

Locomotive Workshop News

No.1

August 1997

A BIG THANK YOU

...To everyone who has donated money and goods towards the Locomotive Workshop project.

It is too early at this stage to give a total for the overall response, as the donations are still coming in thick and fast - keep them coming! We have plenty of bricks still to be bought!

However, to date the response has been tremendous - the best ever to an RPSI appeal.

This means that the Workshop building can now progress just as quickly as the builder (McGaffin Contracts) can do the job. The new building will of course require fitting out with rail access, electricity supply, lighting, installation of machinery and so on. This work will progress gradually over the next few

years.

But there will be immediate benefits. For example, the tanks and bunker for Loco No. 4 which are at present being repaired outside, will now be moved under cover and away from the vagaries of our "summer" weather!

WORK SO FAR

The foundations are in already, and ground mountings for the framework are in place. Work is continuing behind the scenes with the manufacture of the steel framework, which the builder is assembling off site. This will be taken to Whitehead in pieces and erected - possibly by the time you read this.

BUY A BRICK

Everyone who donates anything to the Workshop Fund will receive a certificate / receipt commemorating the part you played in building it. It is hoped that these will be produced in the next month or two, by the time the Workshop is finished

COVENANTS

Everyone who indicated that they would like to covenant their gifts will receive a Covenant Form to sign, just as soon as the overheated administrative staff get them all processed! Each of these forms will increase the value of your donation by about 25% - thank you very much! Could I ask all concerned to return them as soon as you can after you get them to allow me to make a claim with the Inland Revenue before the year end.

For those who are UK taxpayers who have not yet sent a donation, I would again point out the benefit to the Society in indicating that you will covenant your gift - and there is no cost to you!

BCDR CRANE

MORE GOOD NEWS ...

Originally, the plans included the rebuilding of the ex-BCDR workshop crane from the now demolished Queen's Quay Works in

Belfast. While building quotations were being sought, it looked as if we would have to scale the project down a bit and leave the overhead crane out. But recent calculations have put it back - so our Locomotive Workshop will have a preserved 100 year old crane included - a unique preservation project in Ireland, if not much further afield.

1837 MAPS

Included in the Appeal was a request for old railway artefacts. One particularly interesting one has been donated towards the project. This consists of a set of plans of proposed railway lines in Ireland produced for a Government Commission in 1837. Yes, 1837!

This is a very significant find - of national importance as well as railway interest.

The maps were prepared by the famous engineers of the time, Charles Vignoles and John MacNeill. They show proposed main lines radiating from Dublin to the South West, including one line to Castletown Berehaven in west Cork, where at one time it was proposed to build a Transatlantic ferry port. Another pair of routes run northwards from a terminus in the Glasnevin area of Dublin, to Navan. Here, the line divides, one route going via Carrickmacross to Armagh, and the other more or less directly to Enniskillen, via Cavan. Outside Dublin, the South Western lines converge, with a main line

coming into the city from the west, roughly along the route of the present main line, ending up as an elevated railway from Islandbridge along the south Quays to the City Centre. Here, the elevated way swings southwards crossing D'Olier and Westmoreland Streets, round the back of Trinity College, to make an end on connection with the Dublin & Kingstown Railway. At the end, another smaller scale map shows proposed connections via ferry from Dublin, Kingstown (Dun Laoghaire) or Wicklow, to a variety of proposed sites in Wales for ferry ports. Connections through Wales and England to London are shown - mostly proposed ones, since railway building in Britain was in its infancy. This map shows, for example, the London & Birmingham Railway. Shrewsbury hasn't a railway line near it at this stage, and Crewe appears to be a very small rural village.

Beautifully drawn gradient diagrams for many of the proposed routes in Ireland, and a fascinating map of Dublin city, with water-coloured highlights, is included. Dublin is shown as being almost entirely contained within the area bounded by the Royal and Grand Canals. The site of Inchicore works is open country, with neither mention nor any distinguishing feature. Kilmainham appears as a traditional rural village with a wide main street for the livestock market

Professional advice is being sought regarding valuation of this set of maps, and the likelihood is that we will include them in one of the main

railwayana auctions in England around Christmas time. Obviously, the Society's priority has to be to get the highest possible price for this unique set.

If any member is interested in making an offer to purchase these maps, please contact the RPSI phone Whitehead 01960 353567 as a matter of urgency, as otherwise they will be sent to a leading auction house for valuation. If phoning from the Republic, please prefix the above number with 08. Or write to: RPSI, 9 Kenilworth Avenue, Lisburn, Co. Antrim BT28 3UG.

I will circulate details of the proposals for auction when I have them.

Another unusual donation has been two hand painted plaques - the coats of arms of the Great Western Railway and the Southern Railway in England. These are nicely painted and mounted on small varnished shields - approximately 6 inches square. A donation of £50 each will secure them for you!

Remember - you can still donate towards this essential project for our future. Even after the building is finished, electrical work and concrete flooring has to be undertaken - a lengthy process and an expensive one!

If you did not get an Appeal document with all the details through the post, ring 01960 353567 or 01846 678702 today!

We can accept personal cheques, drafts, money orders, postal orders and traveller's cheques in all currencies, or payment by VISA, ACCESS or MASTERCARD.

Or, have you any old railway artefacts, especially pre 1960 timetables and tickets, lamps, nameplates, numberplates, staffs, or cast iron carriage / wagon / "trespassers prosecuted" signs?

We can arrange to collect these.

PLEASE SEND ANYTHING YOU CAN (IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY!) TO:
**RPSI WORKSHOP APPEAL, 9 KENILWORTH AVENUE, LISBURN,
CO. ANTRIM, N IRELAND BT28 3UG**

RAILWAY PRESERVATION SOCIETY OF IRELAND

Preserving our Railway Heritage since 1964

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!