

TPF / 1860 /2

DSC05125

Compeared John Smeaton Miller and farmer and residing at Acha in the Island of Coll aforesaid - says I am 68 years of age - I am and have been a member of the Parochial Board of Coll for a number of years and I attend its meeting regularly when at home - At

Whitsunday 1859

the Office of Inspector of Poor for the Island of Coll became vacant - Robert Macdonald the accused was considered by the Board a fit person for the situation and therefore and as he made no application for the appointment he was offered it and he accepted of it and was then appointed Interim Inspector for the Island of Coll - He was bound to take charge of the Meal with other necessaries which are fortnightly given to the paupers ~~~

DSC05126

paupers to pay accounts incurred on behalf of the Board, to answer letters and generally to do the duties incumbent on an Inspector of Poor. The accused had a salary of £10 a year for the Office. Mr Stewart who is proprietor of Coll was at the same time appointed to collect the Assessment - Sometime in Spring last I do not know the date but the Minute Book will shew, meeting was held for the purpose of adjusting the Inspectors accounts, which meeting was attended by the Reverend James MacColl chairman John Maclean Mippost and the accused - The Accused was asked for the Books and accounts - He produced them all with the exception of a Book in which the Cash transactions are entered ~~

DSC05127

entered - He was asked for this one but he said he could not lay his hands on it in the mean time as his house was out of order - We did not get it that day and therefore had to disperse without performing the business for which the meeting was called -

On my way home I met Donald Macdonald a witness I told him the cash Book could not be got from the Inspector and consequently the meeting had to dismiss without Balancing the accounts - Macdonald proceeded on - Another meeting was held on or about

14th May 1860

at Clappach, which was attended by the accused; The chairman Mr MacColl, John MacLean Mippost Donald Macdonald Arynagour and ~~~

DSC05128

and myself - The Accounts were then balanced and we found that the accused was due to the Board a sum of about £20 but I cant say the exact sum - Nothing was said to him about that sum as we were of opinion that the money was forthcoming - Matters lay over in that state till a meeting which was held in Breachaha sometime in the month of June all the parties last above mentioned attended that meeting together with Mr Stewart and a Mr Ferguson from Campbeltown The accounts were again gone over in presence of the accused and audited by Mr Ferguson when he was again found to be due to the Board as aforesaid - The accused produced some accounts to ~~

DSC05129

to the meeting due by the Board on account of Paupers - The accused asked for money to pay these accounts - He was then asked if he had the balance on hand due by him to the Board - He said he had no money - He was asked what he did with it but he gave no decisive answer - Mr Stewart as collector gave him £5 to pay the accounts - At the next meeting which was held sometime in the latter end of June or beginning of July the accounts which the accused was ordered to pay with the £5 which Mr Stewart gave him as already stated were again presented for payment - The accused having failed to pay them as he was instructed with the £5 which he got for that purpose. The accused ~~~

DSC05130

accused was then dismissed and the Books were taken from him a few days afterwards (and another person appointed) [.....] in his stead - These accounts have been paid by Mr MacColl.

Before his dismissal on the day in question The accused was asked when he would pay the sum due by him - He then said he had an account against Mr Stewart - and when he the accused would get that He would pay what he owed the Board - He was then told we had nothing to do with Mr Stewarts private accounts that we had to deal with the Public and that unless he settled we would have to take legal steps against him - He ~~

DSC05131

He gave no farther satisfaction and he was then dismissed

After giving him credit for all due allowance so far as I recollect the balance due by him is £19..12/-

John Smeaton

DSC05132

Compeared Donald Macdonald farmer residing at Arynagour on the Island of Coll in the united parish of Tyree and Coll Argyllshire - I am 64 years of age - I am a member of the Parochial Board of Coll, which comprehends the Island of Coll. I have been so since April 1858 - The then Inspector resigned in May 1859 and Robert Macdonald Teacher residing at Kilbride on the Island of Coll was appointed Interim Inspector for the said Island of Coll - Some time in the

Month of February last 1860

a meeting of the Board was held in Macdonald the accuseds School house at Kilbride - The meeting had dispersed before my arrival - The meeting was called for the purpose of adjusting the Inspectors accounts - I saw John Maclean Mippost with the accused - I asked the accused in presence of Maclean what money he had got from Mr Stewart the

DSC05133

the Proprietor of Coll who collects the Assessment for the Board - The accused said he got money from Mr Stewart different times, making mention of several sums - among these he said he got £45 some odd shillings from Mr Stewart in December 1859 - I was aware he got £50 that time from Mr Stewart together with a sum of £5 which was given to him by Mr Stewart as a gift in addition to his Salary, the members being unanimous in allowing this sum as the accused had discharged his duties to their satisfaction up till that time, I mentioned that fact to the accused in presence of Maclean - He denied it and said he only got £45 - I said I was sure I could not be wrong as I had occasion lately to know that he did get £50 over and above the £5 before referred to and that his own receipt would shew ~~

