

CHAPTER IX.

Public Enterprise in Wigan in 1720—The three Acts of Parliament—Repairing the Post Road between Wigan and Preston—Repairing the Post Road between Wigan and Warrington—The first Turnpike Toll at Wigan—Assessments for the Relief of the Poor in Wigan in 1720—The Ratepayers—Baldwin's Charity—Water in Wigan—Building of the New Town Hall—Act for making the Douglas Navigable.

NEVER before nor since has the spirit of progress taken such a hold on the Wigan mind as in 1720. The town had previously grown very little, and its commerce was small when compared with its natural wealth and advantages. On a review of the past it was evident that none of the local resources had been fully developed, and that all seemed content to jog along as their fathers had done before them. It then struck the people that theirs was a selfish existence, and that to their own disadvantage. Under their feet lay mines of wealth, which they were almost exclusively using for their own daily uses and comforts, and yet which, carefully and wisely developed, might accrue to them fortunes and luxuries. They were shut up in themselves by the spirit of protection, and enterprise had been foreign to their nature. Although they were not yet by any means advocates for free trade, they saw clearly it would be for their advantage to open their markets to all buyers, although they as strongly opposed the admission of foreign sellers to their markets. They determined to put themselves to great expense in opening the means of communication with their town to encourage purchasers to come to them. They looked askance with a very jealous eye at the growing prosperity and enterprise of Liverpool, and even determined to make a great bid for its traffic. They saw no reason why the trade of Liverpool should not become the trade of Wigan. Many were convinced, indeed, that the trade of that town had been usurped from them. They determined to make Wigan the emporium of the north, and, had the ambitions of 1720 been persevered with, Wigan would undoubtedly have been the most important town in Lancashire; but these ambitions passed away as expensive dreams, and ever afterwards the town lagged in the rear of progress. The ambitions of

that year gave rise to three important Acts of Parliament with the direct intention of extending the commerce of the town. One Act provided for the repairing, widening, and amending the roads from Wigan to Preston. Another, for repairing, widening, and amending the road from Warrington to Wigan; and the third, being the greatest, most important, and most ambitious of all, gave the right for making the River Douglas, *alias* Asland, navigable from the River Ribble to Wigan. These Acts were persevered with against opposition and obtained at great expense, which in itself proves the lively interest and hopes of the town. For the repair of the roads it was necessary to obtain an Act of Parliament, for the roads were in a very bad condition, and the inhabitants were unable to pay the great expense and could not be compelled to keep the roads in order. Of the road from Wigan to Preston, the preamble of the Act of Parliament says it is "the ancient accustomed road to North Britain and the common post road from the said towns to London, by reason of the many carriages of goods and merchandizes passing through the same, are become ruinous and almost impassable, especially in the winter season, and some parts thereof are so narrow that coaches and carriages cannot pass one by another; and, whereas the ordinary provisions made by the laws and statutes of this realm now in force are not sufficient for the effectual repairing and amending the highways and roads aforesaid, neither are the inhabitants of the several parishes and townships thereby liable to repair the same, or of ability so to do, without some other provision be made for that purpose, in regard that stones, gravel, and other materials necessary to amend the said roads lie at a great distance from the same." The trustees who were empowered to put the Act into execution included all the local gentry, the members of Parliament for Wigan, and the mayor, recorder, and aldermen of the borough. To defray the necessary expenses they were empowered to erect, between Preston and Wigan, three toll-bars and as many toll-houses, where fixed dues were to be collected. The first Wigan turnpike toll-house and gate were erected at the south end of the house called the "Boar's Head." The amount of toll was fixed by the Act. If any refused to pay the dues, the trustees were empowered to levy the toll by distress of the goods and chattels belonging to such persons. Provision was made against the evasion of tolls by passing through private grounds of other persons, and no opposition road was allowed to be made. The paragraph anent persons and things exempt from the toll runs thus:—"No person shall be charged with any of the tolls or duties aforesaid who shall pass through any turnpike or turnpikes to be erected by this Act, or other carriage that shall carry any quantity of stones, gravel, or other materials, for repairing the said road, or any of the roads in the parishes and townships, in which the roads hereby directed to be repaired do lie, or in any of the neighbouring parishes or townships, or for carrying through

