	1 to 9·5	6 9 6
Chatham, .	19,024	219	1,350	1 „ 6·2	14 1 10						
Dartmoor, .	14,233	157	650	1 „ 4·1	21 17 11	Smithfield } & Lusk, }	1,663	22	125	1 „ 5·7	13 6 1
Fulham, .	2,391	26	120	1 „ 4·6	19 18 6						
Millbank, .	19,313	207	1,000	1 „ 4·8	19 6 3						
Parkhurst, .	5,498	69	280	1 „ 4·1	19 12 8	Mountjoy, } Male, }	4,270	57	300	1 „ 5·3	14 4 8
Pentonville, .	9,218	84	750	1 „ 8·9	12 5 10						
Portland, .	21,988	252	1,450	1 „ 5·8	15 3 3	Spike Is- land and Fort Car- lisle, }	8,159	125	950	1 „ 7·6	8 11 9
Portsmouth, .	14,862	159	900	1 „ 5·7	16 10 3						
Woking, .	10,308	104	700	1 „ 6·7	14 14 6						
Total, .	123,494	1,355	7,750	1 to 5·7	15 18 8		17,653	262	1,925	1 to 7·4	9 3 5



## INLAND REVENUE.

## STAMP OFFICE.

SCALES of SALARIES in the Comptroller's Office, Dublin, and the Comptroller and Accountant-General's Office, London.

COMPTROLLER AND ACCOUNTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE— <b>LONDON.</b>				COMPTROLLER'S OFFICE— <b>DUBLIN.</b>			
	Min. Salary	Annual Increment	Max. Salary		Min. Salary	Annual Increment	Max. Salary
1 Comptroller and Accountant-General, .	£ —	£ —	£ 1,000	1 Comptroller of Irish Stamp Duties, .	£ —	£ —	£ 800
1 Assistant Comptroller, .	650	25	750	-----	—	—	—
5 Senior Clerks, .	520	20	620	1 Chief Clerk, .	—	—	350
12 Clerks, 1st Class, .	400	20	500	3 Senior Clerks, .	250	10	300
18 „ 2nd „ .	300	15	380	} 2 Junior Clerks, .	100	5	150
18 „ 3rd „ .	160	10	260				
20 „ 4th „ .	90	10	150				

The foregoing tables contrast the scales of salaries in the English and Irish branches of the same department, and exhibit in the pay of the senior classes of clerks in each a difference of over 50 per cent. less in Dublin for the discharge of analogous duties.

A comparison of the pay of the chief clerk in the Dublin office with that of senior clerks in London, shows a difference of 44 per cent. against the former; and a nearly equal disproportion exists between the pay of the senior clerks in Dublin, and that of the clerks of the first-class in London.

If the duties performed in the Irish branch of the department were less important in their nature, or if the qualification for their discharge were of a lower standard than those of the English office, the justice of some difference in the rate of remuneration should be admitted, but while the character of the work is similar in each, facts can be referred to which show that a higher average of efficiency is required from those employed on the limited staff of the Irish office.

Within the last ten years the scale of salaries in the London office has undergone revision on two occasions, each change improving the position of the senior officers while in Dublin, the scale adopted in 1851 has been



only varied during seventeen years by altering the increment of the senior class from £5 to £10; yet this circumstance and the addition of a senior clerkship for a special duty, have been assigned as a reason for refusing respectful applications for increase of remuneration.

The disadvantages under which the Irish office suffers in comparison with the English department are not confined merely to the lower scale of pay. In London the current of promotion is so rapid that clerks of the junior classes may hope that an attentive and efficient performance of duty shall secure at no distant time a substantial recognition, while in Dublin the tedious progress of advancement, and the absence of all encouragement to efficiency or of reward for length of service are testified by the fact that the present chief clerk only reached that rank after forty years' service, and is now, having completed a service of fifty-one years, in receipt of a salary lower than that of a second-class clerk in the London office.

United under the same board since October, 1827, and engaged in the management of the same branch of the public business, no just reason appears for the continuance of the English and Irish stamp departments as separate establishments, subject to such difference of treatment as above respectfully pointed out. It is therefore hoped that the time is now arrived when the officers of the Irish branch of this department may be placed on a footing of equality with their English colleagues, and when by the amalgamation of the two establishments, in like manner as the Legacy Duty office (another branch of the department), there may be removed those distinctions which operate so unjustly against those employed in the Irish office.

#### SOLICITORS' DEPARTMENT.

*(Excise, Stamps, and Taxes.)*

The following are the scales of salaries in the Solicitors' department for England and Ireland respectively :—

SOLICITORS' DEPARTMENT, ENGLAND.				SOLICITORS' DEPARTMENT; IRELAND.			
	Min.	Incre- ment	Max.		Min.	Incre- ment	Max.
4 Chief Clerks, . . .	£ 600	£ 50	£ 800	1 Chief Clerk, . . .	£ 500	£ 25	£ 600
4 First Class, . . .	450	20	550	2 First Class, . . .	300	20	400
4 Second do., . . .	350	—	450	2 Second do., . . .	200	10	280
8 Third do., . . .	200	10	300	2 Third do., . . .	90	10	150



The above table will show the position which the Solicitors' department of Inland Revenue in Ireland stands in relation to its kindred office in England. In England the junior clerk starts with £200 per annum:—in Ireland with £90. There are four chief clerks in England, each with a salary of £800 per annum:—in Ireland one with £600.

The departments in both countries are divided into sub-departments for the convenience of business, to each of which is committed a particular branch of business. In England there is a chief clerk with £800 per annum to each sub-department. In Ireland one sub-department is committed to a chief clerk with £600; and the remaining sub-departments are assigned to two first-class clerks each with £400 per annum.

