

23rd March 1903.

A Special Meeting of the Council was held this day pursuant to the Mayor's requisition at the Town Hall at noon. There were in attendance

Aldermen - Matthew J. Furlong, Walter Walsh, Martin Kehoe
Councillors - James Gore, Howard Rowe, Benjamin Hughes,
Robert Stanton, Michael Connor, Joseph Kelly,
William Mangan, John Connor, James J. Mahon,
John Lytle, Richard Crabie, James J. Stafford.
Mr Michael J. Connor Corporation Solicitor was also in attendance.

On the motion of Alderman Walsh seconded by Alderman Furlong the Chair was taken by Councillor Hughes in the absence of the Mayor.

The minutes of meeting of 18th Instant were read and signed. The Mayor at this stage attended and took the Chair. The meeting was informed that the terms of the resolution passed by the Council on the 9th Inst. had been communicated to the Directors of the Gas Company and the latter in reply had stated that they still adhered to the opinion entertained by them throughout as to the allotment of the bonus shares being quite in conformity with law. It now rested with the meeting to come to a definite conclusion on the question whether the Corporation would proceed with their opposition to the proposed Wexford Gas Provisional Order before the Board of Trade.

The Corporation Solicitor announced that the Inquiry which the Board of Trade had decided to hold in Wexford in the matter of the application of the Gas Company for the Provisional Order would be held as he was led to believe on or about the 6th April next.

Thereupon an exhaustive debate took place. It terminated in the adoption of a resolution as follows:
Proposed by Councillor Rowe seconded by Councillor Mangan
That we be represented at the approaching Board of Trade Inquiry in reference to the Gas Provisional Order by Council and our Solicitor.

Before this resolution was declared carried a Poll was taken.

Those voted for the proposition. Councillors Crabie, J. Mahon, J. Connor, Mangan, M. J. Connor, Hughes, Rowe, Alderman Furlong and the Mayor. (7)

Against. Councillors Stafford, Tygh, Kelly, Hanton, Hore
Sederman Kehoe (6)

Sederman Walsh declined to vote

An Estimate of receipts and expenditure for the services of the Municipal Year ending 31st March 1904 was laid before the meeting. It showed that the net expenses chargeable on the Borough Fund would amount in that year to £884:15:1, on the Towns Improvement Fund £1178:19:5, on the Waterworks Fund £1003:7:11 and to be raised by a Poor Rate £2014:14:3. The Estimate was considered and a resolution as follows was adopted.

Proposed by Councillor Michael O'Connor seconded by Councillor Hanton

That the Estimate now submitted be approved; that a Borough Rate of One Shilling; a Rate in lieu of County Cess of One Shilling and sixpence, a Domestic Water Rate of One Shilling, a Public Water Rate of Eightpence and a Poor Rate of Two Shillings and sixpence in the Pound on the assessable Valuation of the Borough of Wexford be agreed on preliminary to such assessments being duly made for the service of the coming year.

The Finance and Works Committee reported that on examining the accounts of the Collector of Borough Rate, they found that items of Rate amounting to £14:18:2 should be written off as irrecoverable in the current year and that the remaining items outstanding amounting to £8:8:0 were recoverable. *14/18/2*

The same Committee reported on the state of the Accounts of Rate in lieu of County Cess in the current year. They considered that £25:17:9 being items of Rate assessed on vacant premises should be written off and the remaining items outstanding amounting to £13:6:2 were recoverable. *25/17/9*

These reports were adopted nem. con.

Bernard Hughes

30th March 1903.

A Special Meeting of the Council was held this day, pursuant to the Mayor's requisition at the Town Hall at noon.

The members present were

Alderman Walter Walsh

Councillors - Joseph Doyle, Richard Crosbie, James H^c Mahon, John Connor, James Gore, Howard Rowe, William Mangan, Joseph Kelly, Nicholas O'Sullivan, Benjamin Hughes.

Mr M. J. Connor Corporation Solicitor was also in attendance.