the said turnpikes, or any of them, any lime, dung, mold, or compost of any nature or kind whatsoever, for the manuring of any gardens or lands within the said parishes or townships; nor for any waggons, wains, carts, or carriages carrying any hay or corn in the straw, to be laid up in the houses, barns, or outhouses of the respective inhabitants of the several parishes or townships through which the highways or roads aforesaid lead; nor for any ploughs, harrows, or other implements of husbandry, in order to the using or repairing of the same, or any other thing whatsoever employed in husbandry for manuring or stocking the land of such parishes or townships; nor shall any toll or duty be demanded or taken by virtue of this Act for any horses, geldings, or mares, mules, or asses going to or returning from any coal or kennel pit or pits, loaden or unloaden; nor for any horses, geldings, or mares going to or returning from any parish church or other place of divine worship upon Sundays, or with any corpse to be buried or interred at any church, or other place of burial; for any horses, geldings, mares, or cattle going to or returning from the pasture or watering places belonging to the respective farms of the inhabitants of any of the parishes wherein the roads hereby directed to be repaired lie; or for any post horse carrying the mail or packet, or going with any person riding post; or for such horse, gelding, or mare as is or shall be used only to ride on by the owner or driver of any waggon, wain, cart, or carriage, provided such horse, gelding, or mare pass through the said turnpike in company with such waggon, wain, cart, or carriage; nor for the horses, geldings, or mares belonging to the soldiers passing on their march, or for any carts, carriages, or waggons attending them; or for any horses, geldings, carts, or waggons travelling with vagrants sent by passes; nor shall any toll or duty be demanded for horses, geldings, mares, waggons, wains, carts, or carriages going or returning empty or unloaden to or from the said towns of Wigan and Preston; nor for any waggon, wain, cart, carriage, horse, gelding, mare, ass, or mule as shall or may be made use of in the drawing or carrying of any corn, grain, meal, or flower (flour) to or from any corn mill, being in any of the parishes or townships wherein the roads hereby directed to be repaired lie, as may pass and re-pass through any of the turnpikes to be erected by this Act." These newly imposed duties were to be levied in order to defray the expenses incurred by the extraordinary repairs, and in no way interfered with or changed the ordinary charges hitherto made. All who had been formerly chargeable for necessary repairs were chargeable still to the same degree. But after all comparatively little expense could be incurred, as the repairs for the most part were made under an obsolete and odious system akin to purveyance. Every man in the district was liable by the Act to be called upon to do three days' work, called the statute work, to the repair of the road. If a local surveyor refused to examine the roads when required, he was liable to a fine of

forty shillings; and if a person with a "team or other carriage" neglected or refused to perform his three days' labour, he was fined ten shillings for every day's default, whilst the poorest labourer who refused to break stones, or do other menial toil, was fined eighteenpence a day—almost half a week's wages—for each day of neglect. In none of these cases could defaulters be fined for more than their three days at a time, which was not annually, but "at such time and times as the surveyor shall, by writing under his hand, from time to time order and direct." All rents and profits had to be applied for the repairing of these roads, and for no other use or purpose whatever. If any parish or township considered itself aggrieved by an excessive amount of statute work imposed upon it, or considered that work was given it to do which ought to be done by another parish or township, the case had to be brought before any two justices of the peace for the county, at any petty or special sessions of the peace, and by them the case was adjudged. The first meeting of the trustees under the new Act was held at Euxton. It was considered sufficient time to pay all expenses by allowing the toll to continue for twenty-one years, and unless it could be shown that before that time all the expenses incurred had been reimbursed, the tolls were then to be abolished, and the old system reverted to. Justices of the peace were empowered to inquire into the affairs of the trustees, and if any abuse or misapplication of profits was found, they had to be made good. The trustees appointed collectors or receivers, who were bound to account for the toll and duties collected by them, and if found defaulters were to be committed to the "common gaol of the said county, there remain without bail or mainprize until he or they shall have made a true and perfect account and payment." On the death or removal of one trustee another was appointed, after "notice given in writing twenty days in the Market Places of Wigan and Preston." No trustee could derive any profit from his services. If the roads were found too narrow, adjoining land could be appropriated, after it was shown to be necessary before a justice of the peace, but the owners of the ground taken were to be compensated according to the opinions of the sworn jury. The watercourses and ditches had to be kept in good condition by the local occupiers of the land on pains and penalties.

On election days there were no tolls levied on electors, for "it is hereby declared that during the continuance of this Act all coaches, Berlins, chariots, calashes, chaises, and chairs as aforesaid, and all passengers on horseback, shall pass and repass toll free on the day or days on which there shall be an election for a knight or knights of the shire to serve in Parliament for the said county in Lancaster, anything herein contained to the contrary notwithstanding."

Another Act similar to this was passed, Anno Decimo tertio Georgii Regis, for "Repairing, Widening, and Amending the Road from Warrington to Wigan, in the

County of Lancaster." This was a continuation of the ancient and accustomed post road from Preston to Wigan and London, passing through Hulme, Winwick, Newton, Haydock, Ashton, and Pemberton. The preamble of the Act shows the same necessity for the repairs as the previous one. The road was ruinous and almost impassable, especially in the winter season, and so narrow at some parts that coaches and carriages could not pass each other. The Act contains a long list of local trustees appointed. The tolls and other conditions were in all respects similar to those in the previous Act. The trustees held their first meeting at Newton, 19th May, 1727.