Putting aside the fact that the first-class clerks in Ireland discharge duties which are performed by the chief clerks in England, and merely comparing class with class, a serious disproportion will be observed; the first-class in England reaches £550 per annum:—in Ireland, £400. Second-class in England, £450:—in Ireland, £280. Third-class in England, £300:—in Ireland, £150. (The fourth-class in the Solicitors' department in London is to be absorbed into the third-class as vacancies arise.)

It may be observed that situate in the same building (and under the same board) is the Legacy and Succession Duty department, which is necessarily in daily communication with the Solicitors' department. It possesses all the advantages of the English scale of salaries, forming as it does, part of the Legacy and Succession Duty department in London.

## SURVEYORS OF TAXES.

### No. I.

#### *Scales of Salaries.*

ENGLAND				IRELAND				In favour of England
Class	Minimum	Annual Incre- ment	Maximum	Class	Minimum	Annual Incre- ment	Maximum	
1st Class,	£420	£20	£500	1st Class,	£380	£10	£430	£70
2nd „	350	10	400	2nd „	320	10	370	30
3rd „	300	10	350	3rd „	260	10	310	40
4th „	250	10	300	4th „	200	10	250	50
5th „	200	10	250	No 5th Class,				



## No. II.

*SALARIES of Inspectors of Taxes, to which Office the Surveyors are promoted.*

ENGLAND				IRELAND			
Class	Minimum	Annual Increment	Maximum	Class	Minimum	Annual Increment	Maximum
1st Class,	£600	£20	£650	1st Class,	£550	£20	£600
2nd ,,	550	20	600	2nd ,,	500	20	550

By the above schedule, No. I., it will be seen that the salaries in each class are greatly in favour of the English department. Although the lowest class in both countries commence at the same rate, yet the higher classes in Ireland do not increase in proportion to the English, which they ought to do. By schedule II. it will also be seen the salaries of the inspectors of taxes in Ireland, to which office the surveyors are promoted, are also much lower. The duties of the surveyor in Ireland, although not exactly the same as in England, are equally as arduous and responsible, or more so. In England, the Surveyors have the assessed taxes in addition to the income tax; but a great deal of the heavy duty of the office is done by the clerks to the local commissioners, which, in Ireland, is performed by the surveyors, thereby saving to the revenue the poundage paid to those gentlemen, which, calculated on the sum collected for the past year in Ireland, would amount to about £3,600; besides which, the districts in this country are much more extensive.

There can, therefore, be no doubt that the surveyors of taxes in Ireland are in a much inferior position, both as regards their present salaries and their future prospects.

## SPECIAL COMMISSIONERS OF INCOME TAX.

DESIGNATION	Minimum Salary	Annual Increment	Maximum Salary	DESIGNATION	Minimum Salary	Annual Increment	Maximum Salary
ENGLISH OFFICE.				IRISH OFFICE.			
Chief Examiner of Claims, . . }	£550	£20	£650				
Assistant do., .	400	15	500	Chief Clerk, . .	£350	£10	£400
Clerks, 1st Class,	270	10	350	} Clerks, 1st Class, .	150	10	250
„ 2nd ,,	150	10	250				
„ 3rd ,, a	90	£5 for 2 years & then £10	140	„ 2nd ,, a	90	10	140



It will be perceived, upon comparison of the salaries in this department of the Inland Revenue, that the first class clerks in the Irish branch only receive the pay of the second class in the English department. Moreover, their grievances are further intensified by the fact that they are called upon, not only to discharge similar duties (to which the English department is exclusively confined), viz., examining and allowing repayment claims, which in this country are of a far more difficult and complicated nature, in consequence of the tax being levied on the poor law valuation, but also are, by reason of this being the head department for Ireland, additionally employed in the management of onerous and important duties relating to the out-door officers and the various public departments, the executing of which in England is carried out by a separate and distinct office from that of the special commissioners.

Under these circumstances, the clerks in this branch of the service in Ireland feel themselves bound to look for the same remuneration as that enjoyed by their more fortunate brother officials in England.

### METROPOLITAN POLICE.

#### CASE OF THE CLERKS IN THE POLICE COURTS OF DUBLIN METROPOLIS.

The duties of clerks in the Police Courts of Dublin and London are identical in character, but the amount of duty performed by each clerk in Dublin is much greater than it is in London. In one year (1865) the total police cases in London was 77,463, or  $10\frac{2}{7}$  cases daily for each clerk; while in Dublin the number of police cases, for the same year, was 53,057, or  $15\frac{1}{2}$  cases daily for each clerk.

There are no means of comparing the public cases in both cities; but, as in London, there is a petty sessions establishment, and as the class of duties which devolve on it are, in Dublin, performed by the police clerks, it is not improbable that in this division of business the inequality is much greater.

The following tables show the salaries and duties of clerks in both cities:—

#### SALARIES :

London.	Dublin.
Chief Clerk, £350 by £15 to £500	£250 by £10 to £350
Senior Clerks, None in London	130 by 10 to 230
Junior Clerks, £100 by £10 to £300	70 by 5 to 120

#### DUTIES :

	London.	Dublin.
Daily average number of Police Cases } for each Clerk,	$10\frac{2}{7}$	$15\frac{1}{2}$



## POOR LAW DEPARTMENT.

From the introduction of the Poor Laws into Ireland, in the year 1838, down to the year 1847, they were administered by the Poor Law Commissioners for England. The Irish department formed a branch of the English department, and the expenses of maintaining it were included in the estimate for the latter.

In the year 1847 the business and importance of the department having largely increased, owing to the famine and the introduction into this country, for the first time, of a system of out-door relief, it was deemed expedient by the Legislature to establish a separate Board of Commissioners for Ireland; and that arrangement still exists.

