

Cork City and County Archives

Cork Spinning & Weaving Company Ltd. (Ref. IE CCCA/B530)

Descriptive List

Identity Statement

Reference Code:	IE CCCA/B530
Title:	Cork Spinning & Weaving Company Ltd
Dates:	1868-1918
Level of Description:	Fonds / Item
Extent:	9 items / 1 box

Context

Creator

Cork Spinning & Weaving Company Ltd, Blackpool, Cork

Archival History

Donated to the Archives in 1998.

Biographical / Administrative History

Established in 1889 with the purchase of the former 'Cork Flax Spinning and Weaving Company' mills premises at Blackpool, Cork city. (The former mills operation was opened in 1867 by a Mr. Shaw possibly on the site of the old Millfield distillery. This distillery went into liquidation in 1885).

Directors in 1891 were the company founder James Ogilvie JP, Queenstown/Cobh; Henry McFerran, Managing Director; Thomas Lunham JP, Sidney Place; William T. Green, Belgrave Place; Francis H. Thompson, Lauriston. Registered office at Millfield,

Blackpool, Cork. Major investment was made by the company in new machinery and facilities for the mills. The company carried out the spinning of flax and the manufacture of various textiles.

The company operated until at least c.1927, also operating looms for weaving and by 1920 was employing roughly 1,000 people. The mills complex was later taken over by William Dwyer and later Sunbeam Wolsey, and the manufacture of textiles continued on the site until 1995.

Content and Structure

Scope and Content

Note book, 1868, containing technical formulae and calculations for spinning and weaving.

Series of annual reports of the Directors of the Cork Spinning and Weaving Co. Ltd., 1891 – 1912. Gives statement of account/ profit and loss account, balance sheet including capital and liabilities, property and assets, as well as comments on trading conditions and various investments carried out such as machinery and cottages for employees.

Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Cork Spinning and Weaving Company Limited, 1889

MS. essay or article entitled 'Irish Flax Growing'. Concerns ways of improving Irish flax production. Contrasts practices in Ireland with those in Holland and Belgium, in pulling, watering/retting, drying and scutching flax.

Notices, 1918, from Robert M. Scott, Secretary, Cork Spinning & Weaving Company Limited. Concerns resolutions at Extraordinary General Meeting relating to shares and payments of dividends.

Abstracts from accounts Cork Spinning & Weaving Company. Compares figures from 1890 each year up to 1900 for profit and loss account, balance sheet, property and assets, distribution of net profits.

Newsclipping, 1911 concerning 'Commercial Buildings Company', Annual General Meeting.

Draft list of Shareholders of Cork Spinning & Weaving Company showing total capital of £40,000, possibly, with initials of major shareholders and amounts invested.

Parts of a printed book, possibly by James Hill Dickson, on the Culture and Manufacture of Flax.

(See the List of Items and Descriptions below for more detailed information on contents)

Allied Materials

CCCA:

CP/CO/M: Cork City Council Minute Books

Conditions of Access and Use

Access: Open by appointment to those holding a current reader's ticket.

Language: English

Finding Aids: Descriptive List

Archivist's Note

Brian McGee

Archivist, CCCA

18 April 2011

List of Items and Descriptions

1 1868 (1851)

Note book containing technical formulae and calculations for Spinning and weaving. Such as, 'To find the Weight of a Bundle of any sort. Multiply the Bundles by 200 and divide by the leas...' (p.1). Calculations are indexed as 'Office Work', 'Hackling Machine', 'Carding Room', 'Low Mixtures', 'Line Mixtures', 'Particulars of Line Preparing', 'Particulars of Spinning Frame', 'Particulars of Low Preparing'. Probably related to Cork Flax Spinning Mills.

52pp

2 1891-1919

Series of annual reports of the Directors of the Cork Spinning and Weaving Co. Ltd. Gives statement of account/ profit and loss account, balance sheet including capital and liabilities, property and assets, as well as comments on trading conditions and capital investments carried out.