The assessments made for the relief of the poor in 1883 amounted to a fabulous sum, whilst in 1720 they were £48 14s. 7½d. The complete account of the rates for the latter year is given to show the individual amounts, the value of property in the different divisions of the town, the prevailing trades, and also to show that the common names of the inhabitants are still familiar amongst us.

An Assessment of Eighteen Leyes of land upon the Inhabitants and other occupiers of lands within the Burrough of Wigan for and towards the Reliefe of the impotent poore of the said Burrough, concluded and agreed upon the day of December, Anno Dom., 1720.

MARKET STREET.

Wm. Foster, Barber, and for house and grd.£	3	Mr. Baldwin	£1 18 4½
Mr. Tempest	6	Occrs. of Mr. Matthew Markland house and grd.	12 9
Robert Orrell	7 1½	Mr. Mason	2 7½
Adam Catterall	9	Mrs. Alice Mason for Mrs. Hunt house	9
Wm. Catterall	4½	Mrs. Hunt	4½
Occrs. of John Houghton house	4½	Mrs. Green	9
Wm. Acton	4½	Mr. Richard Gerard	1 6
Edward Lee	9	Occrs. of Green's house	1 6
Richard Haslon, Shoemaker	4½	Edward Mitton	4½
Occrs. of Arthur Winstanley house	9	Robert Finch	9
Thomas Wigan	4½	Mr. Kendall	9
Occrs. of Catterall house	9	Occrs. of Mr. Pennington's house and ground	4 6
John Withnell	4½	Mr. Valentine	1 6
Thomas Barrow, Hatter	4½	Wm. Baldwin, Shoemaker	4½
Richard Haslon, Butcher	1 6	Occrs. of Mr. Molineux house	9
James Leyland	9	James Langshaw, Pewterer	9
Mr. Richard Tootell	2 7½	Peter Hall	1 1½
Mr. Wm. Baldwin	1 4 4½	James Bancks	1 6
James Moore	9	Edward Holland	9
Mr. Randol Crook	9	Cutchbert Finch	9
Mr. John Anzlearks	1 6	Shearman Holme, unpade	9
Mr. Alexander Courghey	9	Wm. Farbrother	9
Occrs. of John Thomason house	9	Mr. Kennericke	1 6
Hugh Taylor	9		

Assessments.

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Edward Wood	£ 2 8	James Ackin	£ 4½
Wm. Battersby	9	John Bibby	4½
Dr. G. and John Burges.....	4½	Thomas Tatlock, Jun.	4½
James Aspinall	9	James Latham.....	4½
Mr. Edward Holland	1 6	Henry Unsworth.....	4½
Gilbert Wood, Butcher.....	4½	Occrs. of Crouchley Hey, late Wm.	
Will Winnard, Jun.....	4½	Woods.....	1 1½
John Whittle.....	4½	Occrs. of the house late Wm. Woods...	4½
Charles Foster.....	9	Mrs. Scott for her trade	9
Mr. Richard Gerard, Jun.	3 9		

HALGATE

Thomas Letherbarrow	£ 9	Thurstan Whaley	£ 1 6
Occrs. of Thomas Townlow house	9	Jonathan Johnson	2 3
Occrs. of Roger Wood house	9	Ralph Laithwaite	4½
John Marsden	9	Ralph Rawson	1 6
James Wigan	4½	Occrs. of Henry Whittle house	4½
James Ascroft	4½	Jeffrey Smith	1 1½
Ralph Townlow house	4½	Thomas Jackson	1 6
Roger Bibby.....	9	Robert Foster	1 6
Occrs. of Robert Bullock house.....	4½	Wm. Dean	9
Occrs. of Margaret Leigh house	4½	Sarah Finch	1 6
James Woods	9	Margarett Mitton	9
Ralph Baldwin.....	4 10½	James Leyland for house	9
Occrs. of Mr. Barrowhouse and croft..	9	Robert Mitton, Butcher	4½
Occrs. of James Prescott house.....	4½	Occrs. of Thomas Locker ground	9
Occrs. of John Stables house.....	9	Peter Leyland	4½
Wm. Battersby	4½	Richard Hardman	9
Occrs. of Adam Battersby house	4½	Mr. John Markland new house	9
George Burdekin.....	9	Thomas Ashurst's house	9
James Barrow	9	Nicholas Parr for Ascroft house	9
Roger Almond house.....	4½	George Roobotham.....	4½
Edward Burdekin	4½	Thomas Bullock	4½
Wm. Wigan	4½	Thomas Bullock	4½
Ellin Kenyon	9	John Low house	9
John Walmealey, Esq.	15		

WALGATE.

