



ÉIRE IRELAND

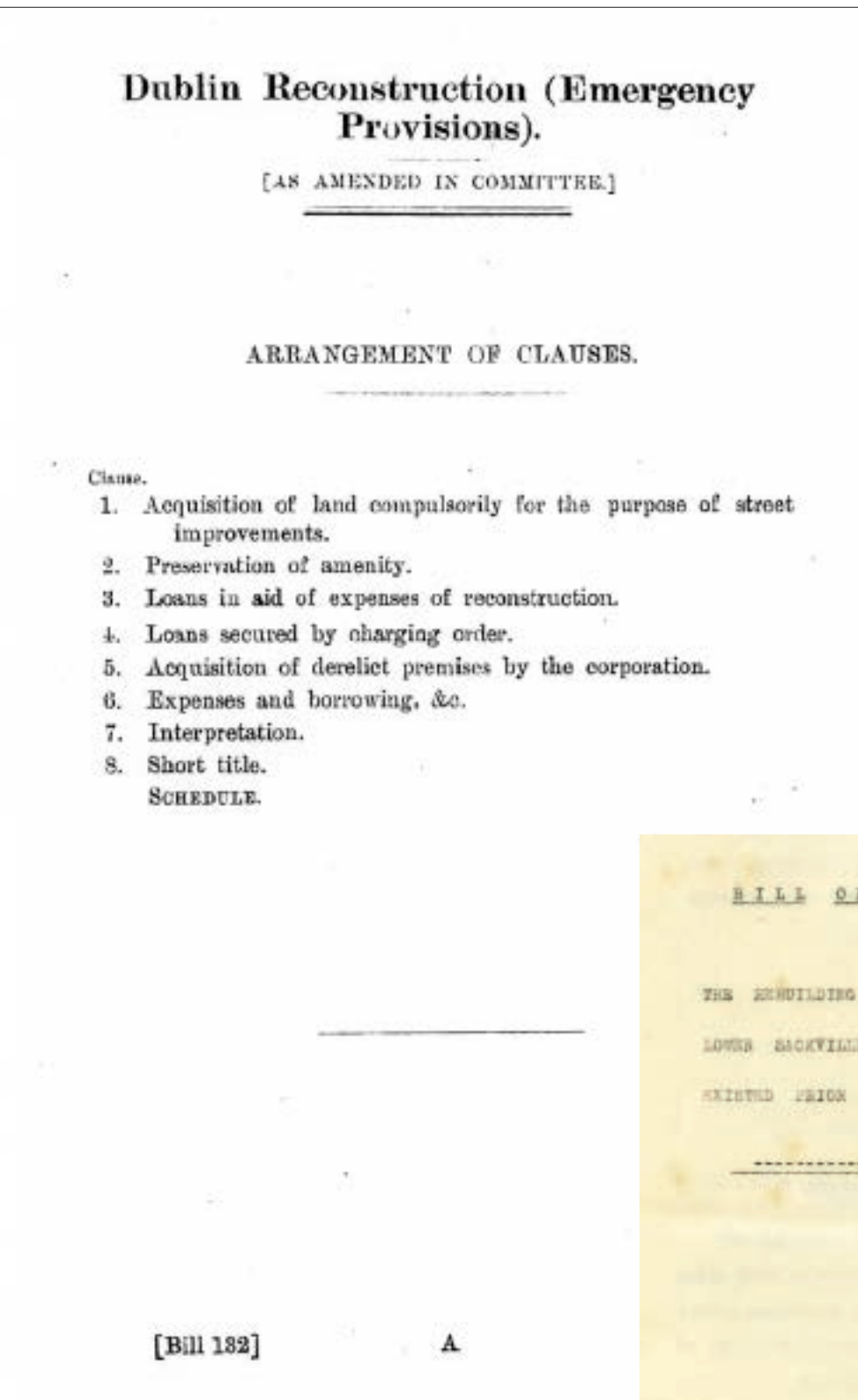
1916 20

Clár Comórtha Cead Bliain Centenary Programme

Compensation and Legislation

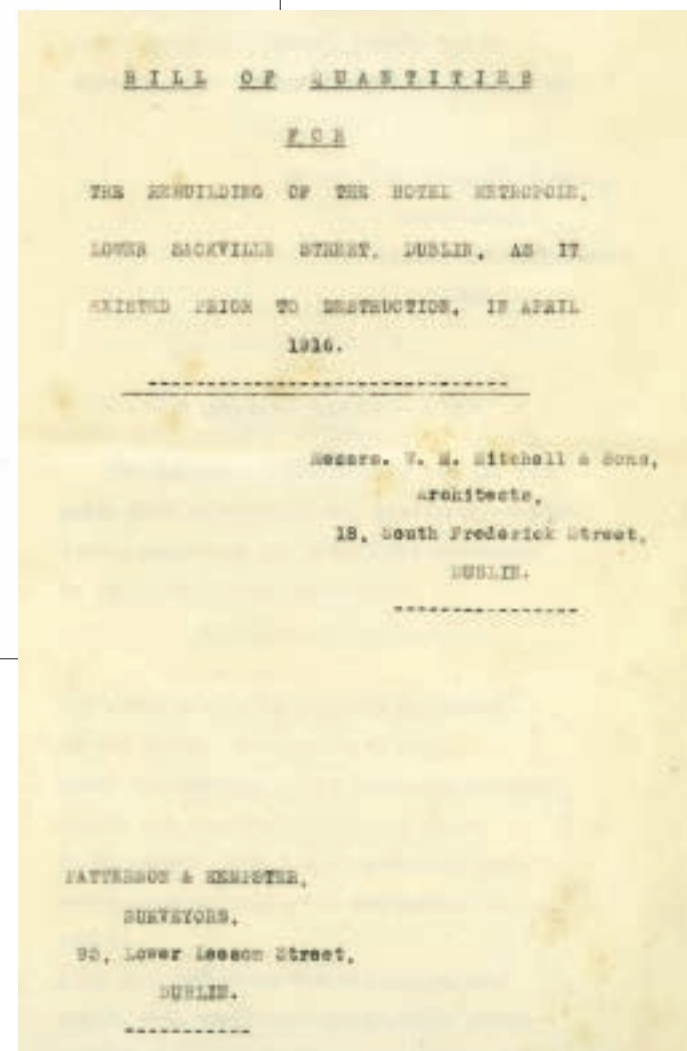
Dublin Corporation ought not to be encouraged to embark upon grandiose schemes of beautification, which are of the nature of luxuries.

HM TREASURY MINUTE, TNA T I/12038/8599



Dublin Reconstruction (Emergency Provisions) Act, 1916

Bill of quantities for the rebuilding of the Hotel Metropole, July 1916 IAA PKS Collection, 771.977



