

# Sir Crawford McCullagh

*Belfast Merchant Prince*

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**B**elfast City Hall is by any standards a fine building. Completed in 1906, it signifies the city's industrial prowess at a time when it was the fastest-growing city in the United Kingdom and had outstripped Dublin as the principal city on the island of Ireland. The city council has recently improved access to it for the visiting public, whose attention is attracted by the rows of paintings of former Lord Mayors. There are now so many of them that they stretch almost all the way round the first floor corridor of the City Hall. Like their subjects, those portraits are of variable quality.

There is a fine painting by Henrietta Rae of the Viceroy of India, the first Marquess of Dufferin and Ava. There is an imposing, robust, full length portrait of King Edward VII in, I think, highland evening dress. This hangs on the end wall of the Banqueting Hall. Next to it, placed prominently in the middle of the wall and distinctly larger than the King's, is the single largest portrait in the City Hall. It is of a tall and distinguished figure, painted larger than life-size, dressed in full Lord Mayoral uniform: Sir Crawford McCullagh in all his finery and pomp. It would be wrong to suggest that his portrait dwarfs that of the King but it is noticeable that the King is a somewhat smaller figure beside him.

Who was this now largely forgotten man who literally dominates the Banqueting Hall? He must indeed have been a powerful influence in the City Hall and municipal politics between 1906, when he was first

elected, until his retirement in 1946, during which period of some 40 years he was High Sheriff in 1911 and was elected Lord Mayor of the city on no fewer than eighteen occasions.

Crawford McCullagh was born in 1868 in what were not all that humble circumstances, in a very nice small Georgian farmhouse on 78 acres at Annaghdroghal Co. Down on the shore of Lough Neagh. He was brought up near that low-lying country between Lurgan and the Lough known as the Montiags. He was one of six children of Robert McCullagh, a farmer, and Mary Jane Hawthorne who came from Loughbrickland. He left home at the age of 14, having attended Upper Ballinderry National School and in 1880 was apprenticed to a Belfast drapery business. By 1894 he had started his own business in Belfast and, by 1906, 26 years after his arrival in the city and having by then acquired extensive property interests, he was the largest single individual ratepayer in the city: a classic example of the Victorian/Edwardian self-made man.

Not a great deal is known of his leisure or non-commercial activities at this stage if, indeed, he had any. But there was a first marriage at the age of 23 to Minnie McCully which ended in her tragically early death in 1893. As a young man McCullagh is known not to have enjoyed good health and a move from Stranmillis to Helen's Bay, Co. Down was precipitated by that ill health. However he married again in 1896, when he was 29, to Margaret Craig Brodie. This marriage has all the hallmarks of a long, happy and successful partnership which only ended nearly 50 years later when Margaret died in June 1944, towards the end of McCullagh's long reign as Lord Mayor. They had three children, a son, Crawford Junior and two daughters, Helen and Daisy. It is clear from three substantial family scrapbooks-cum-photograph albums, now in the possession of the Linen Hall Library, that his wife throughout his career, and his children at a later stage, shared and played an active part in his long and active public life when he was, remarkably, Lord Mayor of Belfast during both the First and the Second World Wars.

He was elected to the Corporation in 1906, the year the City Hall was opened, and when he died in 1948 he was the last surviving member of that generation of councillors. He was High Sheriff in 1911

and was first elected Lord Mayor on 1 April 1914, an office which he held for the next three years. He was knighted on 21 May 1915 by Lord Wimbourne on a Vice-Regal visit to Belfast. During the war, McCullagh was active in wartime recruitment. When Prime Minister Herbert Asquith visited the city in May 1916, McCullagh was his host at the City Hall and arrangements were made for him to meet some leading citizens at lunch in the Lord Mayor's Parlour. At the time this was thought to have been the first visit ever made to Belfast by a serving Prime Minister. Within seven weeks of that visit the Battle of the Somme opened, on 1 July 1916. Eleven days later, to coincide with the Twelfth of July, commemorating the Battle of the Boyne in 1690, McCullagh called on all citizens to observe a five-minute silence at midday as a mark of respect for the thousands of Ulstermen who had been killed and injured at the Somme and of sympathy for the many families at home who had been bereaved. This was the origin of, and he was credited with initiating, what has over the years become the tradition of a two-minute silence on Armistice Day.