Edward Farbrother	£ 9	Richard Ranson	£ 1 1½
Gerard Ford	6	Hugh and Peter Platt	1 6
Mr. James Tatlock, 2 house	1 6	John Sherrington	0
Occrs. of Rigby house	9	Jeffrey Sherrington	9
Thomas Day.....	0	Joseph Rigby	9
Ralph Leigh	1 6	Ralph Barton	2 7½
Occrs. of Thomas Ireland house	9	Ellinor Kirke	4½
James Baron	9	Ralph Sale	1 1½
Occrs. of John Winstanley house.....	9	Wm. Hollis	9
John Thornton	9	Ralph Tarleton	1 6
John Floyd	9	John Nightingale	9

Gerard Tarleton	£ 9	Occurs. of Gilbert Dean house.....	£ 9
Ba. Browne	4 1½	Thomas Winckley	9
Gerard Brown, Jun.	1 10½	Occurs. of Jeffrey Wood house	9
George Browne	2 8	Thomas Winnard	4½
Occurs. of Ralph Dean house	9	Thomas Tatlocke.....	9
Madam Steaple house	9	Peter Mort, house and ground	8
Occurs. of John Waterson house	9	Thomas Greenhough	4½
Occurs. of Wm. Green house	9	Occurs. of James Rigby house.....	9
Roger Taylor.....	4½	Occurs. of Mr. Holland house	9
John Hardman	1 6	Occurs. of John Worthington field.....	9
Occurs. of Maraden house	9	Widow Jolly.....	9
James Ford, Groser	9	John Burges	9
Richard Baron.....	1 1½	William Wood.....	9
Occurs. of Gilbert Green house	9	Lawrence Marsden.....	4½
Thomas Barton	9	Thomas Walker	9
Occurs. of Totty house	9	Jeffrey Sherrington house	9
Occurs. of Leyland house	9	Ralph Clare	9
Wm. Winnard.....	9	Ellin Roobotham.....	9
John Unsworth	1 6		
		MILNEGATE.	
Occurs. of Mrs. Casson house and ground£	7 1½	Wm. Ford.....	£ 8 3
Mr. Alexander Leigh	9	Ambrose Jolly.....	4½
Richard Hoole.....	4½	Thomas Jolly	1 1½
James Acton.....	12	Henry Bullock.....	1 1½
James Holme	9	Mr. Eden	7 10½
James Baldwin	4½	Occurs. of Mr. Standish ground	13 6
Hugh Bullock	9	George Cockerham ground	9
Wm. Finch	1 10½	Occurs. of Lawrence Marsden house.....	9
Occurs. of Swan house	9	George Bolton	9
John Carter	1 6	Wm. Bancks, Sen.....	2 3
Occurs. of Edward Markland house and		Wm. Bancks, Jun.....	9
grd.	3	Mr. Adam Bancks	1 6
Mr. John Bancks	4 6	Thomas Bullocke.....	6 0
Mrs. Radcliff, for 2 houses.....	1 6	Occurs. of John Bullock house.....	9
Ellin and Mary Blackhurst	4½	Richard Belsher.....	1 1½
Occurs. of James Leyland house.....	0	Occurs. of Mrs. Bridge house	9
Wm. Ford.....	3	Thomas Mather	0
Occurs. of Ralph Dean house	9	Richard Green	4½
Lawrence Reynald	0	Richard Holland.....	4½
Hugh Laithwaite.....	4½	James Molineux	5 3
Mrs. Sumner's Heirs	6 9	Thomas Acton	2 3
Occurs. of Mrs. Bowyer house and grd...	1 10½	Occurs. of Mr. Anderton house and	
Grace Harpur	1 6	ground.....	12 9
Mr. Baldwin for black Adam Tenemt..	3	Gilbert Thornton.....	9
James Walton	9	Ralph Jolly	9
Jonathan Walton	4 6	Occurs. of Cookeson house.....	9
Mr. John Grange	1 6	Richard Naylor	4 6
Bal. Heyes	8' 3	Occurs. of Matthew Markland house.....	9

Occhs. of John Heyes's Lands	£ 4 10½
James Bancks, son of Adam	9
Shoemakers' Hall	0
James Finch Clarke	9
Occhs. of Mr. Gilbert Ford's house and ground.....	3 0

Occhs. of Mr. Letherbarrow's Mill	£ 1 6
Thomas Bullocke.....	9
Hugh Harpur	9
Wm. Mort.....	4½
Joshua Lee	9
John Markland	9

SCOLES.