2/1. For Year ending 1891 (2nd annual report), Issued 3 Feb 1892 by Secretary William Wiley

Includes:

Note that debit balance on 31 Dec 1890 due to workers being trained and quantity of goods manufactured being thus very small. New wing added to Weaving Factory with 40 additional looms. 27 new cottages built with money borrowed from Board of Works, which '...will be much appreciated by the workers and of advantage to the Company. New compound steam engine with a high pressure steam boiler on order, will save coal when installed. Gross Profits £4,935.11s.10d.

(4pp)

2/2. Year ending 1894 (5th annual report)

Includes:

Mentions 'unexpected and unprecedented depression in the Linen Trade' in the second half of 1894, and consequent net loss of £2,285.6s.2d. New engine, boiler and spinning frames added to plant, which is now 'in as good working order as any in the trade'.

(4pp)

2/3. Year ending 1909 (20th annual report)

Includes:

Net profits of £8,088.12s.1d. Audited by Atkins, Chirnside & Co.
(4pp)

2/4. Year ending 1910 (21st annual report)

Includes:

Net profit £6,855.13s.8d. Regret at death of Mr. James Ogilvie, Chairman and Founder of the Company. WT Green appointed Chairman. William Wiley co-opted as a director, Robert Scott appointed Secretary. Engines are 'loaded beyond the limits of economical working' and will need replacement. Distribution of profits to be careful owing to 'extraordinarily high' flax prices and an uncertain Yarn market.

(4pp)

2/5. Year ending 1911(22nd annual report)

Includes:

Notes 'the high prices for flax naturally eased off at approach of new crop'. Several new systems of necessary machinery on order.

(4pp)

2/6. Year ending 1915 (26th annual report)

Includes:

Net profit of £2,319.17s.3d. Past year 'one of great anxiety in the Spinning Trade'. Supplies of flax only obtained with great difficulty and risk. Cannot look with confidence to the immediate future owing to 'enormous cost' of raw material, difficulties with transport and unfavourable conditions generally.

(4pp)

2/7. Year ending 1916 (27th annual report)

Includes:

Notes that the spinning trade continues 'under great difficulties', but government has secured supplied of Russian flax 'to keep the mills going', so the year was satisfactory. Prices still at 'dangerously high level'. Cost of new engine more than before the war (First World War), but will give better efficiency.

(4pp)

2/8. Year ending 1917 (28th annual report)

Includes:

Net profits £8,653.18s.10d. Trading conditions still under great difficulties due to scarcity of raw materials. Supplies from Russia stopped. Irish flax controlled by Government and spinners are required to spin yarns suitable

only for War work.
(4pp)

2/9. Year ending 1918 (29th annual report)

Includes:

Increase in working capital required owing to enormous increase in price of materials and costs of production.

2/10. Year ending 1919 (30th annual report)

Includes:

Net profit of £14,101.1s.6d.

3 1889

Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Cork Spinning and Weaving Company Limited, under Companies Acts 1862-1883.

40pp

4 ?1850-1900

MS. essay or article entitled 'Irish Flax Growing'. Concerns ways of improving Irish flax production. 'Any one having had an opportunity of seeing how that is managed in other countries, would be astonished at the little progress that has been made ...'. Contrasts practices in Ireland with those in Holland and Belgium, in pulling, watering/retting, drying and scutching flax.

10pp

5 9 Feb and 5 Mar 1918

Notices from Robert M. Scott, Secretary, Cork Spinning & Weaving Company Limited. Concerns resolutions at Extraordinary General Meeting relating to shares and payments of dividends.

1p

6 1890-1901

Abstracts from accounts Cork Spinning & Weaving Company. Compares figures from 1890 each year up to 1900 for profit and loss account, balance sheet, property and assets, distribution of net profits.

2pp

7 29 March 1911

Newsclipping,, 'Commercial Buildings Company', Annual General Meeting.
James Ogilvie was a member/director of this company

1 item

8 [1918]

[Draft list of Shareholders] of Cork Spinning & Weaving Company showing total
capital of £40,000, with initials of major shareholders and amounts invested.

1p

9 ?1840s – 1860s

Parts of a printed book, possibly by James Hill Dickson, on the Culture and
Manufacture of Flax. pages 17-144, 177-276 and 293-308.

241pp