In November 1916 he was again proposed for Lord Mayor but the *Northern Whig* reported that: 'The Lord Mayor on his own behalf and on behalf of the Lady Mayoress expressed warm appreciation of the proposed honour but added that as he was strongly of the opinion that the honour of the Mayoralty should go round the Council, he preferred in the circumstances that some other member should have the opportunity of filling the chair rather than accept office himself for a third period'. Those words seem to have been conveniently forgotten by 1930 but they were sufficient then to facilitate the election of James Johnston as Lord Mayor in 1917.

The freedom of the city was conferred on Sir Crawford and Lady McCullagh in June 1917, when the only other candidate was Sir Edward Carson; and in July 1917 he was invited by Lloyd George to be a member of the Irish Convention.

While remaining a member of the Corporation events took a different political turn in 1921 when he was amongst the first Unionists to be elected to the newly-created Parliament of Northern Ireland. This election came not long after the delegation by the government in Dublin of housing powers and responsibility to local

government and in particular to Belfast Corporation. Sir Crawford, a notably successful business man, became the chairman of the Housing Committee. He is the subject of some fine cartoons in the scrapbooks which make it clear that he entered into the spirit of building social and other housing with great energy. He in fact lost his seat at Stormont in 1925; returned to the Corporation; lost his seat there temporarily but was re-elected in 1930, becoming Lord Mayor again in 1931, this time for an unbroken period of twelve years until 1942.

Having myself, many years ago and only for one year, had the honour of being Lord Mayor of the city, it is very apparent to me how difficult, not to say mind-numbing, being Lord Mayor for 12 years in a row must have been. In the 1930s McCullagh carried out an enormous number of engagements, some of them on an annual basis, and some of which I can confirm were still being carried on in the 1970s. Amongst other things he: launched the Poppy Day Appeal; attended a meeting of the Water Commissioners; received the Labour Party leader, Clement Atlee; looked in at the Grocer's Exhibition; presented 24 budgerigars to the Botanic Park Aviary; lunched with the Wireless Traders Association; opened Strandtown Primary School with Lord Londonderry; attended the NSPCC Annual General Meeting; opened the Ulster Horticultural Society Show; attended the St Andrew's Day dinner; inspected the Boys Brigade; visited London to do the deal with the Earl of Shaftesbury which secured Belfast Castle and its estate for the City; received the Imperial Grand Orange Council of the World; dined with the Auctioneers and Estate Agents; lunched at the Reform Club with an impossibly young Duncan Sandys; received Arsenal, Sheffield Wednesday, and Chelsea Football Clubs all in the same year; opened the Royal Maternity Hospital with Lord Londonderry and Stanley Baldwin; dined with the Prince of Wales; attended the Firemen's Dinner; opened Linfield Public Elementary School with the Duchess of Abercorn; met with the Ulster Tourist Development Association; attended a Unionist luncheon at the Belfast Plaza with an even more impossibly young Quentin Hogg. And, not lastly but also, switched on the new Humane Killing Apparatus at Belfast Abattoir.

During the 1930s there were also several Royal and semi-Royal visits

and it was clear that no ship of the Royal Navy could visit Belfast, visits that became more and more frequent as war approached, without an invitation being extended to the officers to a garden party or other reception at Lismara. It is also clear from all accounts that that entertainment was carried out by Sir Crawford and Lady McCullagh entirely at their own expense, a fact which was widely known and much appreciated at the time. These files and scrapbooks, perhaps for obvious reasons, do not disclose much serious politics but do record that in 1932 he attended and declared open a conference of Jews held in the city to draw attention to the plight of Jews in Europe. When later, in 1939, he lunched in the city with the Hebrew Congregation, his support for that congregation did not appear simply to be something made urgent by the imminence of war.