Occhs. of Wm. Green's house.....	£ 0
Samuell Roobotham	3 0
Occhs. of Burges's ground	1 6
Occhs. of Robert Bancks's house and ground.....	1 1½
Occhs. of Robert Bancks, Scole fields...	2 3
Wm. Orrell	4½
Occhs. of Robert Burges's house	4½
Occhs. of Robert Orrell's house.....	9
Mr. Allanson, house	9
Charles Hartcliffe	4½
Occhs. of Edward Fairclough's house ...	9
Occhs. of Mr. Bancks's house.....	9
Ralph Browne	9
Occhs. of Mr. Edge's house	9
Mr. James Browne.....	2 7½
John Barker.....	4½
Occhs. of Emm. Moulding's house	4½
Occhs. of Robert Marsden's house	9
Adam Rigby.....	3 9
James Wood.....	9
Edward Prescott.....	9
Ralph Ashton	9
Luke Ashton.....	4½
John Smith, house and ground.....	3 9
Robert Browne	9
James Langshaw, Sergt.	9
Occhs. of Mr. Laithwaite's house	9
Occhs. of Mr. Moody's house	9
Thomas Ford de Yate	1 6
Occhs. of Boore's house.....	9
Occhs. of Francis Brocke's house	4½
Occhs. of Belsher's house.....	4½
Wm. Whitle	1 10½
Occhs. of Charles Bancks house and grd.	1 6
Occhs. of Bridgeman's house	9
Occhs. of Needham house	9
Gilbert Wood, for house	4½
Occhs. of Kearsley house	1 6
Occhs. of Billiard Fields	2 3

Occhs. of Henry Tonge house	£ 9
Matthew Rosbotham.....	9
Occhs. of Humphrey Fairbrother house ..	9
Occhs. of Ralph Langshaw house	9
James Langshaw, Sen.....	3 9
Gilbert Langshaw	4½
Myles Laithwait	0
Thomas Langshaw	1 1½
James Pemberton	1 6
Occhs. of the Benny Croft	4½
James Ford	1 6
Occhs. of Richard Laithwaite house and grd.	3
Occhs. of Robert Langshaw house andgrd.	2 7½
Hugh Ford, Founder.....	0
Thomas Parr	1 6
Nathan Glave	4½
Nicholas Parr	2 3
Occhs. of Wm. Parr house	0
Occhs. of Dyer's Wife ground	2 3
Ralph Bancks, Jun., for Cookeson house ..	9
Christopher Ford	4½
Thomas Molineux	4½
Robert Forth	4 1½
Mr. Ford	5 3
Hugh Hollinshead	1 1½
Wm. Whitle, new house	0
John Foster	0
Peter Latham	9
Occhs. of James Delroy house	9
Henry Greenough	9
Wm. or Gabriel Woods, for part of Acton house	4½
John Latham	3
James Bancks, for Thomas Lowe house ..	0
Richard Fizakerley, house	4½
Richard Withnall	3 9
Thomas Latham house	9
Thomas Bamber	4½
James Orrell.....	4½
Thomas Blackhurst	0

Edward Tyrer	£ 9	Elizabeth and Mary Belsher	£ 4½
Samuel Fogg, for Wood's house	4½	John Latham, Dyer	4½
Mr. Baldwin, for an acre late in the possession of Widdow Latham	9	Richard Anderton	1 6
		Mrs. Scott, for her trade.....	0

STANDISHGATE.

Occrs. of Mr. Marsh house and ground..£	7 6	Richard Naylor house	£ 1 6
Occrs. of Mr. Jolly house	9	Wm. Glazebrook.....	0
Thomas Rigby	9	Richard Moncks	0
James Winnard Daughter	9	Ralph Green.....	1 6
Mr. Bancks	2 3	Robert Baldwin	9
Occrs. of Michael Wood's house	9	Thomas Lithgoe	9
Mrs. Gerard	1 1½	Wm. Casson	9
Mrs. Sumner.....	9	Henry Fleetwood	9
Mr. John Markland	9 4½	Occrs. of Wild Mill	3
Occrs. of Mr. Mort house and ground	10 1½	Christopher Baldwin	1 7 4½
Occrs. of Madam Willis house and ground.....	1 11 6	Mr. Wm. Leigh	0
Occrs. of Jonathan Standish house	4½	Robert Letherbarrow.....	1 6
James Hollinshead.....	2 7½	Dr. Francis Worthington.....	9
Occrs. of Robert Hollinshead house and ground	6	Occrs. of Mr. Anderton's house	9
John Letherbarrow	1 6	Occrs. of Robert Moss house.....	4½
Wm. Higham	1 6	Hugh Forth	9
Wm. Rogerson.....	9	Occrs. of Whaley house	9
Peter Seddon	4½	Richard Holme	9
Alderman Hollinshead	4 1½	Dr. Thomas Worthington house	9
Thomas Taylor.....	4½	Mr. Sumner	0
Wm. Fleetwood	3 0	George Mawdsley	1 1½
Occrs. of Moulding house	9	Thomas Kearsley	1 6
Occrs. of John Bolton house	9	Robert Baldwin	9
Edward Jolly	1 6	Occrs. of Jeffrey Scott's house and ground.....	5 3
William Nightingall	9	James Lever.....	9
John Wigan	0	Peter Green	1 6
Edward Greenhough	9	Mr. Bridge, Clock Maker	9
John Laithwaite	9	George Winstanley.....	9
John Hodgson	4½	John Barkley	9
Gilbert Green	9	Gilbert Hollinshead	1 6
Mr. Holt	2 13 3	Occrs. of Peter Whaley house	9
Mr. John Walmsley	9	James Wood Bedder house.....	9
Wm. Baldwin	2 7½	Occrs. of Mr. Parr house and ground...	1 10½
Occrs. of Tompson house.....	0	James Laithwaite	9
James Bolton	1 6	Dr. Worthington.....	3
Edward Bolton.....	9	Occrs. of Casson house.....	9
Edward Prescott	0	Occrs. of Ralph Wackfield house.....	9
Occrs. of Myles Ford house	4½	Occrs. of Thomas Laithwaite house.....	9
Occrs. of Harvey house	9	Henry Baron	0
James Holme	4½	Occrs. of Edge house	0
Phineas Dean	4½	Occrs. of Osbourne house.....	9
		Thomas Atherton	4½