On the motion of Councillor Rowe seconded by Councillor Mangan the chair was taken by Councillor Hughes in the absence of the Mayor. The minutes of meeting of 23rd March 1903 were read and signed. Letter dated 25th March Instant (No 427, 1903) from the Local Government Board was read directing that the accounts of all local authorities should be closed on the expenditure side against the 31st March in the current financial year. The rule in the existing Accounts Order under which it was necessary that this side of the accounts should be kept open until the date of the Statutory Finance Meeting next subsequent to the close of the year was found to lead to much inconvenience and delay and it was therefore the intention of the Local Government Board to issue a new Accounts Order making it possible to close the accounts as regards Expenditure as well as Receipts on the 31st March in each year. In view of the Order being issued shortly the Board requested that the accounts of the Corporation should be closed on both sides against 31st Inst. Having regard to the terms of this letter the meeting was asked to deal with the liabilities amounting to £249:14:5 which had accrued due up to the present date so that all the liabilities applicable to the current year might be discharged within the year. Thereupon the Bills submitted were examined and were found correct. They included a Bill for One Hundred Guineas payable to Mr John Shirress Will St. C. in advance for attending the forthcoming Inquiry to be held in Wexford on 6th April next as announced by the Board of Trade as to the proposed Wexford Gas Provisional Order. A question was raised as to the wisdom of the Corporation expending so large a sum in retaining Counsel. The Corporation Solicitor on being referred to stated that if the Inquiry lasted longer than one day Mr Will would have to be paid an additional fee of fifty guineas for each day's attendance after the first day but nevertheless the Solicitor strongly advised that Mr Will's services were most essential to the Corporation. The Bill was accordingly put forward. Thereupon Councillor Rowe proposed and Councillor Mangan

seconded the following proposition which was adopted viz
That Mr Will be retained on the terms mentioned by our Solicitor.
Councillor Howe objected to and Councillor Kelly declined to vote
on this motion.

The liabilities as presented to the meeting were then approved and
an authorization was signed to enable the Treasurer to pay them
on presentation to him of Paying Orders numbered from 30 to 39
inclusive.

Furthermore in view of the Inquiry the Solicitor suggested the
adviseableness of a Gas Examiner and a Gas Accountant being
employed to give evidence in support of the case of the Corporation
as it appeared the Gas Company were about to bring expert evidence
on their side. The suggestion was approved and the following motion
was adopted unanimously

Proposed by Councillor Howe, seconded by Councillor Hyangan.
That the services of an expert Gas Engineer and of a Gas Examiner
be engaged at a cost not exceeding £50.

A letter from Councillor Doyle was read conveying his thanks to the
Corporation for the sympathy they had expressed towards him on the
occasion of the recent demise of his father the late Mr Daniel Doyle.

The Local Government Board per their letter of 26th Inst No 16,467
transmitted copy of report of Mr J. A. Baker on his Audit of the
Accounts for period ended 31st March 1902 of the Urban Technical
Instruction Committee of Wexford together with an Abstract of the
Accounts.

This matter was found to call for no comment on the part of the
Corporation.

Howard Howe

Proposed Wexford Gas Provisional Order

Report of Inquiry held on Monday
the 15th April 1903

THE WEXFORD GAS QUESTION.

BOARD OF TRADE INQUIRY.

FULL REPORT.

A SETTLEMENT ARRIVED AT.

The Hon. T. H. Pelliham, Commissioner to the Board of Trade, held a sworn inquiry in the County Courthouse, Wexford, on Monday with regard to the proposed Provisional Order applied for by the Wexford Gas Consumers' Company, the granting of which was opposed by the corporation. The Solicitor-General (Mr. J. H. Campbell, K.C., M.P.) and Mr. T. M. Healy, K.C., M.P. (instructed by Mr. B. J. O'Flaherty) appeared for the Gas Consumers' Company, and Mr. J. Shires Will, K.C., and Mr. Vesey Knox (instructed by Mr. M. J. O'Connor, solicitor, Wexford) represented the Wexford Corporation.