One has to search elsewhere for whatever role McCullagh played in events such as the Outdoor Relief Riots of 1932 and his relationship with bodies such as the Belfast Board of Guardians. In my research I have noticed that there tend to be only passing references to McCullagh in histories of Belfast but in two such histories there are positive references. In his history of Outdoor Relief in Belfast 1920–39, *Yes we have no bananas*, Paddy Devlin pays McCullagh what seems to me to be a clear compliment in his dealings with the Belfast Board of Guardians. And Budge & O’Leary in *Belfast – Approach to Crisis. A study in Belfast Politics 1613–1970* are also complimentary. A number of recent publications make only brief references to him. Bill Maguire’s *Belfast. A history*’s only reference to McCullagh is a telling one and is in connection with the housing scandal of the early 1920s. The collection of essays, *Enduring City – Belfast and the 20th Century*, edited by F. Boal and S. Royle, contains an essay by Jonathan Bardon on ‘Governing the City’. This also refers separately to the housing scandal of the 1920s and, briefly, to McCullagh’s career. Another recent publication, Gillian McIntosh’s *Belfast City Hall 100 Years*, is really a history of the building and not of the corporation or council. It does refer to Sir Crawford and Lady McCullagh but only to their monuments and memorials in the City Hall. I have left to last Jonathan Bardon’s *History of Ulster* (1992). He describes the celebrations in Belfast at the end of the war. A large crowd gathered at

the City Hall on 8 May 1945 after a night of bonfires and rejoicing. Loud speakers relayed Churchill's broadcast giving the terms of Germany's capitulation. The Lord Mayor, it was reported, told the crowd 'We must not slack. Celebrate the Victory and go back to work.' Bardon reports however that all the workers were given two days' holiday and 'no one seems to have followed the advice of this discredited leader of a Corporation still in commission'. When I first read that, the best part of 20 years ago, it did not strike me as remotely odd. As far as I was concerned Sir Crawford McCullagh was not simply discredited but had in fact left public office wholly disgraced. When I was elected Lord Mayor in 1978 I began to ask questions about this extraordinary man, Sir Crawford McCullagh, who had been elected Lord Mayor eighteen times between 1914 and 1946. But I didn't really get anywhere. The usual response to my enquiries was that he had in fact retired in disgrace; that that disgrace was associated with a dysfunctional and even corrupt Corporation which had been abolished when three Wartime Commissioners had been appointed; and that that in turn was connected with the Whiteabbey Hospital scandal in the early years of the war. That response came from both officials of the council and from members of the Unionist grouping on the council. None of them had known, or worked with, McCullagh in office pre-1946, but they were passing on to me what had been passed on to them by their political predecessors who had themselves been political colleagues of Sir Crawford McCullagh.

When I undertook to research this topic I did so in the confident expectation that the title would be something like 'Sir Crawford McCullagh – A Story of Corruption in High Office' or 'Sir Crawford McCullagh – Downfall and Disgrace'. This possibility continued when I first mentioned to some friends that I was preparing the paper. I was reminded for instance that when he had declared the Belfast Zoo open in 1934 (situated on the Earl of Shaftesbury's land) that part of the zoo named after him was, almost inevitably, the Reptile House. I was also reminded that while the Whiteabbey Hospital affair was indeed a major scandal, it wasn't the root of the problem of McCullagh's image: it had simply been the last straw. It really went back to the Housing Enquiry of the mid 1920s and the Collins Enquiry of 1928.

Prior to 1919 the provision of housing for citizens was not part of the responsibilities of local government. The Corporation was split as to whether it should take on that responsibility (slightly progressive opinion) or should not (the voice of those who thought it a socialist or communist ruse to subvert the role of private landlords and builders who were entitled to make their profits). Responsibility for building houses was assigned to the Corporation just as partition resulted in transferring powers from the Local Government Board in Dublin to the new parliament and government in the new state of Northern Ireland. Sir Crawford McCullagh who, shortly after, became an MP in 1921 was made Chairman of the Corporation's new Housing Committee. He embarked on the role with energy and enthusiasm and was highly successful in terms of the houses actually built. The cartoons in the scrapbooks which I have already mentioned show him in working clothes with his sleeves rolled up and with trowel, cement and bricks actually building houses. One of the cartoons has the caption: 'The Bricklayers – The Belfast Housing Committee get a move on', and the atmosphere created by the cartoons as a whole is along the lines of 'Give us the tools and we will finish the job'. It was later found that some officials of the Corporation were corruptly profiting from the contracts for bricks and other materials. In September 1925 the Government appointed R.D. Megaw KC to investigate and report, some five years, it is worth noting, after the Committee started work. The Chamber of Trade and the Rate Payers Association, two of fifteen different parties to the enquiry, were represented by Mr J.C. MacDermott. Mr Megaw KC reported in March 1926 and certain officials of the Housing Committee resigned or retired and the Town Clerk took early retirement. Sir Crawford was castigated by Megaw and took the rap as Chairman of the Committee. It was no doubt proper that he should do so but at no stage in the report was it then or has it since been suggested that McCullagh was himself corrupt or benefited improperly from his chairmanship. The evidence would suggest that the problem arose partly out of the actual corruption of some individuals and partly out of the chaotic administration of local government at this time. This last point is relevant in dealing with the Collins Report of the later 1920s which, in

some minds, may also have been related to Sir Crawford McCullagh's supposed disgrace.

