

**Dundalk & Newry Steam Packet Company engineer reports, 1904, 1917 - 1918**

**Repository Code:** IE LHA

**Collection Reference Code:** PP00076/

**Title:** Dundalk & Newry Steam Packet Company engineer reports

**Dates:** 1904, 1917 – 1918

**Level of Description:** Fonds

**Extent:** 2 items

**Name of Creator(s):** Dundalk & Newry Steam Packet Company, Limited

**Admin/Biographical History:** The Dundalk Steam Packet Company was formed in 1837, the year Dundalk Harbour Commissioners were established and was originally located at Soldiers' Point until it moved in 1845 to Steam Packet Quay. It built its first paddle steamer, the 'Dundalk' in 1843, while another paddle steamer the 'Pride of Erin' was unveiled in 1845, followed by the 'Earl of Erne' steamer in 1855. The company obtained numerous contracts transporting military and horses between various ports. It took over the Dundalk and Midland Steam Packet Company (Russells) in 1857 swelling its capital to £131,000. It unveiled the 'Emerald Isle' paddle steamer in 1862, followed by 'Mystery' in 1864, which was later replaced by the 'Amphion'.

Meanwhile, the Newry Steam Packet Company purchased the "City of Belfast" in 1869 and renamed it the "Newry". This company also operated cross channel passenger and livestock services from the Albert Basin in Newry. Before long, in 1871, the two steam packet companies went together to form the Dundalk and Newry Steam Packet Company increasing its capital to £141,000. The company had a new Newry registered steamer "Bessbrook" built in 1877 and this was followed in 1892 by the SS "Iveagh" also registered in Newry, and the last steamer built for the company, the SS "Dundalk" in 1899 which unfortunately sank when it was torpedoed during the First World War (see collection PP00201/ regarding the SS Dundalk Disaster Fund Committee Papers).

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'Every year its Liverpool to Dundalk service carried 23,400 tonnes of cereals, pork, dairy products, linen and flax. By the time of the First World War (1914-1918), it was exporting livestock, eggs, butter and other agricultural products and importing bread and general merchandise from England. These goods were loaded onto waiting wagons and vans which were then pulled to provincial towns and halts all around the GNR network' (see <http://www.louthnewryarchives.ie/online-exhibitions/great-northern-railway/industry-commerce.shtml>). While the company did well during the War, trade was down due to competition from the Greenore-Holyhead steamships which commenced when a deepwater harbour opened in Greenore in 1873 by the London and North Western Railway (LNWR). There was also the loss of the SS Dundalk in 1918 followed by claims on excess profits duty and disputes with dockers led to a massive decrease in the value of the Company's shares. The company had shipped 28,088 cattle in 1888, 11,000 in 1924 and 6,000 in 1925. In 1926, Coast Lines who owned all the shares in the British & Irish Steam Packet Company (B & I line), as well as other steam packet companies, took over the Dundalk & Newry Steam Packet Company. The company for many years had transported livestock and cargo and had operated regular cross channel passenger services to Liverpool and Ardrossan in Scotland for almost sixty years.

Chairmen of the company included: Michael Kelly (d1888), Thomas Brown, Sir Thomas Macardle (1856-1925) and JM Cox. For further names of company officials, see Tempest's Annual 1927.

<b>Archival History:</b>	This collection was donated to Louth County Archives Service in 2003 by private donation.
<b>Scope and Content:</b>	This collection contains two engineer report books on the steamer 'Bessbrook'.
<b>Subject Index:</b>	Dundalk & Newry Steam Packet Company; Engineering; Shipping; Steamship
<b>Appraisal &amp; Destruction:</b>	Retain permanently
<b>Accruals:</b>	Further accruals may be received.
<b>System of Arrangement:</b>	The two items are arranged in chronological order.
<b>Conditions of Access:</b>	Open access, by appointment

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### Conditions Governing

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**Language/Script of Material:** English

**Physical Characteristics:** Bound volume

**Technical Requirements:** Careful handling is required as items received conservation treatment in 2018

**Finding Aids:** Descriptive list can be found on on-line catalogue available at <http://www.louthcoco.ie>

**Existence & Location of Originals:** Louth County Archives Service

**Existence & Location of Copies:** Some digitised documents may occasionally be found on <http://www.louthcoco.ie>

### Related Material:

Louth County Archives Service: IE LHA PP00201/ SS Dundalk Disaster Fund Committee Papers  
IE LHA DHC/ Dundalk Harbour Commissioners

Public Record Office of N Ireland: GB 0255 PRONI TRANS/2A Ministry of Transport/Shipping Agreements and Crew Lists – includes Bessbrook and Iveagh

### Publications:

- Tempest's Annual (Dundalk, 1927)
- Tempest's Annual (Dundalk, 1968)

**Repository Home-Page:** <http://www.louthcoco.ie>

**Source Material:** <http://www.louthcoco.ie>

**Date of Description:** June 2010 by Lorraine A McCann, Louth County Archive Service. Revised October 2015

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**Descriptive List**

PP00076/001

Dundalk & Newry Steam Packet Company Limited's engineer's report for the "Bessbrook" steamer detailing dates, time of lighted fires, time sailed, time arrived, time at sea, time fires lighted, average pressure of steam pounds, average vacuum (starboard and port), average revolutions per minute, draught/draft of water, weather, stores taken at Liverpool: tons of coal and remarks. The reports are signed by GE McClenahan, first engineer.

29 Jan 1904 – 14 Jan 1905

Level: item

20pp

PP00076/002

Dundalk & Newry Steam Packet Company Limited's engineer's report for the "Bessbrook" steamer detailing dates, time of lighted fires, time sailed, time arrived, time at sea, time fires lighted, average pressure of steam pounds, average vacuum (starboard and port), average revolutions per minute, draught/draft of water, weather, stores taken at Liverpool: tons of coal and remarks. The reports are signed by GE McClenahan, first engineer.

16 Oct 1917 – 22 Nov 1918

Level: item

95pp