

Mayors of Limerick 1896-1898

1896

-Mr. William Nolan re-elected Mayor on 1. December 1895, held office since February 1895 when it was rendered vacant by the appointment of Mr. Bryan O'Donnell to the position of City Rate Collector.

-Mayor-1st act of the Corporation for 1896 was to pass a resolution of condolence to the Lenihan family on the death of the former Mayor, Magistrate and author of a history book on Limerick. Mayor declared this resolution passed.

-According to his inauguration speech the major issues for consideration for the year 1896 were the City debt, Gas debt, water rates and sewage works. Sewage on the streets and thus sanitation costs he said were a major problem. The Corporation was in the process of supplying water to all city dwellings though this would take time to complete. Planting of suitable trees for the ornamentation of the city was also to take place. Summer music was to be procured for the people's park and Mr. Nolan also maintained that the Fire Brigade was becoming daily more efficient. The Corporation he stated had donated £50 to the running of Technical classes in Cooking, laundry, wood-carving and short-hand writing which were under joint auspices of the Corporation and the Irish Industries Association. The issue of gas lighting for the city was a growing one, the Mayor was however cautious, stating that electricity was unnecessary, more expensive than gas and that there was little demand amongst consumers. He also supported the proposed new street from Elen street to Cathedral place as it would provide employment, clear away congested portions of the old city and provide a route to the principal Catholic area of worship. Apparently there was many objections which the Mayor refuted and urged a quick resolution to the matter. A feature of this Mayor's tenure was his abstention from contemptuous political debate. He was very vague on the question of state aid for Christian Brothers schools, stating only that there had been no progress on the issue. However he did add his voice to the calls for a Catholic University as they were the great majority of the population and were entitled to equality. He also hoped that Irish people imprisoned for political offences would be released.

Mayor and most other members of the Corporation attended Mass on Sunday 5. January in St. Johns Cathedral in Civic Regalia. It was important as it was the first Sunday of the year.

On 13. January the Mayor along with Town Councillors Dowling and Donnelly were appointed to the St. John's hospital board. The Mayor and the Corporation were thanked at the Barrington's hospital a.g.m. for their annual grant of £300

On most Mondays of the year the Corporation met to discuss current needs.

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The Mayor usually presided however he rarely took an active part in debate. On 3. March the Limerick Chronicle reported that the Mayor sent a telegram to the war dept. expressing his dissatisfaction at the removal of the Limerick County militia for training at Kilworth Co. Cork. His appeal was however rejected on the grounds that "In Limerick there is no range which enables them to fire the service cartridge".

L.C. 21. March the Mayor Mr. Nolan's role in the intended liquidation of the Limerick Leader was alluded to. Two years had passed and no effort had been made to force the publication to cease. Although the Mayor was not blamed his participation in an unsatisfactory operation was emphasised.

On 4. April Mr. Nolan asked J&G Boyd L.T.D. as well as P. Evans & Co. to close on Easter Monday as he supported the concept of that day as a general holiday. Several other businesses closed voluntarily.

On. 14. April the Mayor presided over a meeting of Limerick Harbour Board but had no input.

On 15. April the Board of Guardians met and the Mayor agreed that Limerick City was inadequately represented on the Local Government Board.

On 23. April Alderman Hall initiated a long running and bitter campaign to expose the misappropriation of Corporation finances by the Corporation. The Mayor was reticent and vague stating only that an inquiry was in everyone's interest. On 25. April a letter from Alderman Ambrose accused the Mayor of inadequate response to this issue which he knew to be true. He was also critical of the Mayor for conducting Corporation business without a quorum (minimum number to be present).

L.C. 2. May 1896, Mayor attended meeting of Rate Payers Association in Town Hall where the dispute over the misappropriation of finances continued but he took no part.

16. May 1896 First leaks appear of Mr. Nolan's intention to resign as Mayor for the office of Town Clerk.

28. May, reports of letter of resignation of Mr. William Nolan as Mayor and Town Councillor for the Market Ward. However he had also applied for the position of Town Clerk, now vacant due to the death of its previous holder. Only an unknown figure from London, known as John Malone opposed Mr. Nolan. He was not present, applying only by letter and his application was taken as a joke. Mr. Nolan was elected Town Clerk unanimously.

Mayoralty of Michael Cusack

Defeated Alderman Kenna by 16 votes to 13 in Corporation poll. Interestingly both candidates were permitted to and did vote for themselves. Like William Nolan was reticent on many current issues, being