The accompanying statistical statement of salaries in the English and Irish departments respectively, shows that while the salaries of the heads of each department (the president and two secretaries in England, and the chief commissioner and two junior commissioners in Ireland) are almost equal, amounting in England to £4,500 and in Ireland to £4,400 per annum, a difference of only two per cent.; the salaries of the intern staff in each department are widely different, being for the forty-three clerks, two chief clerks, private secretary to the president, and two assistant secretaries in London, £17,005, and for the thirty-six clerks and chief clerk in Dublin £9,043, or 47 per cent. less than is paid in London.

The greater extent of England, and the larger number of destitute persons in receipt of relief, and the consequently greater expenditure for their relief, as compared with Ireland, no doubt necessitate the employment of a larger Poor Law staff in England than in Ireland, but do not appear to afford a sufficient reason for paying *each individual* employed in Ireland 31 per cent. less for his services than is paid to the employés in the English Poor Law department, as appears to be the case. Each member of the intern staff in London (exclusive of the heads) receiving on the average a salary of £354 per annum, while each member of the intern staff in Dublin (exclusive of the heads) receives an average salary of £244 per annum; or, as above stated, 31 per cent. less.

It is submitted that this great difference, or any difference, in the salaries of the subordinate officers employed in the two departments, cannot be defended on the ground that more arduous, and more important and extensive duties devolve on the officers in England than on those in Ireland; for it is on record, in the report presented to the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, in the year 1854, by the Special Commissioners appointed by their lordships in that year to inquire into all the circumstances connected with the Irish department, that the general administration of that department "differs in a very important



“respect from that of the Poor Law Board in England, inasmuch as it includes the separate and distinct business arising under the Medical Charities Act, and the Nuisance Removal and Diseases Prevention Acts; while duties of this description in England are placed under the General Board of Health. . . . The tendency of legislation is rather to extend than to limit the sphere of action.”

That subsequent legislation has had the effect anticipated is apparent from the fact that, from that time (1854), numerous enactments, more or less extending the sphere of the Poor Law Commissioners' duties, and, as a consequence, increasing the labours of their officers, have been passed by the legislature.

Amongst these enactments may be enumerated five separate acts relating to the removal of poor persons from England and Scotland to Ireland.

The 25 & 26 Vic., cap. 83, amending the Irish Poor Laws.

The 26 & 27 Vic., cap. 21, amending the Bastardy Laws.

The 28 & 29 Vic., cap. 26, providing for the superannuation of Union officers.

The 29 & 30 Vic., cap. 38, providing for the burial of poor persons not in receipt of relief at the time of death.

The Vaccination Acts, 21 & 22 Vic., cap. 64, and 26 & 27 Vic., cap. 52.

The Burial Grounds' Acts, 19 & 20 Vic., cap. 98, and 23 & 24 Vic., cap. 76, which enable Boards of Guardians in Ireland to provide new cemeteries, and to enclose old burial grounds throughout the country; and require the Poor Law Commissioners to determine the area on which taxation for these purposes should be levied in each Union; the respective Boards of Guardians, in carrying their provisions into execution, being subject to the direction and control of the Commissioners.

The Sanitary Act (29 & 30 Vic., cap. 90), which embodies no less than nine previous Acts of Parliament.

Some of those Acts have largely increased the duties and labours of the officers of the Irish Poor Law Department, but more especially the last mentioned important measure, which imposes on that department duties which in England devolve on the Privy Council, and not on the Poor Law Board.

Lastly, in the Bill now before Parliament for the Disestablishment and Disendowment of the Established Church in Ireland, it is proposed to place the surplus funds under the management and control of the Poor Law Commissioners.

How the duties devolving on the Irish Poor Law Staff are discharged, is not for its members to say. They are satisfied to refer, for an answer to that question, to the testimony of disinterested witnesses, the Treasury Commissioners, who have stated, in the report above referred to, that the



business of the department was "conducted in a manner highly creditable to the Board, and officers employed under them."

The members of the Irish Poor Law Staff, under these circumstances, do not see any sufficient grounds for denying to them the same amount of remuneration for their services as is given to the English Poor Law Staff; especially when it is considered that, between the years 1855 and 1858, the offices of Secretary and Assistant-Secretary in their department were abolished, and the number of first and second class clerks reduced, whereby the prizes of the department were considerably diminished, and promotion from the lower ranks seriously retarded.



## POOR LAW BOARD—LONDON.

ESTIMATE, year ending 31st March, 1869.

## OFFICERS' SALARIES.

No.	OFFICERS	SALARY OF OFFICE			Amount for the year
		Min.	Annual Increment	Max.	
1	President,	£ 2,000	—	£ 2,000	£ 2,000
2	Secretaries,	1,500	—	1,500	2,500
2	Assistant Secretaries,	1,000	—	1,000	2,100
14	Inspectors,	1,200	—	1,200	4,280
	Do.,	700	50	900	6,000
4	Inspectors of Workhouse Schools,	—	—	—	3,600
1	Private Secretary to the President,	450	50	850	3,050
1	Chief Clerk for Office Management,	150	—	150	150
1	Chief Clerk for Correspondence,	500	20	700	700
8	Clerks, First Class,	500	20	700	700
+26	Do., Second "	400	20	600	4,235
9	Do., Supplementary Class,	100	15	400	8,010
12	Clerks to Inspectors,	100	10	300	1,110
1	Assistant Architect, for six months, at per week,	80	10	180	1,480
1	Office Keeper,	70	5	150	164
4	Messengers,	—	—	150	150
	Housekeeper,	70	£2 10s.	100	368
		—	—	20	—
Total of above,					40,597
48 Auditors of Poor Law Unions, Salaries and Clerkage ranging from £20 to £797 each,					14,900
TOTAL,					£55,497

\* Including commuted personal allowance.

† The Senior Clerks, Second Class, allowed after 25 years' service to rise by £15 to £400, and one of them to £450.

## POOR LAW COMMISSION—DUBLIN.

ESTIMATE, year ending 31st March, 1869.