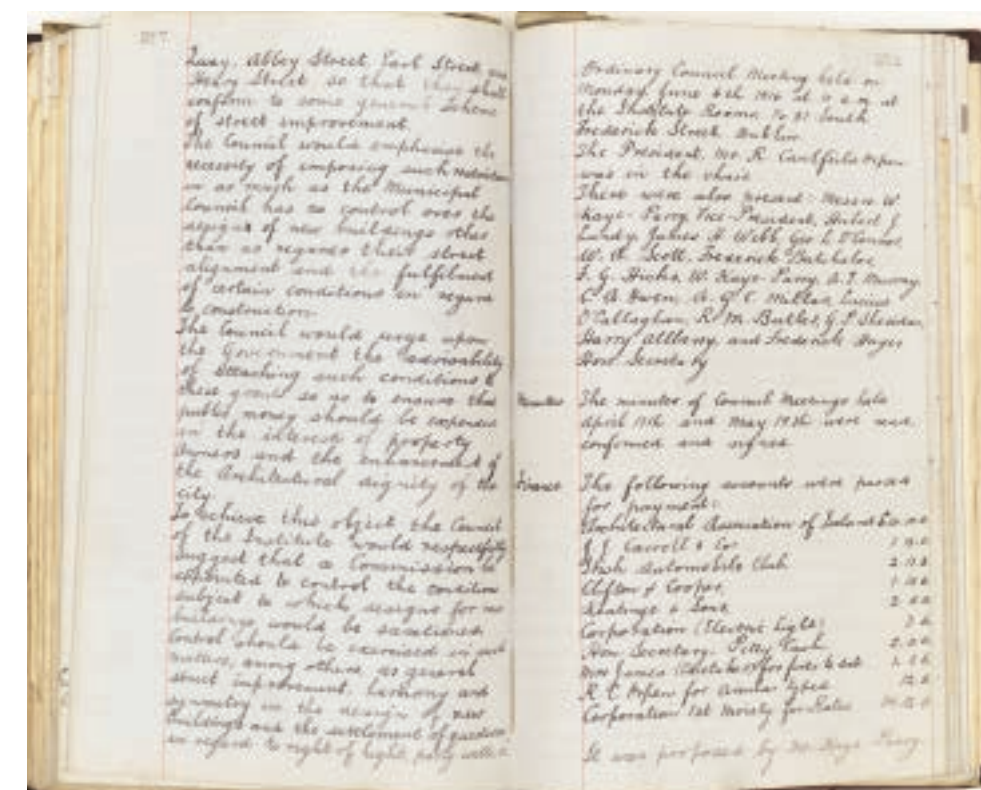
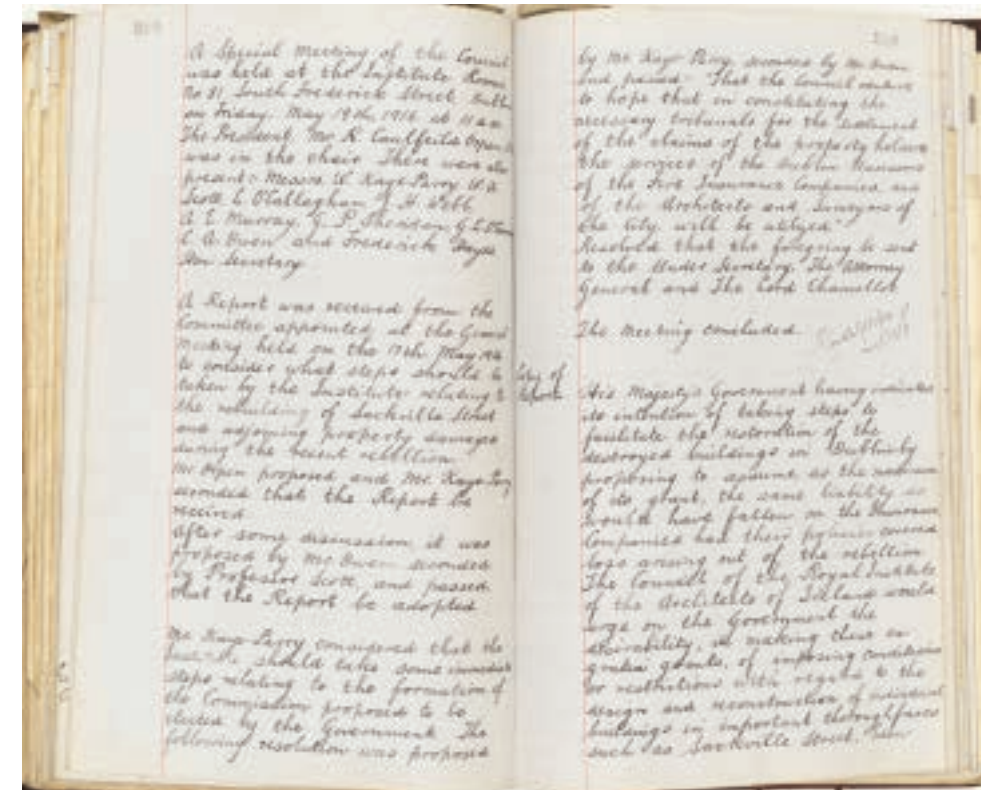
STATEMENT OF BUILDING CLAIM.		£	s.	d.
Amount for the Rebuilding of The Auxiliary Printing Works as it existed prior to destruction in April, 1916, as per detailed Bill of Quantities attached.....		4,464	1	1
" " Architect's fees in connection with the rebuilding (5 per cent. on the above)		223	4	2
" " Quantity Surveyor's fees in connection with the rebuilding (12 per cent. on the above)		66	19	3
" " Clerk of Work's Wages in connection with the rebuilding (32 weeks at £3 per week)		10	0	0
		4,864	7	6
Add Cost of Fencing and hoarding, clearing site, removing rubbish, and stacking old bricks and other materials as left to date, including cost of photographs of the ruins		82	11	4
Add Corporation charges in connection with the demolition of the ruins		7	5	7
		4,954	4	5
		£	s.	d.
Credit the value of old materials on site (Bricks, &c.), and value of materials taken down		30	0	0
Credit salvage of old steel joists.....		5	14	8
		35	14	8
		£4,919	9	9

NET AMOUNT OF BUILDING CLAIM..... £4,919 9 9

12th August, 1916.

'Statement of Building Claim' for rebuilding the Irish Times Auxiliary Print Works, 12 August 1916 IAA PKS Collection, 7716.130

While the legislation did not mandate it, some compensation claims were backed up by professional valuations. As the Irish Builder wryly noted, 'the quantity surveyors of Dublin are all said to be extremely busy'.



Resolution passed by the Council of the RIAI, 19 May 1916 IAA RIAI Archives, 931236, Minute Book 8