At half-past ten o'clock Commissioner Pelliham formally opened the inquiry, and Solicitor-General—This is an application on behalf of the Wexford Gas Consumers' Company for the purpose of obtaining an order from the Board of Trade dispensing with the consent of the local authority of Wexford (the corporation) to the terms and provisions of the Provisional Order which the Wexford Gas Consumers' Company have applied for. I think you will find that probably the issues between the parties will be considerably narrowed, because, as one would expect, in the case of two bodies like the consumers and the corporation a good deal of discussion and negotiations have gone on between them from the time the project was originally started for obtaining this order. Those negotiations were, as we understand, without prejudice to the rights of either party when they came before you, but, at the same time, they were not secret, because they were discussed publicly at several meetings of the corporation, and these discussions all appeared in the public Press. Therefore, I think I am at liberty, without in any way binding the corporation with anything that occurred that the matters in dispute between them and the Gas Company are questions that can really be narrowed down to within the least compass. But, at the same time, it will be necessary to give you a brief history of the Origin and Subsequent Career of the Gas Consumers' Company.

It was formed on the 14th of August, 1865, and the original capital was 1,200 shares of £5 each. That would represent a capital of £6,000. The gas works connected with Wexford were owned at that time by a gentleman named Furness, who also owned similar works at New Ross, whose estate and interest in New Ross and Wexford Gas Consumers' Company for the sum of £3,275 14s. 10d. Having become the owners of both concerns, my clients sold the New Ross portion, which realised £2,286, which left the cost of the Wexford Gas Works representing the balance, namely, £389 14s. 10d. But there were certain matters which had to be supplied in addition—meters, lamps, and tools of various kinds—which brought the balance up to a cost representing £1,121 to my clients. In other words, Furness's interest in the Wexford Gas Works as a going concern represented to my clients a cost of £1,121. But he held the premises, as they then existed on a very short lease, and accordingly the Consumers' Company had to buy out the head interest, and that cost them £4,160 8s. 8d. There was in connection with that transaction, of course, a substantial bill of costs to pay, and, taking the original costs, that is £1,121 and the £4,160 paid for the landlord's interest and the costs of that, the entire amount was £5,388 13s. 1d. In other words, of the entire £6,000 of capital, that much was invested in this Wexford undertaking. Now, in 1866—to show the progress of this company—

The Price of the Gas during the first year the company had possession—the price of the gas consumed was 6s. 8d.; last year it was 2s. 10d., so that it had fallen from 6s. 8d. to 2s. 10d. and the reduced price would be current for two, three, or four years, but during all that time up to the last year there was a constant and steady decrease, so that now at the present day the consumer at Wexford is getting gas at practically a figure as low, if not lower, than any consumer is getting in a seaport town in Ireland or England. The rental in 1866 was £2,267 3s. 4d., and last year it was £2,276 11s. 4d., that is to say practically

doubled. The consumption in the year 1866, roughly speaking, was 7,000,000; last year it was 30,000,000. The amount realised in 1866 from the products of gas manufacture was £388. Last year it was £2,140. Those figures I have mentioned for the purpose of showing you how efficient has been the management of the company from the year 1866, and the benefits that have been obtained as a consequence of their good management by the consumers of Wexford. It is really not necessary to labour the point, because in the public documents distributed and circulated by the corporation, being a statement of their position in reference to this matter submitted to their eminent counsel, there occurs this passage—"The Gas Company has been very well managed, especially under the management of Mr. Lyne, the present manager, who keeps all the apparatus thoroughly up to date." Now that testimonial coming from the enemy—for the present purpose I call the corporation the enemy, though I may say their opposition is not very formidable—that testimonial coming from them is the best possible proof that the ordinary gas consumers in Wexford has reason to be thankful for the management of the company and the way its business is conducted. Now, up to the year 1893, instead of dividing the profits, which would have enabled them to pay a dividend of over ten per cent. upon the capital, they applied their profits in excess of that sum to the up-keep of the Gas Works and to the supply of new implements and new materials, mains and meters, and so forth, as required, with the result that from 1866 to 1893, that is a period of thirty-two years, a sum of £10,000, which otherwise would have been available for dividends, went to supply new apparatus and new materials for these Gas Works—in other words, kept them thoroughly up to date. Of course the effect of that was to enable the company to supply the gas on those substantially decreased prices to the consumers. And instead of the shareholders getting the benefit of the prosperity and industry of the company and the manager, Mr. Lyne, it went to the consumers in the shape of a decreased price. Well, in September, 1901, the company began to think that they were fairly entitled to some benefit, some share in this great prosperity and these largely increasing profits and earnings, and accordingly in that year by a resolution in accordance with the memorandum and articles of association—by resolution on the 28th January, 1902—