## OFFICERS' SALARIES.

No.	OFFICERS	SALARY OF OFFICE			Amount for the year
		Min.	Annual Increment	Max.	
1	Chief Commissioner,	£ 2,000	—	£ 2,000	£ 2,000
1	Medical do.,	1,200	—	1,200	1,200
1	Commissioner,	1,200	—	1,200	1,200
1	Chief Clerk,	550	20	700	800*
11	Inspectors,	—	—	1,083	1,083
	Do.,†	650	20	750	7,417
—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—
6	Clerks, First Class,‡	350	15	500	2,951
10	Do., Second "	180	10	300	2,775
20	Do., Third "	100	10	200	2,749
—	—	100	10	170	568
—	—	—	—	—	—
1	Office Keeper,	70	£2 10s.	80	76
4	Messengers,	50	£2 10s.	60	211
		45	£2 10s.	50	—
Total of above,					23,030
5 Auditors of Poor Law Unions at £600 each, including travelling and personal expenses,					3,000
TOTAL,					26,030

\* This Salary is personal to the present Chief Clerk.

† A personal allowance of £50 is granted to the present Senior of this Class.

‡ The maximum of the Third Class has been reduced to £170 for all entering after a certain date.



Confining the comparison of the foregoing tables to the salaries of the clerks, the following is the result:—

FIRST CLASS	Minimum	Annual Increment	Maximum	Length of Service
London, 8 Clerks, . . . .	£400	£20	£600	26 to 34 years
Dublin, 6 „ . . . .	350	15	500*	24 to 32 years

The maximum salary in Dublin being £100 less than in London, or 17 per cent.

*Second Class.*—This class in the London office comprises 26 clerks, and is divided into two sections, the first comprising 20 clerks, rising to a maximum salary of £350, and after 25 years' service to £400 (and in one case to £450), by an annual increment of £15. The second section, comprising 6 clerks, rising to £300, by an annual increment of £10.

In Dublin the second class comprises only 10 clerks, whose salaries rise to a maximum of £300, by an annual increment of £10.

A comparison of the salaries of the first section of the London second class with the Dublin second class, as they at present stand, shows as follows:—

	Lowest present Salary	Annual Increment	Maximum	Length of Service
London, { 7 Clerks, . . . .	£345	£15	£400	29 to 32 years
{ 13 „ . . . .	300	15	350	19 to 24 years
Dublin, 10 „ . . . .	185	10	300	21 to 28 years

The maximum salary in Dublin being £100 less than in London, or 25 per cent.

The second section of the second class in London properly ranges with the first section of the third class in Dublin, and stands thus:—

	Minimum	Annual Increment	Maximum	Length of Service
London, 6 Clerks, . . . .	£100	£10	£300	10 to 18 years
Dublin 15 „ . . . .	100	10	200	18 to 23 years

\* Except in the case of the present senior clerk, who receives £550.—See note on preceding tabular statement.



Or, taking the salaries in London and Dublin, as they are at the present time, as in the case of the first section of the London second class, they stand thus :—

	Lowest present Salary	Annual Increment	Maximum	Length of Service
London, 6 Clerks, . . . .	£185	£10	£300	10 to 18 years
Dublin, 15 „ . . . .	145	10	200	18 to 23 years

The maximum salary in Dublin being £100 less than in London, or 34 per cent., while the length of service in Dublin is greater; equalling that of the 13 clerks of the first section of the second class of the London office.

*Supplementary or Third Class.*—The supplementary class in London appears to range with the second section of the third class in Ireland, and stands thus :—

	Minimum	Annual Increment	Maximum
London, 9 Clerks, . . . .	£80	£10	£180
Dublin, 5 „ . . . .	100	10	170

The excess of £10 in the maximum in London to this class, may be said to be balanced by the larger minimum in Dublin.

It appears, however, that the supplementary class in London is to die out, the members who are eligible for promotion being absorbed in the second class. When this shall have taken place, the prospects of a clerk who may not be fortunate enough to obtain promotion beyond the lowest junior class will differ widely in the respective offices. The London junior will see before him by length of service a certainty of reaching to £300 per annum, while the prospects of the Dublin junior will be limited to £170.