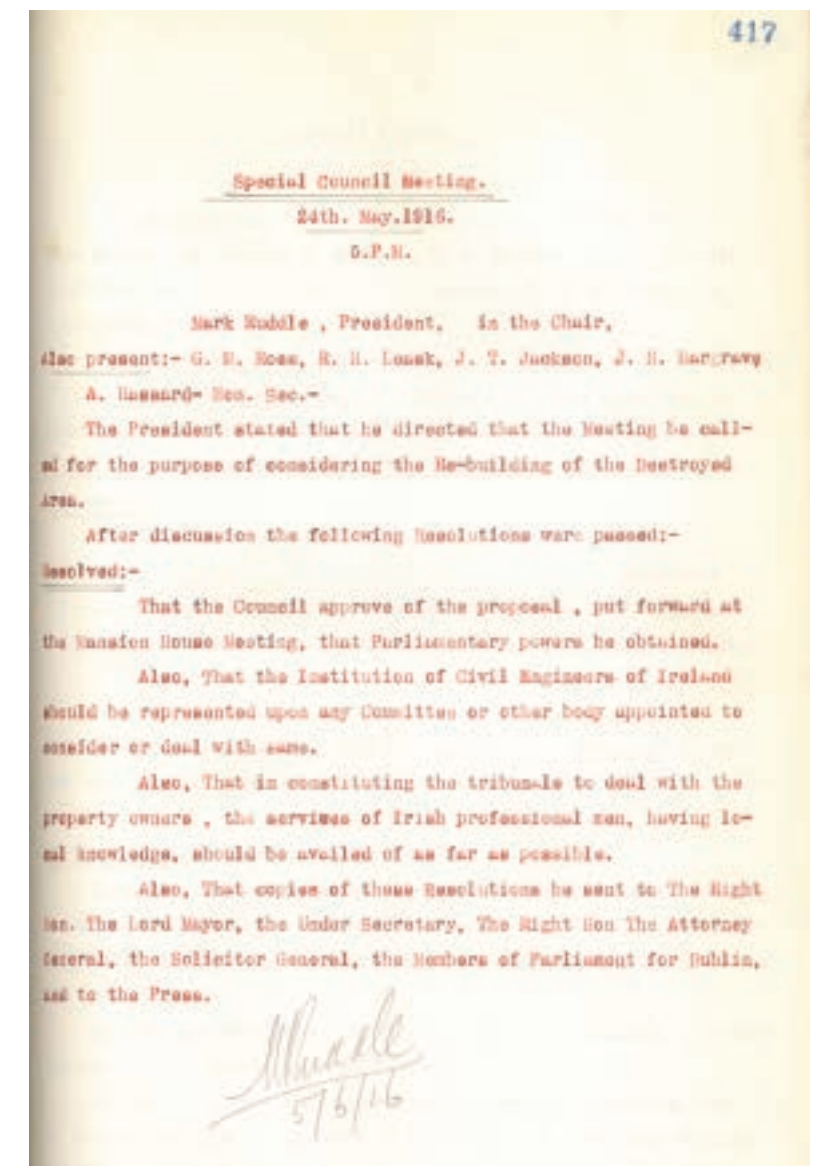
The RIAI urged the Government to attach 'such conditions to these grants so as to ensure that public money should be expended in... the enhancement of the Architectural dignity of the city'.

While bemoaning the disruption and loss of life caused by the Rising, the Irish Builder also recognised that the rebuilding of O'Connell Street presented 'a unique and unexpected opportunity for the architects of Dublin'. Two great issues needed to be addressed – firstly how could rebuilding be paid for and secondly what exactly should be built.

Just over two weeks after the ending of fighting, the Government, in part acknowledgment of the fact that much of the property damage had been caused by Crown Forces, established a compensation scheme. Ex-gratia payments would be made to owners of property damaged during the Rising, equivalent to those an insurance company would have made had the property been covered under a standard fire risk policy. A Property Losses (Ireland) Committee was established to adjudicate claims, and continued working into 1917.

With the issue addressed of how rebuilding might be financed, attention turned to what should be rebuilt. Dublin Corporation, spurred on by what one British official referred to as 'the hungry architects of Dublin', sought legislation which would give it the power to prepare an ambitious improvement scheme to which all new buildings would have to conform and which would provide for Government grants or loans to finance the additional costs of such a scheme. In Dublin Castle, and at Westminster, there was objection to the idea of British taxpayers funding the rebuilding of a beautified Sackville Street, while closer to home the Property Owners' Association resisted attempts to control or, as its members saw it, add expense to rebuilding plans.

After much negotiation, the Dublin Reconstruction (Emergency Provisions) Act was passed in December 1916. The Act compelled those proposing to rebuild to submit to the Corporation elevations of new buildings, in addition to the already required plans and sections. The City Architect was empowered to require 'reasonable' alteration if proposals were considered 'injurious to the amenity of the street'. Within strict limits, and only with the approval of the Local Government Board, the Corporation was empowered to loan money to enable rebuilding. It could also compulsorily purchase sites where owners failed to rebuild.



Resolution of the Council of the ICEI, 24 May 1916 IAA ICEI Archives, 2015/43.1/1(7) The Council of the Institution of the Civil Engineers of Ireland urged the necessity for legislation to deal with rebuilding and the involvement 'of Irish professional men, having local knowledge'.