Woodhouses in 1720.

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Theophilus Ward	£ 4½	James Parr	£ 0
James Mort	4½	Ralph Bolton	0
Occrs. of Charles Leigh house and acre	1 6	Roger Letherbarrow	9
Occrs. of Richard Urmston house	9	John Blundell	9
Mr. Martin	1 6	Jeffrey Latham	9
Alice Roper	1 6	Thomas Fisswick	1 6
Bertie Entwissel, Esq.	9 9	Ralph Bancks	3 9
Thomas Gerard, Esq.	3	Mr. Catterall	9
Thomas Walkden	9	Wm. Maudesley	4½
Mr. Chaddock	1 6	Mr. James Parron	9

WOODHOUSES.

James Rigby	£ 6	Occrs. of Hermitage	£ 1 6
James Letherbarrow	2 3	Occrs. of Henry Bullock house and grd.	3 9
Wm. Green	1 6	John Rigby	2 3
Mrs. Courghey	16 6	Occrs. of Hugh Cooper's lands	3
Alexander Tyrer	1 1½	Occrs. of Mr. Markland house and grd.	1 4 0
Occrs. of Mr. Standish house and grd...	7 6	John Harvey	10 6
Daniel Roobotham	7 6	Wm. Farbrother	9
Peter Winstanley house and grd.....	9	Wm. Catterall	4½
Occrs. of Bates house and grd.	6 9	Thomas Bibby	9
Occrs. of Mr. Turner lands	6	John Taylor	9
Occrs. of Coate Barn house	4½	Wm. Clitherow	9
Occrs. of Holmes house and grd.....	15	Edward Catterall	9
Edward Letherbarrow	4½		

OCCUPIERS OF LANDS.

Occrs. of Mr. Houghton lands	£ 3	Occrs. of Russell Heyes	£ 3 9
Mr. Brown, of Ince	18	Occrs. of Mort Eyes	9
John Worthington	1 6	Occrs. of Andrew Barne ground	1 10½
Occrs. of Gerard Leyland meadow	9	Ralph Waite	4½
Occrs. of Mr. Thomas Scott lands	4 6	Occrs. of Mr. Catterall lands.....	10 10½
James Leyland Fuller	1 1½		
Rectory and Tythes of Wigan	2 8		
		Total.....	£48 14 7½

According to the information gleaned by the Charity Commissioners of 1828, "John Baldwin, by his will bearing date 21st May, 1720, demised to his son William and his heirs a messuage with the appurtenances, in Standishgate, in Wigan, a close in the back of the said messuage called Barker's Croft, and a close in Wigan called Pilly Toft, lying near the school common, charged with the payment of £100, which Orlando Bridgeman, Esq., had previously given to him on trust that the same should be put forth at interest, and the yearly produce employed for the binding of two poor boys, settled inhabitants of Wigan, apprentices, and with the payment of the yearly interest thereof until his said son William Baldwin or his heirs should discharge themselves from the said trust by paying in the principal to their trustees to be nominated by the said Orlando Bridgeman during his life, or after his death by his heirs or assigns, for the purposes aforesaid; and the said testator charged