## PUBLIC WORKS.

## SALARIES and ALLOWANCES compared with Office of Works, London.

LONDON				DUBLIN			
First Commissioner, . . . . . £2,000				Chairman, . . . . . £1,400			
(The other Commissioners are <i>ex officio</i> , and receive no salary.)				Commissioners, . . . *2,800, by 50 to 1,000			
				* One Commissioner unpaid.			
	£	£	£		£	£	£
Secretary, . . . . .			1,200	Secretary and } Registrar, . . }	600, ,, 20 ,,		750
Accountant, . . . . .	400, by 20 to 600			Accountant, . . .	600, ,, 20 ,,		750
Assistant Secretary	600, ,, 25 ,,		800	Chief Clerk, . . .	420, ,, 15 ,,		550
Assistant Account- } tant, . . . . . }	300, ,, 15 ,,		400	Assistant Ac- } countant, . . . }	420, ,, 15 ,,		550
First-class Clerks, (2,)	400, ,, 20 ,,		600	First-class Clerks, (9,)	320, ,, 15 ,,		420
Second-class do., (4,)	300, ,, 15 ,,		400	Second-class do., (12,)	200, ,, 10 ,,		300
3rd Class. { 1st Division, (6,)	200, ,, 15 ,,		300	{ Third-class do., (9,)	90, ,, 10 ,,		180
{ 2nd Division, (7,)	100, ,, 10 ,,		200				
Surveyor of Works, . . . . .			1,000	{ Architect, . . . . .			800
Salaried Architect, . . . . .			1,500				
Assistant Surveyor of Works in Lon- don, . . . . .	500, ,, 20 ,,		700	Assistant Archi- tect and Chief Draftsman, . . .	300, ,, 15 ,,		400
Assistant Surveyor of Works out of London . . . . .	500, ,, 20 ,,		700	Surveyors of Buildings, . . (3,)	250, ,, 15 ,,		350
Furniture Clerk, . . . . .	400, ,, 20 ,,		600	Furniture Clerk, . . . . .			220
Itinerant Surveyors for Post office and Probate Regis- tries, . . . . .	2 { 400, ,, 25 ,,		600	Clerks of Works, including allow- ance of £20 per annum (to 5) for office, . . . . .	(6,)	156 10s., 10 ,,	250
	{ 600, ,, 25 ,,		800				
Clerks of the { (1,)			250	Overseers of { (1,)	109 4s. and residence.		
Works, . . . { (3,)			200	Works, . . { (1,)	120		
	(10,)	130, ,, 5 ,,	160		(1,)	120	
Solicitor, . . . . .			1,800	Solicitor, . . . . .			1,500
Law Clerks, . . . { (1,)	400, ,, 15 ,,		500	Law Clerks, { (1,)	250		
	(1,)	300, ,, 15 ,,	400		(1,)	136 10s.	
	(1,)	200, ,, 15 ,,	300		(1,)	80	
	(1,)	100, ,, 10 ,,	200				
Messengers, . . { (1,)			100	Messengers, { (1,)	59 16s.		
	(1,)		90		(1,)	52 0 and residence.	
	(2,)	80, ,, 5 ,,	85		(1,)	46 16	
	(1,)		65		(1,)	31 4	
	(1,)		54 12s.		(3,)	15 12	
	(1,)		26	Hall Porter, . . . . .		44 17 and residence.	



NOTE.—In London there are also the following Officers :—

Chief Examiner of Accounts, . . .	£400, by £20 to £600
Assistant Examiner, . . . . .	300, „ 15 „ 400
Examiner of Furniture Accounts, . .	300, „ 15 „ 400
Junior Examiner, . . . . .	150, „ 10 „ 300
Measuring Clerk, . . . . .	500

The above work is done in Dublin by the Surveyor of Buildings and the Furniture Clerk, assisted by (as respects the Surveyors of Buildings) two second and one third-class clerks, borne on the strength of the Secretary's branch of the Department.

The Irish Department is engineering as well as architectural, and administers Acts of Parliament relating to the Civil Buildings, Piers and Harbours, Arterial Drainage, Land Improvement, &c.

The present staff has gradually replaced the old, and, for the most part, was appointed at the time of the famine of 1846-7.

As equality of age and service abounds, there is little chance of promotion. There are third-class clerks on the establishment having 22 years' service, and only the maximum of their class (£180 a-year).

It will be seen that the greater part of the architectural staff in Ireland are worse paid than the non-professional, the Assistant Architect and Surveyors of Buildings receiving less than First-class Clerks.

The English scale for the professional staff is greatly in excess of that in Ireland, and in the case of the non-professional there is also a marked difference.



# QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of the Pay, and Classification of the Clerks in the Quartermaster-General's Offices,  
at the Horse Guards, London, and Dublin Castle.

LONDON					DUBLIN			
No. of Clerks	CLASSES	Scale of Pay		No. of Clerks	CLASSES	Scale of Pay		
		Mini- mum	Maxi- mum			Mini- mum	Maxi- mum	
1	Chief or Principal Clerk,	per annum £700	per annum —	1	Chief Clerk (or First Class Clerk),	per annum £260	per annum £400	By yearly increase of £15.
2	First Class Clerks,	365	£500					
5	Second Class Clerks,	210	350		Second Class,	160	250	By yearly increase of £10.
7	Third Class Clerks,	90	200		Third Class Clerks,	90	150	By yearly increase of £10.
No	Temporary Clerk.	—	—	1	Temporary Clerk,	91	91	
15	Clerks,	...	No allowances.	7	Clerks,	...	...	No allowances.

In 1848 there was a difference only of £50 a year between the maximum pay of the Chief Clerk in London and the maximum pay of the First Class or Chief Clerk in Dublin, whereas there is now a difference of £300 a year. In fact, the latter is now only paid a little over one-half of the pay of the Chief Clerk in London.

The duties of the Clerks employed in the Quartermaster-General's Offices at the Horse Guards, and Dublin Castle, have been declared on high authority to be identical.

The examination, and qualifications as regards education and social position in life, are the same in both offices.

At the present time the cost of living in Dublin is as great, if not greater, than in London.



## THE REGISTRAR OF DEEDS OFFICE.

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### STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE FIRST, SECOND, AND THIRD CLASSES OF CLERKS.

This establishment originated in an enactment "that a memorial of all deeds, &c., of and concerning any honors, manors, lands, tenements, or hereditaments in Ireland, might be registered in such manner as therein directed; that every such registered deed should be good and effectual, according to priority of time of registering against all other dispositions, and that deeds not registered should be deemed fraudulent and void as against deeds registered, and against judgment creditors," &c.

Thus the efficacy of every instrument affecting real property in Ireland depends on its due registration.

The process of registration, as incumbent on the public, is effected by depositing in the register office a memorial of the deed intended to be registered, this memorial forming at once the record of such registration, and also the foundation of the operations incumbent on the officials, as hereinafter more fully detailed.

The preparation of the memorial of each deed devolves on the party requiring its registration, and (with the exception of certain prescribed particulars) its contents are entirely optional if in accordance with the deed it purports to represent.

With some who confine themselves exclusively to the statutable requirements, the memorial amounts merely to a concise record of the existence of the deed.

With others, however, the memorial appears to have the additional object of supplying information as to the contents and action of the deed, should it happen to be lost, and some even register as memorials transcripts of the entire deed.