In fact the Collins Report had nothing to do with corruption but arose in connection with a major reform of local government administration carried out in the UK in the 1920s. Arthur Collins had already reformed Local Government Administration in Birmingham when he came to Belfast and his report in 1929 introduced the system of committees and the relationship between the elective representatives and the municipal civil service which, in principal, remains to this day. As it happens, McCullagh was not a councillor at the time of the Collins Report but became one again in 1929 and, as I have already recounted, embarked on his long spell as Lord Mayor in 1931.

In relation to the affair of Whiteabbey Hospital, it is important by way of background to note that since 1915 the McCullaghs had lived at a house called Lismara in Whiteabbey. In his *Buildings of County Antrim*, Charles Brett has the following entry:

92 Abbeydene (formerly Lismara, Whiteabbey) a large, handsome, four square, Merchant Prince's Mansion of about 1850 of a fairly unusual golden sand stone on the high bank east of Macedon Point looking south over Belfast Lough ... the seat of Crawford McCullagh a young man from Aghalee who had prospered in Belfast.

The house had been designed by the reputed Belfast architect, Charles Lanyon and had formerly been owned by Edward Robinson of Belfast's first department store, Robinson & Cleaver.

It is obviously entirely coincidental that Lismara can only be about half a mile as the crow flies from Lanyon's own house which is now rather derelict and is situated in the grounds of Whiteabbey Hospital itself. The hospital today is a general hospital. The plaque in the entrance hall of the large, double winged, three storey, red brick, Sanatorium records that in 1906 the hospital was built as an ancillary workhouse for the treatment of tuberculosis by the Belfast Board of Guardians and opened in 1907.

In 1914 it was acquired by Belfast Corporation and renamed 'The Belfast Sanatorium for the treatment of Pulmonary Tuberculosis'. Under the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Act (NI) 1946 it was vested in



the Northern Ireland Tuberculosis Authority and renamed Whiteabbey Hospital. In 1958 the functions of the Tuberculosis Authority were transferred to the Northern Ireland Hospitals Authority, becoming a general hospital in 1964. Most people living today are lucky enough not to have known what a scourge tuberculosis was for earlier generations.

The report of the Whiteabbey Sanatorium Enquiry which sat in 1940–41 and whose report was published on 17 June 1941 runs to 2,123 typed foolscap pages and makes for grim reading. It discloses real corruption, shocking incompetence, and petty behaviour some of which, if the subject had not been so serious, might have been laughable and certainly was pathetic. The corruption involved, for instance, the giving of contracts for the supply of blackout curtains during the 1940s to companies who not only over-charged but whose directors were members of the Corporation; and the curtains when supplied did not even blackout properly! Councillors and officials were involved in this and other scams. The report discloses that the Medical Superintendent and the Matron were alleged to have had an affair to the detriment of good order and discipline amongst the staff at the Sanatorium. The report also gives an account of persistent attempts by councillors who were members of the Tuberculosis Committee to persuade the corporation to acquire land which would have been directly to the financial advantage of some members of the committee; land which was repeatedly certified by the city surveyor to be wholly unsuitable for the purpose of a sanatorium.

It is worth noting the context in which the report was published, a context which portrays McCullagh in a more positive light than his reputation would suggest. In April and May of that year, Belfast had experienced very serious damage and considerable casualties from Luftwaffe air raids. In the raid of 14–15 April, for instance, more people (over 1,000, it is estimated) were killed in that one night than in any other city in Britain, apart from London. On 24 May Sir Crawford McCullagh was re-elected as Lord Mayor and on 12 June it was announced in the birthday honours that he had been made a Privy Councillor. A few days later, on 17th, the *Belfast Newsletter's* leader column refers to the Report being published. It not only made no

adverse reference to Sir Crawford McCullagh but refers to the fearless leadership of the Lord Mayor and refers at the same time to a letter from the Secretary of the Ministry of Home Affairs which is attached to the report.