the said premises with the payment of an annuity of £3 to Thomas Baldwin and John Baldwin, his two sons and their heirs upon trust yearly, therewith to bind one poor boy apprentice, being a settled inhabitant of Wigan; and he gave them a power of distress in case of non-payment." By indenture of lease and re-lease bearing date 18th and 19th May, 1821, reciting the will above abstracted and further reciting that the sum of £100 charged by the will of the said John Baldwin as above-mentioned had been in December, 1723, paid off by the representatives of the said William Baldwin to Alexander Leigh by order of the mayor and a majority of the aldermen of Wigan, to be employed in purchasing a croft wherein to build a school, it being then declared by the said mayor and aldermen that the sum of £100 was given by Orlando Bridgeman for building a poor school or such other charitable use as the Mayor and Aldermen should direct. Fletcher Rainford and William Gale, in whom the premises therein after-mentioned were then vested, with the consent of the other parties to the said indentures, conveyed to the use of John Hodson Kearsley and James Baron, their heirs and assigns, the close above-mentioned called the Pilly Toft, containing by estimate one acre, large measure, subject to the payment of the above-mentioned annuity of £30; and it was agreed between the parties that the said close called the Pilly Toft should be alone charged therewith, and that the other premises mentioned in the will of John Baldwin should be for ever discharged from the payment of the said annuity.

"By indenture, bearing date 28th February, 1823, between John Hodson Kearsley and James Baron of the one part, and William Eccles and James Cardwell of the other part, reciting the above abstracted indentures, the said John Hodson Kearsley and James Baron conveyed to the said William Eccles and James Cardwell, as his trustee and their heirs, the southerly part of the close called Pilly Toft, containing 3,978 yards, including one moiety of part of the river Douglas, charged with the payment of the said sum of £3 a year, it being agreed between the parties that each part of the said close should be alone charged with the payment of the said annuity.

"On that part of Pilly Toft which was by the preceding deed intended to be charged exclusively with the payment of the yearly sum of £3 a large factory is built; the premises still belong to Mr. W. Eccles, and since he has been in possession he has applied £3 annually in binding a poor boy apprentice to some respectable trade. He has not strictly confined the benefit of the charity to boys belonging to Wigan, not having been fully aware of the directions of the donor. He has, however, always acted upon the recommendation of Sir Robert Clayton, who is related to the family of Baldwin."

Although there was a happy and promising revival of enterprise and ambition

in the borough, the sanitary condition of the town was never thought of. Public drainage was not even dreamt of, and water, the greatest necessity of life, was only obtainable as a scarce commodity from private sink wells. Indeed, it was not until 1764 that an Act of Parliament was passed for supplying the borough and town of Wigan with fresh and wholesome water, not at the public expense, but merely as a private venture. The preamble of that Act set forth that "the inhabitants of the borough and town of Wigan, in the county palatine of Lancaster, not only suffer many inconveniences for want of being supplied with a sufficient quantity of good and pure water for their necessary occasions, but great losses have frequently happened by Fire, for want of Water to extinguish the same, there being very little or no Water in the most populous and public Part of the said Town." The first men to bring water to Wigan at their own expense were Thomas Blinkhorn and Thomas Noltim. They conveyed it from two places, springs in Wigan Lane and the By Well or Boy Well in Scholes. These speculators then sold the water in Wigan, and were only compelled to give it for nothing in case of fire; but of this more will be said in its chronological order.

It was in the year 1720 that the representatives for Wigan, Earl Barrymore and Sir Roger Bradshaigh, built for the town a new town hall in the Market Place. After strange vicissitudes, additions, and repairs, this silent witness of political and other Wigan annals was pulled down in 1882 to satisfy the spirit of modern improvement. The small quadrangular building in its last days had the original hall divided into booths occupied by butchers, who, through long possession, claimed proprietorship, whilst the upper portion was useless, and conspicuous only by its railed balcony, from which many a political speech in the old husting-days had been delivered. Two inscriptions were affixed on separate iron tablets to what was by moderns called the Old New Town Hall, one notifying the erection of the original building, and the other referring to the enlargement which consisted of the aforesaid railed balcony and outside stairs. The whole building was condemned as a public obstruction, and pulled down in 1882 to complete the improvements then effected in that part of the borough,

The great dream of Wigan, however, that might have made Wigan great, is only commemorated by the Act passed in 1720 for making the river Douglas, *alias* Asland, navigable from the river Ribble to Wigan. It was not only a commercial enterprise but a philanthropic one, for one of the arguments advanced in its favour was that it would "very much tend to the Employing and increase of Watermen and Seamen" (?). The power to act was given, but, unfortunately, was never taken advantage of. The extent of power given to the undertakers, William Squire, Esq., and Thomas Steers, Gent., both of Liverpool, was only limited by expediency. All the watercourses connected with the Douglas were to be used if required, and any

amount of land was to be granted for bridges, sluices, locks, weirs, pens for water, stanks, dams, cranes, wharves, and other works. They were empowered to appropriate land belonging to the king, public, or corporate bodies or private individuals, and to remove all impediments that might hinder navigation, either in "failing, haling, towing, or drawing" boats, barges, lighters, or other vessels with men or horses, or otherwise. Satisfaction had, of course, to be first given to the proprietors for all properties appropriated. A large and influential body of local gentlemen, including the Parliamentary representatives and Mayor and Recorder of Wigan, were appointed commissioners for the settling, determining, and adjusting all matters about which any difference of agreement between the undertakers and the proprietors of property acquired. Any five or more of these Commissioners had the power of deciding the amount of purchase money. No one having a personal or monetary interest in the concern could be a Commissioner, and those who held property at a less yearly value than one hundred pounds were disqualified. The termination of the canal was to be at Miry Lane End. The rates were fixed, as may be seen from the sixth and seventh paragraphs of this Act:—