From these preliminary remarks it will be seen that the documents with which the officials have to deal are of the most variable description; and from the accompanying statement it will appear that perusing, construing, collating, and abstracting these documents, which are often of considerable length, critical, technical, and sometimes even ambiguous in their phraseology, form a large portion of their duties; and they feel confidence in stating that the duties in no other establishment exceed theirs in point of mental and physical labour, or in the high individual responsibility consequent on their due execution.

In addition to the registering of deeds, as mentioned in the preceding observations, the Irish registry has other important functions peculiar to itself.

The statute originating the establishment also enacted, "that every



registrar or his deputy shall make search as concerning all memorials that are required as aforesaid, and give certificates under his hand." By a subsequent statute it is stated that this latter provision did not sufficiently protect the public, "and the said Act would prove in a great measure ineffectual, and purchasers rendered precarious and insecure, in case 'negative certificates' be not given by the registrar," which were thereby required to be given in a form prescribed by that statute, on official responsibility.

The effect of this enactment was to make the establishment not only the medium for recording the muniments of, but also that of proving title to, real property.

It is therefore obvious that almost every transaction in real property in Ireland must be carried out through the instrumentality of this department; and when it is considered that these now amount to nearly £9,000,000 per annum, it needs nothing further to illustrate the national importance of this establishment.

The official staff consists of one registrar, two assistant-registrars.

Chief Clerk,	. . . . .	£400 to £500 by £20
Assistant Clerk,	. . . . .	380 to 450 by 20

8 First-Class Clerks,	. . . . .	£280 to £360 by £15
15 Second	„ . . . . .	160 to 260 by 10
40 Third	„ . . . . .	90 to 150 by 5
For first two years and afterwards by £10.		

Mr. Seton, in his report to the Treasury, states that the duties devolving on those now represented by the first, second, and third-classes of clerks were "nearly the whole of the vast and complicated business which is regulated by the series of Acts which have passed since the reign of Queen Anne for the registration of deeds and titles to land in Ireland."

The importance and extent of the duties attached to this department will be apparent from the large amount of pecuniary consideration expressed in a portion of the deeds registered, as may be seen from the following rough calculation, made for another purpose some years since, and which was considered rather under the exact amount.

In the year 1864 there were registered 11,700 deeds. Of these—

577 expressed consideration amounting to more than .	£5,912,475
3,905 did not express the consideration; but taking the average as £1,023, as estimated from those that do express consideration, the amount would be .	3,994,815
2,018 leases which reserve rent as consideration, not estimated.	

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£9,907,290



From a detailed description of the duties appended hereto, it will be apparent that they are of twofold nature.

First—The proving title pursuant to the statute, before referred to, and certifying same on official responsibility. This is the main feature in which the Irish registry differs from every other, and by reason of this important provision, the title to property in Ireland has passed with security to all parties to the extent of many hundred millions sterling in value.

Secondly—The recording, arranging, abstracting, and construing the evidences of all transactions, and placing every item of information derivable from the documents lodged as the basis of registration, under its proper head, where its absence would be tantamount to non-existence.

In further illustration of the exceptional responsibility imposed on the officers of this department, they beg leave to call attention to the following clause in the Act of Parliament by which the establishment is governed; whereby they are made liable to loss and penalty for even accidental error, while others similarly circumstanced have special provision exempting them, from liability in case of mere oversight.

*2 and 3 Wm. IV., cap. 87, sec. 28.*

“AND WHEREAS it is expedient that a summary mode of hearing any complaint against any person in the said register office should be provided; be it therefore enacted, That upon any complaint made on oath before any of His Majesty’s superior Courts of Law or Equity in Dublin, of any neglect, default, or misconduct of the registrar, or any assistant registrar or clerk, employed in the said register office, it shall be lawful for such court, or any of the judges or a judge thereof, and the said court, judges, or judge are hereby required in open court, to hear and determine such complaint in a summary manner; and the said court, judges, or judge, if they or he shall think proper, may examine upon oath the party complaining and the party complained against, and dismiss the complaint, with reasonable costs, if the complaint shall appear frivolous or vexatious, or award compensation to the complainant, or impose a pecuniary penalty or fine upon the party complained against to any amount not exceeding the sum of one hundred pounds, or adjudge the party complained of to be removed from his place in the said office, as the case may require, and shall forthwith cause a copy of the judgment pronounced upon such complaint to be laid before the Lord Lieutenant or other chief governor or governors of Ireland, and thereupon it shall be lawful for the said Lord Lieutenant or other chief governor or governors of Ireland to order the person upon the complaint against whom such judgment was given to pay such penalty, fine, or compensation, or to be removed from his office or employment in the said register office, or to order the said registrar, out of any salary that may be due or that shall accrue to the



person against whom such judgment shall have been given to pay and discharge such penalty, fine, or compensation aforesaid; and where such penalty or fine shall be imposed, the amount of such penalty shall be paid into the said register office, and shall be applied as if the same had accrued from fees paid in the said office; and in case of non-payment of the damages aforesaid, the person to whom such compensation shall be ordered to be paid, may sue for the same in an action of debt in any Court of Record in the City of Dublin."

The following is a more detailed description of the official routine :—

The statutes in operation at present require that, for the purpose of registry, each deed or conveyance, together with a memorial thereof, under hand and seal of some one or more of the parties, containing, in the least, certain prescribed particulars, must be lodged in the office, the memorial is then examined by the clerks as against the deed, to ascertain how far it is in accordance therewith; and in compliance with the several requirements of the law relating to memorials of deeds, this duty can scarcely be considered other than most onerous, and involving skill.

The deed is, after being thus carefully examined, in due time returned to the solicitor or party who leaves it for registration, with a certificate of its registry endorsed thereon. The memorial of the deed is retained in the office as the basis of further operations.