The Capital Was Increased From £6,000 to £15,000, and that was made up as follows—First of all the original 1,200 shares, which were called the "A Shares," and they, as before, under the new arrangement, were to receive a dividend of ten per cent.—that was the amount which, under the articles of association, they were to receive originally. That was not interfered with, but there then were created 600 new shares at a nominal value of £5 each, to bear the dividend of five per cent., and these were issued as bonus shares to the existing shareholders. In other words, having regard to the fact that for many years the existing shareholders had lost the benefit of having distributed amongst them the surplus profits in the shape of increased dividends, as compensation in part for that loss they issued 600 new shares as fully paid up by a bonus to the existing shareholders. They also created a third class called "C Shares." The "A Shares" were the original 1,200, the "B Shares" were the 600 bonus shares, and the "C Shares" were the new shares at £5, bearing a dividend of five per cent. Of that £5 a share £1 10s. has been paid up. Now, under the Provisional Order, it is proposed to increase the capital from £15,000 to £24,000, and the way it is proposed to do that is by increasing the "C Shares"—leaving "A" and "B" as they stood of course—by raising £9,000 more. That would bring up the total capital, added, of course, to the £15,000 capital, as represented by the resolution of the 28th of January, 1902, bringing up the total to £24,000. I am not going to trouble you with statistics. I may say I have here a long list of enterprises of this character, of enterprises in England and Ireland and elsewhere, and that capital of £24,000 is modest and moderate as compared with similar other towns and other companies carrying on such undertakings. It is also proposed to increase the borrowing powers to one-fourth of the total capital, or £6,000.

Commissioner—Is there any borrowed capital at present?

Solicitor-General—No; there is none, sir, none at present. The object and purpose for this increased capital is due to the fact that this year's and last year's expense of the working of the Gas Company has shown that there is

Actually for the last three months, as compared with the corresponding three months of last year, the consumption of gas has increased ten per cent. And the manager, Mr. Lyne, tells me that that is

due largely to the increased use of gas in Wexford in connection with industries, gas engines, for power and ordinary purposes, for gas stoves of various kinds, for domestic purposes, such as cooking and heating. And in order to keep the plant up to date a number of new meters are required, a new gas house will be required, and the coal stores have to be shifted, and many important additional works will have to be carried out, the details of which will be given by Mr. Lyne and a gentleman named Hunt, an expert, and I think you will be satisfied that in order to render those works thoroughly efficient and up-to-date, this proposed increased capital is absolutely necessary. The next matter is in connection with the insertion of

A Purchase Clause, which would enable the corporation, if they were so disposed, to ultimately become the owners of those works. Well, the rather romantic proposal was made by the corporation that they should have a period of ten years for the purpose of making up their minds whether they would or would not invest in these Gas Works. However, the point is an immaterial one to the corporation, as the state of their finances is, I understand, an absolute bar and prohibition to their embarking at any time in such an enterprise. But I observe—it is I suppose a rather novel experience for my friend, Mr. Will—that the case that was submitted to him for his advice in this matter, and his opinion thereon has been freely circulated in the district, so that now I have the benefit of knowing his views so far.

Mr. Will—It was, I believe, confined to the corporation.

Solicitor-General—Oh, no; they actually published them in the local Press; they attached so much weight to my friend's advice. My friend had no idea he was so famous in this locality (laughter).