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid that, for and in consideration of the great charge and expenses the said undertakers, their heirs or assigns, shall be at, not only in making the said River Douglas, *alias* Asland, navigable as aforesaid, but also in making, erecting, repairing, cleansing, maintaining, keeping up, and continuing the weirs, works, locks, dams, sluices, bridges, cranes, wharfs, and other matters necessary to be made and erected as aforesaid, it shall and may be lawful to and for the said undertakers, their heirs or assigns, and no others, from time to time and at all times hereafter to ask, demand, recover, and take, to and for their own proper use and behoof, in respect of their charges and expenses aforesaid, for all and every such coal, cannel, stone, slate, and other goods, wares, merchandises, and commodities whatsoever, as shall be carried or conveyed in any boat, barge, or other vessel in, upon, to, or from any part of the said River Douglas, *alias* Asland, between the said River Ribble and the said place called Miry Lane End, in the Township of Wigan aforesaid, such rate and duty, rates and duties for tonnage, as the said undertakers, their heirs or assigns, shall think fit, not exceeding two shillings and sixpence for every ton weight of such coal, cannel, stone, slate, and other goods, wares, merchandises, and commodities, and so proportionably for every greater or lesser weight or quantity; the same rate and duty, rates and duties, to be paid at such place or places near to the said river, and in such manner as the said undertakers, their heirs or assigns, shall think fit (*viz.*), for every ton weight of coal, cannel, slate, stone, or other goods, wares, merchandises, or commodities that shall be carried or conveyed in any boat, barge, or other vessel up the said river, from the River Ribble to the town of Wigan, or down the said river, from the said town of Wigan to the said River Ribble, any sum not exceeding two shillings and sixpence per ton, and so proportionably for every greater or lesser weight.

Provided always that the said rate and duty, rates and duties, payable for coals and cannel carried and conveyed from the said Miry Lane End, and from every the coal and cannel works or mines, or from any parts or places upon or near to the said river, below the said Miry Lane End, down to the said River Ribble, shall be equally one and the same, and not greater or lesser rate and duty, rates and duties, from any one work, mine, or part of the said river than from another, to any person or persons whatsoever; and in case of neglect, refusal, or denial of payment on demand of such rate and duty, or

rates and duties above-mentioned, the said undertakers, their heirs or assigns, shall and may sue for the same by action of debt or upon the case in any Court of Record whatsoever; or detain, or stop and detain any coal, cannel, stone, slate, or other goods, wares, merchandises, or commodities whatsoever, for which the said rate and duty, or rates and duties, ought to be paid as aforesaid, or any boat, barge, or vessel carrying the same, until they shall be paid or satisfied for the same.

One privilege was to be given to occupiers and owners of land, that of using any pleasure boat on the river without payment of any rate to the undertakers. Of course, they were debarred from doing any business whatever with such boats, either for themselves or others, except in cases where agricultural necessaries were being removed from one part of the property to the other. In the same manner such persons preserved their old liberties of fishing and fowling in the neighbourhood. The extent of such uses of the river may be gathered from paragraphs 13 and 14, which are as follow :—

And it is hereby also further enacted and declared by the Authority aforesaid, that the said River Douglas, *alias* Asland, is and for ever hereafter shall be esteemed and taken to be navigable from the said River Ribble to the said place called Miry Lane End, in the Township of Wigan aforesaid; and that all the King's liege people whatsoever may have and lawfully enjoy their free passage in, along, through, and upon the said River Douglas, *alias* Asland, or any part thereof between the said River Ribble and the said place called Miry Lane End, in the Township of Wigan aforesaid, with boats, barges, lighters, and other vessels, and also all necessary and convenient liberties for navigating the same, without any let, hinderance, or obstruction from any person or persons whatsoever, paying such rate and duty, rates and duties, as are by this Act appointed to be paid to the said undertakers, their heirs or assigns.

Saving always and reserving to the lords, owners, or proprietors of all royalties and liberties of fishing or fowling in or upon the said river, streams, or watercourses, their respective rights and privileges of fishing and fowling in and upon the same, anything herein contained to the contrary notwithstanding.