The memorial having been passed as authentic, it is then required by the statute to be entered in a book called the "*Day Book*," in a prescribed form (Schedule C), in which must appear, in columns, the grantors, the grantees, every county, city, or corporation town in which any premises acted on are situate, and other particulars. The preparation of this book necessarily involves a most careful perusal and consideration of the memorial by the clerks to whom this branch of business is intrusted, and sometimes of the deed, should there be any doubtful or insufficient statement in the memorial. The entries in this book are then carefully compared by clerks with the memorial of the deed left for registry. From this "*Day Book*" there is then compiled a *calendar or index of the names* of all the granting parties, with the several particulars as to all the counties, cities, and towns acted on by the instrument, as found in the "*Day Book*" before described. The care and responsibility involved in the preparation of these calendars or indexes can only be exemplified by the fact that they must be the exponents of the dealings of every person in landed property in Ireland. The accuracy of this branch is also tested by a rigid comparison, and certified by the clerk making it.

With reference to the preparation of the *Abstract Book*.

This book is analogous to what is termed in Scottish registry as the "*Minute Book*," and is justly considered one of the most critical opera-



tions in registration; its form and contents are prescribed by the statute; and it is not easy to conceive how much mental, skilful, and trained labour is required in order to cull from abstruse and technically prepared legal documents the particulars required for its formation (the memorials of deeds being occasionally transcripts of the deeds themselves); the ordinary form is necessarily a secondary instrument, and often conveys, by vague and indefinite expressions, much more than the apparent meaning of the phraseology. To warn the public against such, and yet express no more than may be the possible meaning of the primary instrument, is a task requiring painstaking labour, intelligence, and experience of no ordinary nature. This duty involves a most critical perusal and digest of the memorial as left for registry. The prescribed form is contained in Schedule D, annexed to the Act, which gives, however, but an imperfect idea of the reality, as developed in the ordinary course of everyday experience. This book has a twofold use—first, as the groundwork for the compilation of the Lands' Index or Calendar; second, as a book of reference used by the clerks and the public searching in order to obviate, when possible, the perusal of the registered document *in extenso*.

This branch also undergoes a rigid examination and comparison by the clerks.

The next stage is the compilation of the "*Lands' Index*," or calendars.

As may be seen by reference to Schedule D, the Abstract Book contains a detailed and minute description of the lands, tenements, incorporeal hereditaments, &c., as granted by the deed, and expressed in the memorial. It is the duty of the clerk compiling the "*Lands' Index*" to select each denomination, and also to exercise his judgment in respect to incorporeal hereditaments, and enter each under its proper division or head.

On reference to the 17th section of the Act, it will be seen that the Lands' Index is arranged in counties, cities, and towns, each county having a separate book, subdivided into baronies, which are again alphabetically subdivided; for instance, the Queen's County contains 11 divisions for baronies, each division of which contains 26 alphabetical subdivisions, in all 286, and in like manner each county, city, &c., in Ireland.

From the number of subdivisions, and the often vague definitions of the lands, premises, &c., granted, this is a work of extreme labour and skill, to which a great personal responsibility is attached to the clerks. This index or calendar must be the exponent of all lands dealt with for the length and breadth of Ireland.

Owing to the character of the documents registered, there is an additional book for each county, when the barony in which the lands may be situated is not stated in the deed left for registration; also a



“General Index,” which provides for the entry of denominations of lands, where the counties in which they are situated are omitted to be stated in the deeds left for registration.

The memorials having gone through each of the stages already described, are copied and compared, and finally are deposited in the Record-room in files, corresponding in number to the “Day Book,” “Abstract Book,” and “Transcript Book,” in which each appears entered.

This may be considered to end the duties, as regards the process through which each memorial goes, from its registry to its being deposited in the Record-room.

Irrespective of the current business previously described, there is also an important, laborious, and critical operation required at each period of ten years—namely, the consolidation or reconstruction of the indexes for the previous ten years, required by the Act.

From the description already given of the current business, the immense importance and responsibility of this duty will be apparent, and it may suffice to say that these consolidations ultimately supersede the previous statutable form from which they are compiled, and are also rigidly checked in the most minute particular by the clerks. Other duties are incidental to the daily requirements of the statute.

#### MAKING SEARCHES.

In order to convey a correct description of this duty, it is necessary to revert to the first principles of this registry, viz. :—“That an unregistered deed is fraudulent and void, as against a registered deed of the same tenor and effect.”

There are now registered about 900,000 deeds since the year 1708, affecting the entire of Ireland.

It is therefore clear that the validity of each transfer must depend on the non-registry of any deed that could defeat or impede its action.

The public have the registry open for examination, but such examination would depend upon the accuracy and trustworthiness of *an unofficial person*, and would afford no other protection to purchasers or lenders; but in order to provide *an official safeguard* to the public, it is provided by the Act that, on lodgment of a requisition to that effect, the intended purchaser or lender shall be armed with an official document, *negating the existence of any adverse instrument* amongst the deeds on record, according to the terms of such requisition. To furnish documents under official seal and responsibility is what is termed “making searches.”

The requisition for such a search necessarily embraces the name of every person who could have exercised ownership from the root of the title to the alienation of interest, and frequently extends over a century,



notwithstanding the limitation of sixty years' title. The average number of these intricate official searches, furnished annually by the office to the public, amounts to 1,000 "Negative," and 600 "Common" searches, which number may be doubled as regards "Negative Searches," since each search must be made twice, each time by different clerks, and each may be considered as the deduction of the title to the estate against which it is made. The proceedings necessary to make such a search are quite beyond any verbal or written description; but it is apparent that the two classes of index—viz., the "Index of Names" of granting parties, and "Index of Lands" granted, supply the medium of the first part of the operation. From the former are obtained references to the acts of *all* persons of the same name as mentioned in the requisition; from the latter, references to all acts by any person affecting the lands mentioned therein. The references in the earlier periods contain no defining information, and the memorials referred to in the index, however numerous, *have to be all read and examined* as to the bearing of each on the property and parties, after which examination is being made.