DSC05134 & 135

shew it - He still denied - I then suspected that matters were not right - There was nothing farther done till the 26 June 1860 at a meeting which was held at Breachaha and at which Mr Stewart John Maclean John Smeaton and Duncan Ferguson witnesses were present - Macdonald was called upon to produce a Book containing an account of his intrusions on behalf of the Board which he did produce and which commences 14 May 1859 and end 14 May 1860 - The accounts were audited by Mr Ferguson who prepared an Abstract of the account which is attached to the Inspectors and which was done in his presence -

On the account being audited it was found that the accused received from Mr Stewart as Collector the sum of £141..14/- together with £7..15/4 being Drawback which he received from Government

[written in pencil in the margin of this page and continuing in the margin of the following page] The accused gave no credit for this Book which is the only one the Board ever saw for the sums he had received. These sums were taken from him by Mr Ferguson & brought out in the abstract then prepared . pay any cash till Mr Stewart settled with him I was aware that Mr Stewart owed him no money - Seeing the state of matters the Board dismissed him then & there - The chairman the Revd Jas McColl was instructed to get from him the Books & papers in his possession connected with the Office

- I afterwards got the cash Book from the chairman [to] [closed] having [.....] abstract [.....] I have added to the balance of £16..9 as [.....] by the [Instr.....] on 26 June the sum of £5 have been on that date, - and after giving him credit for the salary due at the date of his dismissal the balance then due by him as shewn in the Book 26 June 1859 is £19..10/ & which is still unpaid. -

...Government on account of the Boards Medical Officers Salary amounting together to the sum of £149..9..4 - The accused received these sums on several occasions stated in the abstract during the period from 30th June 1859 til December 1859 - These sums were given him for the purpose of paying off accounts due by the Board, and on account of these He only paid the respective sums of £79 - and £41..14..4d amounting together to £120..14..4 the meeting then gave him credit for the respective sums of £5. £2..6/ & £5 being sums due him as Inspector foresaid & Registrar leaving still a balance due by him at the date of £16..0 - Mr Stewart gave him £5 to pay off some accounts which were produced at the meeting -

[a further correction in the margin] Another meeting of the Board was held in July 1860 at which the Inspector attended - He hadn't his cash Book with him - He was asked if he had made any payments since the previous meeting He admitted that he had not - He was asked the reason and he said that he would not

Seeing the state of matters The accused was dismissed and another person was appointed Inspector

DSC05136

I produce the Book referred to and have marked it as relative hereto.
Donald McDonald

DSC05137

Compeared John MacLean residing at Mippost in the Island of Coll aforesaid - who says I am 72 years of age - I am a member of the Parochial Board of the Island of Coll -

About the term of Whitsunday 1859 Robert MacDonald the accused was appointed Interim Inspector for the Island in room of the then Inspector who resigned - It was then arranged that Mr Stewart would collect the assessment along with his own rents from the tenants - Macdonalds duties were to take charge of the Meal and other necessaries in the shape of food which the paupers receive for their support - He also from time to time received money from the Collector to pay accounts due by the Board - These ~~~

DSC05138

These intromissions were authorized by the Board at their meetings as the account became due He was bound to perform the duties required of an Inspector of Poor - I attended the meetings of the Board regularly unless I happen to be from home - Meetings were called at stated periods for adjusting the Accounts

In the month of February last a meeting was called but I do not recollect for what purpose - I went to the meeting which held in Macdonalds schoolroom - The Reverend James MacColl the chairman, John Smeaton and I were all the members who attended that meeting so far as I can recollect there ~~~

DSC05139

there was very little done - The Inspector did not attend that meeting - I met MacDonald a witness after the meeting dispersed at a small outhouse near the accuseds house - Both MacDonald and the accused had a talk together, but I do not recollect the import of the talk - We all three stood in this outhouse. When they began to speak I stepped away and stood outside and left them both together for a few minutes when Macdonald came after me - I think on farther recollection that that meeting was called for the purpose of repairing the schoolmasters house. Macdonald told me on our way home that he spoke to the accused about which ~~~

DSC05140

about some money which he got from Mr Stewart for the purpose of paying accounts due by the Board - I do not recollect what Macdonald told me about that money. Shortly after Whitsunday last a meeting was held at Breachaha which I attended. It was for the purpose of looking over the accounts. Which were balanced by Mr Ferguson from Campbeltown - but I do not recollect how the balance was struck - whether it was for or against the accused - The accused got some money from Mr Stewart - I think about £5 to pay some small items in the account - I heard by report that the accused did not pay that sum as he was instructed to do At ~~~

DSC05141

At another meeting which was held in July following at Clappach when the accounts were again gone over - I then learned he was £19 some odd shillings short - The accused was dismissed at that meeting and a few days afterwards The chairman Mr McColl and Smeaton took possession of the Books and other papers belonging to the Board.