Mr. Will—I am glad to hear that they considered it worthy of publication (renewed laughter).

Solicitor-General—It was in accordance with what they knew of the knowledge and experience of my friend, who did not, I think, take a very sanguine view of that proposal on the part of the corporation, but rather suggested that it was more or less unheard of—that long period of probation. What we suggested to them was that they ought to be able to make up their minds within two years as to whether they intend to purchase or not. And the clause which they also proposed to add in connection with the purchase was also defective, inasmuch as they made no provision for dealing with the existing officers in connection with the Gas Works. But my clients would not object to a reasonable period—say two or three years—to enable them to make up their minds. Whether they do or not make up their minds is a matter of no importance, as they have not the slightest intention or notion of purchasing. Now, with regard to

The Borrowing Powers, my clients consider them essential, because they consider those powers might be required for an occasional overdraft on their bankers in the form contained in the draft Provisional Order. In any other order by debentures or otherwise they would not be able to secure the draft with the same facility as by this method. Well, there are one or two

Subsidiary Matters.

That there was some question raised about, they can't really concern the corporation, and are only material from the point of view of my clients. One was the power contained in the draft order to manufacture fittings which would be required in connection with the works. These fittings at present are not manufactured, but are brought in their component parts and assembled and arranged here. They propose to get powers to manufacture these for themselves. They are not particularly keen about it, and if there is any objection—any valid objection, for they are themselves none—they do not wish to press the matter. I understand the meters are supplied free of cost, and probably it would be an advantage in the cost of production if they could manufacture these things. There is another matter to which objection has also been taken, more of a technical nature than anything else; it is the proposal contained in the draft order to enable the Gas Company to purchase two vessels at a cost of £2,000. At present the vessels coming here are of slight and small draft, and the Gas Company has been engaged by the merchants of the town to take these powers for the purpose of buying those vessels which would keep them constantly supplied with coal. The corporation, I think, suggested one vessel, but if they are to have one at all I think they ought to have had two which will help and be necessary to relieve any

Commissioner—I think it is rather doubtful whether that comes at all under the powers of the Board of Trade.

Solicitor-General—I think it is doubtful.

ful. However, if you consider that it is even the subject matter of doubt, my clients are not keen on it, and there is no importance attached to it. Next is a matter of considerable importance, that is

The Illuminating Power. The proposal in the bill is to illuminate with a power representing thirteen candles, and the counter proposal of the corporation, which naturally errs on the side of extravagance, is sixteen candle power. Mr. Lyne and Mr. Hunt, who are, of course, conversant with these matters, will tell you, and probably your own knowledge will confirm it, that within recent years a considerable change has taken place in the ideas as to the proper candle power and of the standard measure. The old notion apparently was rather to put it up to an excessive figure, and fourteen ran up to fifteen and sixteen. But now, owing to the introduction of incandescent burners, the authorities put them rather the other way, and last year's as well as this year's Provisional Orders and Acts of Parliament have mentioned the maximum of fourteen candle power. I understand that the class of coal available here for the purposes of the gas works only yields a maximum power of fourteen candles, and if an increase was wanted they would require additional external matter, the effect of which would be rather injurious to the burner, and is not so readily made available in the production of gas.

Then, of course, comes the serious question of price. I should mention that the proposal for the draft Provisional Order is the price ranging with neutral zone from 3s. 9d. to 2s. 10d. The first idea apparently in the minds of the corporation in resisting this was to have a maximum price, and they have apparently abandoned this, because they have apparently dropped any further reference to the maximum price. Now the question seems to be narrowed down to a question as to what the zone is to be, and what we say is that having regard to the cost of gas to the consumer, as tested by the experiences of other towns similarly situated in Ireland and England, that the lowest price possible is this figure of 2s. 10d. There is no other town, I understand, in Ireland or England similarly situated in which the price is less, except Belfast and Plymouth. Belfast, of course, is out of all comparison; the conditions are entirely different, and it does not offer any standard of comparison. Plymouth also is a much larger place in which conditions differ so much and so widely from those of Wexford that it is not capable of comparison. But in all small towns of similar size and situation in Ireland and England, the price is considerably in excess of 2s. 10d., and in the lowest adjoining town, I understand, it is 5s. These rates vary from 5s. to 3s., but the present price remaining in Wexford is practically the minimum. My clients tender that as the minimum, leaving the neutral zone between that and 3s. 9d. Now another matter is that of Pressure.