Back at PRONI I set to work again on John Dunlop's Whiteabbey Hospital report and found the Permanent Secretary's letter which is appended to the end of the report. As it happens Sir Crawford is not much referred to in that letter but where in two places he is, it turned out to be in highly creditable and even glowing terms. First there is an account of the persistent and corrupt attempts by a group of councillors to make the Corporation buy premises for the purposes of a new Tuberculosis Sanatorium at Rathmore rather than Brookhill. 'It is perfectly clear from the forgoing that a determined effort was made by a section of the Tuberculosis Committee to force the purchase of the Rathmore site without regard to its obvious unsuitability and extravagant price, and it is therefore not surprising that evidence was forthcoming at the inquiry suggesting attempted bribery'. And again: 'The amendment (to force the purchase of Rathmore) was lost and finally the Lord Mayor's Committee chose Brookhill and their choice was confirmed by the Ministry on 10th August 1939'.

Towards the end of the letter the ministry's findings are listed and they are refreshingly clear:

The Tuberculosis Committee should be dissolved.

Belfast Corporation should be relieved of its powers under the Tuberculosis Prevention (I) Act of 1908.

The Medical Superintendent, the City Treasurer, the Steward Clerk (at the hospital) and a sister (at the hospital) should all be censured.

The Official Stock Takers should not be re-employed

The Medical Superintendant and the Matron should be 'Retired from their respective offices'

Immediately after this, comes the very last paragraph of the letter and thus of the Report and this contains the second reference to Sir Crawford McCullagh:

In conclusion the Ministry desires to express its appreciation of the helpful attitude of the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor to whose

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fearless and impartial leadership of the best elements in the Corporation the bringing to light of certain of the abuses and shortcomings of the administration in Whiteabbey Sanatorium is largely due.

It was by now, of course, abundantly clear that my expectations had not only not been met but that Sir Crawford, in 1941, had been getting up the noses of some of his corrupt Corporation colleagues at least since 1939.

While the Whiteabbey Hospital scandal and the appointment of the Wartime Commissioners may have been conflated in the memory of some people, those events were clearly well separated in time. The Stormont Act under which the 3 Commissioners were appointed did not become law until 1 October 1942, more than 15 months after the report, and arose because of the persistent opposition of some councillors to McCullagh's attempt to bring in various administrative reforms. In their book Budge & O'Leary suggested that McCullagh appeared to have been on the side of reform and it is clear from a footnote that they had seen the last paragraph of the Permanent Secretary's letter which I have quoted in full. (My old friend Cornelius O'Leary had paid this compliment to McCullagh as early as 1970 and I should have remembered that when I was told differently in the late 1970s.) As well as that, a Cabinet minute for 22 April 1942 shows that an agreement was reached by the Cabinet on a letter to go to the Corporation ten months after the publication of the Whiteabbey Hospital report. It is in the following somewhat chilling terms:

The Government has come to the conclusion that the present state of affairs cannot be allowed to continue. I am instructed to ask therefore that the Corporation shall by the 1st week of June (they were given 5 weeks) put forward a scheme of adequate reform otherwise the Government will be obliged in the interest of the rate payers to take action to prevent a recurrence of maladministration in the future.

There is another point which I think is worth making about McCullagh's reputation. John Clarke McDermott was the Minister of Public Security in the government which made McCullagh a Privy Councillor in June 1941. It is clear from the photos in the scrapbooks

that he would have known McCullagh reasonably well and, from the Corporation papers in PRONI, that he would also have been aware of the activities and reputation of the Corporation throughout his professional career. Lord McDermott, as he later became, was a distinguished Lord Chief Justice of Northern Ireland and a Lord of Appeal in Ordinary. My own memories of him as a boy and at the beginning of my professional career are entirely happy but his reputation was that of a man who was not necessarily the easiest of companions. Above all he was a man of steely integrity. Lord Carswell in his obituary of McDermott in the recently published *Dictionary of Irish Biography* put the matter discreetly:

The standards that he set himself were Olympian and he obtained them by sustained thought and effort but he could not always see why lesser mortals fell short of them. ... Although his tolerance of any whose efforts he thought insufficient was limited he was always generous to those who strove to reach levels that he regarded as proper.