When it is considered that all conclusions are arrived at, and results obtained from perusal of legal documents of often obscure expression, and not from tabular or arranged details, there can be no reasonable doubt of the amount of skill, intelligence, and experience necessary to protect alike the public, and preserve the security of the official responsibility.

It is proper to observe that there are two descriptions of searches—one on statutable requisition, involving *official* responsibility; the other called a "common search," involving the *individual* responsibility of the clerk making it.

Such duties then require not only "care and accuracy," but necessitate the possession by the clerks performing them of an intimate knowledge (acquired by their training and experience in the establishment) of the nature, scope, and bearing of legal documents of every description.—Mortgages, assignments, disentailing deeds, marriage settlements, conveyances, and all assurances, legally or equitably dealing with real and personal property, and the complicated and obscure uses and trusts attaching to every title, since it is upon the interpretation of such documents by the clerks who compile the "Day Book" and the "Abstract Book" by the Searchers, the Indexors, and the Comparers, that settlements are entered into, money lent, and estates purchased. The clerks performing those duties are necessarily in a position of weighty trust and great confidence.

The searching department therefore proves the non-existence of adverse deeds previous to, and thus secures transfer. The indexing or registering department records, arranges, and abstracts the evidences of transfer. And these officials confidently refer to the public testimony of the Law Society of Ireland and other competent authorities, which has been borne



to the efficient and careful manner in which this important part of their public duty has been performed; and although a large portion of land in Ireland has changed ownership on the faith of their accuracy, yet no injury has occurred to the public; nor has any charge ever been made against them on account of neglect or omission.

When it is considered that the entire of Ireland, save such as has been brought under the Record of Title Act, is within the scope of the official action of this establishment—that the transactions now amount to nearly *nine millions* annually—that the duties are of a most responsible character—of great public utility—and require mental and physical labour of no ordinary description, these officials trust they have made out a case for favourable consideration.

From the foregoing outline it may fairly be presumed that the duties of the officials are in no wise inferior to those in other departments, and would therefore entitle them to equal remuneration. Yet, on examination of their scale of payment and the large numbers in the lower classes, it will be found that (notwithstanding recent improvements) their remuneration and prospects still form a marked contrast to those accorded to other departments.

In addition to the foregoing statement, it is desirable to submit some important facts peculiar to the registration of deeds in Ireland:—

Firstly—That the Irish establishment alone possesses an “index (or register) of lands.” Such index was relinquished in other registries of the United Kingdom in consequence of the apparently insuperable difficulties in its construction. Notwithstanding such difficulties, there is contained in the Irish Registry a complete lands register from its commencement, in the year 1708, to the present time, in exact accordance with the documents lodged as the basis of registration. The main difficulties—namely, the subdivision of properties,—the changes of names or denominations,—also the alteration in the locality (owing to the operations of the Boundary Acts) are all overcome, when same can be gathered from the recitals of the antecedents of the properties acted on. Such results, however, have not been attained without a large amount of skilful arrangements, unparalleled in registration proceedings.

Secondly—The practice of furnishing intending purchasers, or other dealers in landed property or securities, with certified documents, involving *official* responsibility, negating the existence on the registry of any deed impeding the rights of vendors, &c., is *peculiar to the Irish system*, as the Act of 8th Geo. I. *applies solely to the Irish Registry*.

In the foregoing statement it is mentioned that the average yearly number of *official* searches furnished to the public is 1,000 “negative” and 600 “common” searches; these should more properly be termed 1,000 “requisitions” for certified “negative,” and 600 requisitions for “common” searches; and this is mentioned in order to correct misconcep-



tion that seems to have arisen on this subject; and, in further explanation, it may be here stated, that each of the 1,600 "requisitions" includes, on a low average, five persons to be searched against in each, being upwards of 8,000 searches against individuals, and, as before stated, often extend to a century in point of time.

The foregoing observations apply solely to the operations carried out by means of "the index of names," but when they are considered in connexion with the "lands" register (which is *peculiar to the Irish system*), the result will be—supposing each of the 1,600 *official* "requisitions" to embrace *two* denominations of "lands," a total of more than 3,000 would be given; thus:—

Searches on Names,	.	.	8,000
Searches on Lands,	.	.	3,000
			<hr/>
Total,	.	.	11,000

In making these 11,000 searches, the aggregate number of years searched over is not less than 200,000, and fully 150,000 references have to be made to memorials and abstracts. Besides the official searches obtained from the office, the establishment is of great advantage to the public, who use it extensively in making non-official searches for their own purposes.

It has been before observed that the memorials of the deeds lodged for registration form the groundwork of the extensive *official* operations before described; and it may, perhaps, be proper here to add that these memorials are of the most variable description, some being entire transcripts of the deeds they represent, and others so vague as to give barely an outline of the nature of the original instrument. Generally, however, the operative portions are stated, and often contain recitals detailing previous transactions in the title extending over a period of from thirty even to a hundred years.

It will appear from the preceding statement that in order to comply with and check the statutable requirements, each of these memorials must be perused from the beginning to the end four times by separate persons; and taking the number of deeds registered as 12,000 per annum, each day's duty involves 153 critical perusals, or 48,000 per annum.

What has been stated will, it is hoped, demonstrate the *national utility* of this establishment, which affords, and is used as a security in real, property transactions by all classes. The Irish system of registry has given protection, and, by its means, and its *official* searches, the *fullest information* is afforded to an intending seller or purchaser with respect to the title of land; and as a further remarkable instance of its public utility, it may be stated that the Incumbered Estates Commissioners and



the Landed Estates Court Judges have been enabled, through its means, to deduce an indefeasible title to, and sell land, within the last few years, the purchase-money of which amounted to upwards of *thirty millions* of pounds sterling.