The pressure proposal is six by ten from midnight to sunset, and eight by ten from sunset to midnight. These, I understand, are the usual figures, and in the very valuable opinion of my friend opposite he agrees that the proposal of my clients is reasonable. There is another matter around which some conflict was raised, but of which you will have no trouble in disposing. That is

The Depth at Which the Pipes Were to be Placed

under the roads. Of course there is a certain amount of liability attached to corporate bodies, and a certain amount of danger must arise when steam-rollers go over their thoroughfares, because it may be in the event of their injuring the pipes they may expose themselves to civil liability. What my clients are anxious and willing to do is to protect themselves and also the corporation from any such risks; and, therefore, they propose that the Consumers' Company should, whenever possible—reasonably possible—place their pipes at such a depth as will prevent any possibility of danger from steam-rollers; and that is not possible all over the town. The sewerage system here is of an antiquated character, and the sewers are very near the surface in many cases, and in some of the streets it would be physically impossible for them to put pipes at such a depth as to obviate any danger. Therefore, what we offer is that the clause should be worded as to impose upon us that we should, "whenever reasonably practicable," put the pipes at such a depth as would obviate any risk from those steam-rollers, going back to the matters that are of importance, having regard to the nature of the opposition, I should mention that although the corporation are now opposing or refusing to consent to in their attitude as a local

authority, to our proposal, it was actually at their request that we came here. That is the anomaly in the present opposition. The corporation passed a resolution on the 28th January, 1902, encouraging my clients to apply for this Provisional Order, and, having yielded to their request and having applied for the Provisional Order, the next thing was that we were informed that they intended to refuse their consent, and they proceeded to explain that their real object was not to prevent us getting the Provisional Order, but, as I understand, to have it framed in such a way as would meet the interests and views of the corporation. Now, the one matter—because, as I said a while ago, I don't wish to bind the corporation by any negotiations, but, at the same time, it is impossible to refrain from referring to it, because it has been published in the local papers and openly discussed by the corporation at their meetings—and that one matter seems to have brought them here, and for which they have involved the ratepayers in enormous expense, a substantial portion of which, I am sorry to say, the corporation will ultimately have to pay out of their own pockets—well, they have brought that upon themselves—the real grievance and the one which ultimately induced them to persist in this opposition is a matter that absolutely you have no more concern with than you have with the Irish Land Law Bill. It appears the great grievance is that in 1901, under the reconstruction, if I may call it so, when the Gas Consumers' Company is not those 600 bonus shares, these