My point is a simple one. I do not believe that any government of which John Clarke McDermott was a member would have been remotely likely to make Sir Crawford McCullagh a Privy Councillor if he, McDermott, had thought him, McCullagh, to have been corrupt or in any sense a villain.

The rest of the story is relatively quickly told. Sir Crawford did not seek re-election as Lord Mayor in May 1942 (11 months after the Whiteabbey report and precisely 1 month after the Cabinet meeting which approved the letter to the Corporation on 22 April 1942) and almost certainly because of the opposition of some of his fellow councillors. He was, however, re-elected Lord Mayor on 6 January 1943 for the unexpired residue of Alderman Black's term, Black having died in office.

The *Belfast Newsletter* on 7 January 1943, announcing his return to office, quoted McCullagh as saying 'Let us forget the past, accept things as they are (which I think must be a reference to the Commissioners) and by our conduct in this Assembly show the citizens and the world that we of the Belfast Corporation are fit to carry out the duties assigned to us'. He could hardly have made a more pointed criticism of some members of the Corporation.

Lady McCullagh died in January 1944 and I think that that must have been a severe loss to him but he clearly did his duty for the rest of the war. He was re-elected Lord Mayor for the seventeenth time in May 1944 and for the eighteenth time in 1945. Soon after the war ended he, somewhat controversially, welcomed Leading Seaman James Magennis, a sailor from west Belfast, and a Catholic, who had been awarded the Victoria Cross for heroic action in removing mines from a ship. He also, less contentiously, welcomed to the City Hall a succession of Allied leaders including the Ulster generals – Montgomery, Alanbrooke, Alexander – and General Eisenhower. One of the happiest photos in the scrapbooks is of Eisenhower with his arm around the shoulder of a now elderly McCullagh and both men smiling happily in the company of McCullagh's family after what, I have been assured, was not a tee-total lunch at Lismara. In March 1946 he welcomed Princess Elizabeth to the City Hall.

He fell ill in the late summer of 1946 when he was overcome with heart problems. He retired from all public office and duties on the 3 September 1946 and soon after received a handsome letter of thanks from Prime Minister Basil Brooke who noted that he would not be seeking re-election. He appears to have played no further part in public affairs and, although I understand he displayed his sense of humour to the end, he died of a stroke on 13 April 1948.

We know of course that unlike Churchill and the Conservative party, Basil Brooke and his party were not swept from office at the end of the war. But was there a mood which led a post war generation of councillors to try and distance themselves from their pre-war and wartime colleagues? We know that the Unionist-dominated Corporation had behaved so badly that their own party colleagues at Stormont had felt obliged to sack them in favour of administrators. The powers of the corporation were in fact restored in 1945 a year earlier than originally planned and when McCullagh was still in charge. Perhaps this was indeed made politically possible precisely because McCullagh was still in charge. It is certainly, however, possible, that as soon as McCullagh retired from office and certainly after his death it may have suited his erstwhile opponents in the City Hall to allow his name to become associated with the Corporation's bad

reputation in the war years and to have simply nodded when people began to ask whether he had been involved in the Whiteabbey Hospital scandal.

But what was it that might have led this very successful Merchant Prince, a substantially wealthy baronet, and a leader of the Unionist establishment in the city, to anger his political colleagues in 1939 and 1941 and to become a classic whistle blower? I have it on what I believe to be the good authority of his connections not only that his first wife Minnie McCully died of tuberculosis in 1896 but that he himself may also have suffered from T.B. as a young man. He knew more than most about the disease and the scourge that it was. Indeed, some of the research into the disease which contributed in due course to its eradication in Ireland, was done in Lurgan and the surrounding areas where McCullagh was brought up. I suspect that the bad behaviour of his Council colleagues on the Tuberculosis Committee would have made him angry and would have been more than a sufficient reason for him to call time on their corrupt activities.

He was of course a man of his time. It is impossible today that anyone could serve as Lord Mayor for eighteen years. It is probably now not very likely that anyone like him would even be elected to the city council. But where his reputation has been denigrated I think it should now be restored and where he has been forgotten I think he deserves to be remembered. Since such a good job has been done on the recent renovation and refurbishment of the City Hall, I hope that this contribution might be the first blast in a campaign to have the biggest single portrait in the City Hall, that of Sir Crawford McCullagh, cleaned and restored to its former glory.