John McLean

DSC05142

Precognition
Vs
Robert McDonald
1860

DSC05143

Arinagour 29th Augt 1860

Sir

The inclosed is a full Statement of of Robert McDonald account with the Barochal Board here Mr Thos McCorkendale Breachacha is appointed Interim Inspector I hope this will inable you to proceed against McDonald

I am
Your Obdt Servt
Donald McDonald

William Sproat Esqr
Writer
Tobermory

DSC05144

Copy of Cash Received and Payments made by Mr Robert McDonald
late Inspector of Poor in the Island of Coll from Novr 1859 to May 1860

		£	s	d	£	s	d
1859	By balance due by Inspector Novr 1859	12	14	-	-	-	-
Decr	By Cash from Mr Stewart	58	-	-	-	-	-
	By Drawback from Government on Medical Officers Salary	7	15	4	-	-	-
	Contra Cr						
	Paid Salary granted Widow McInnes Arenagour	-	-	-	-	15	-
	to One Letter Book	-	-	-	-	16	6
	to Peats to paupers	-	-	-	7	2	9
	to Postages & Stationery	-	-	-	-	13	2
	to Ewen Paterson's Coffin	-	-	-	-	8	-
	to Rent of Paupers [Store]	-	-	-	1	-	-
	to Aliment allowed John McKenzie Tobermory	-	-	-	2	12	-
	to freights of Paupers meal pr D.McParlane	-	-	-	-	11	-
	to Good granted by Malcom McDonald Mercht	-	-	-	5	14	5½
	do do Lachlan McLean Mercht	-	-	-	-	9	2
	to Mending shoes to paupers Rodk McKinnon	-	-	-	-	3	-
	to One bag Oat Meal Alexr McLean	-	-	-	2	-	-
	to 1 Boll [1 dz1½] John McKinnon	-	-	-	1	-	1½
	to traviling expenses to McDonald	-	-	-	8	18	-
	do Inspector	-	-	-	1	10	-

to Advances granted [R....] McLean by the [....] Parish	-	-	-	1	12	10
to do Donald McLean by the [.....] Parish [.....]	-	-	-	-	4	4
to Wages granted Margret Stewart	-	-	-	1	16	-
to One bag [.....] Donald McDonald	-	-	-	1	16	-
to Thatch & Roofs for Widw Cathn McLean [H....]	-	-	-	-	4	-
to Salary of Registrar of Births ½ year ending 31 Dec 1859	-	-	-	1	2	-
to One Bag [.....] from D McDonald	-	-	-	1	16	-
	70	9	4	41	14	4
To Half years Salary due Inspector Whity 1860				5	-	-
Do Do as Registrar do	-	-	-	2	6	-
Do Do as Inspector Novr 1859	-	-	-	5	-	-
	70	9	4	54	0	4
				16	9	-
	70	9	4	70	9	4
1860						
June 26 By Balance due by the Inspector May 1860	16	9	-	-	-	-
By Cash from Mr Stewart	5	-	-	-	-	-
Cont Cn	-	-	-	-	-	-
Jly 24 To Allowance as Inspector from 14 May 1860	-	-	-	1	19	-
	21	9	-	1	19	-
	-	-	-	19	10	-
	21	9	-	21	9	-
By Balance 26 July 1860	19	10	-	-	-	-

DSCO5145

Copy of Cash Received and payments made by Mr. Robert McDonald late Inspector of Poor in the Island of Coll from the 14th May 1859 to Novr 1859

1859				£	s	d	£	s	d
June 30 th	By Cash from Mr Stewart			50	-	-			
July 4	Do Do Do			35	-	-			
Sept 24 th	Do Do Do Registrars Salary due /59			1	-	-			
	Do Do Salary as Inspector due Nov /59			5	-	-			
		Contra Cr							
	Paid Par. Board of Goven as pre Receipt			-	-	-	11	3	8
	Do Malcom McDonald Mercht Arrenagour do						8	3	1
	Do Par. Board of Rothsay do						12	-	6
	Do [F...] Anderson Surgeon's Salary do						16	13	4
	Do Ebr. Adamson City Parish Glasgow do						17	4	11
	Do Chs McLean Tobermory do						5	5	-
	Do Hector McLean Totronald do						-	5	-
	Do Allan McLean Arrenagour do						3	17	6
	Do John Lamond Packetman do						1	16	6
	Do Widow Mary McKenzie Arrenagour do						-	6	6
	Do Register of Births do						1	14	-
				£91	14	-	79	-	-
	Balance in Inspectors hands Novr 1859						12	14	-
							£91	14	-