B Shares, that is £3,000 worth, and the corporation say that "that is our great grievance," and that they have invited us here to try to prevent us getting our order, not because they disapprove of the order; on the contrary they say it is quite right and necessary, and they are most anxious we should get the order, but they say, "We will oppose them unless they agree to give up those bonus shares." It appears in the year 1895 a rather flowery prospectus was published by the Consumers' Company, and in this prospectus they anticipated that their dividend would not exceed ten per cent., and that the balance of profits would be available for purposes of reducing the cost of gas. While that undoubtedly was the original idea, as the works developed and as the town consumers were getting the benefit of the skill and experience of Mr. Lyne and the good management by him and the directors of the company, the result is that now they are only paying 2s. 10d. for the gas. The shareholders through the directors who had worked for over thirty years without a penny remuneration—because I may say that not only the directors, but even Mr. Lyne's remuneration, to my mind, at present does not at all stand in a scale representing what I consider the company and the consumers owe to him, having regard to the extraordinary ability and skill shown in the conduct of those works—but the corporation say, "Unless you agree to give up these shares we will oppose you." It is the first time in my experience the Board of Trade have been sought to become use of in rectifying an error in the antecedent management of a private concern. I always thought that the province of a Board of Trade was to make provision for the future. The corporation ask that you should do that. They say, "We will block that unless corporation is made for the past." It is the most extraordinary scheme I have ever heard introduced into legislation. I venture to think you will confine yourself to your own province, and that you are not going to embark on an investigation as to whether a private company in the past did administer their funds to the public advantage. I may say there is nothing whatever illegal in the creation of those bonus shares, and I am corroborated in that view by the opinion at least of my distinguished friend opposite, because in his first opinion which he gave he stated that this transaction could not be impeached if those shares were created as an equivalent for profits that otherwise would have been distributed but which went to the upkeep of the concern; and I may say that he had statutory authority for that, because in two adjacent towns here, Parliament, when they came to re-construct a private company, did exactly what this company did in 1891. I find in the case of Queens-town the Act of Parliament was passed in the year 1879, reciting that this was a private company and that it was expedient that they should get statutory powers, that the company should be dissolved. We then came to the capital, which was £225,000, classified as follows:—Class A, £10,000, representing the original capital; class B, £3,000, to be divided into 300 new shares to be called B shares. "The B share," the Act said, "shall be allotted of the fully-paid up rateably as far as same can be effected to the several persons who, before the passing of the Act, were possessed of or entitled to one or more of the existing shares." You see the analogy is perfect because in this case also of going to swell the dividends, and been applied to the upkeep of the concern. So what was sanctioned in the case of the Queenstown Gas Company is exactly identical with the idea to be carried out here. In Waterford in the year 1877 they did exactly the same thing. The order in that case recites that a substantial portion of the available profits had been applied, not in the shape of dividends, but devoted to the upkeep of the concern. Therefore, it was only just that old shareholders should get some advantage, and accordingly the Act of Parliament provides for the creation of class B the same as before, fully paid up

shares to be distributed among the old shareholders. Therefore, instead of anything being irregular in the transaction of the company it is exactly in conformity, and I may point out how unfair it would otherwise be if the shareholders, who are the persons entitled to benefit by the profits, the result of good management, are to be the only persons who get no share of the financial results of this prosperity. They might have reconstructed or wound up the company and floated it with a larger capital, but, instead of that, they left the matter before one of the most eminent King's Counsel. I have his opinion before me, and he advised that the only way to proceed was by the creation of 600 bonus shares, which were to be distributed among the existing shareholders rateably in accordance with their interest in the concern. Of course it may be that if this company came to wind up afterwards the question might arise whether the persons to whom the shares were allotted might not be compelled to pay up, but that is a matter of no concern to the corporation, and has no concern with outsiders, and the remarkable fact in this case is that this matter is the one point in which the corporation took a division as to whether they should oppose us here or not. By a majority of two they agreed to come here and put the ratepayers to the cost of opposition in this case, simply because they thought they ought to have those bonus shares cancelled or given up. So much for this matter of bonus shares. The only matter it is necessary to speak further about is the question of

A Standard Price.

I understand that the corporation suggest that the standard price, maximum and minimum, should be somewhat lower. Well, Mr. Lyne will tell you that in his opinion he has gone to the furthest length in the way of concession. The only means by which this 2s. 10d. has been arrived at is the result of the most efficient and economic management, and in the case of particular years, when there was something in the nature of a coal famine, it so happened by the way in which Mr. Lyne had arranged the contracts, he was still able to get the coal at a low price, even in the most critical period of actual famine. Of course they cannot guarantee that always; it is quite possible that when a coal famine occurs it would be simply out of the question to continue to manufacture gas at this low price, and in order to save the company Mr. Lyne and Mr. Hunt are of opinion that a neutral zone is fair and reasonable. But then there is another matter which exposes a company like this to considerable risk and makes it impossible to speculate with any certainty as to their ability to continue giving a cheap gas, and that is

The Element of Labour.

a very variable element, subject to a good many external outside influences, and it is impossible to predict that some outside influences and external causes outside the control of the Gas Company, and the corporation would not induce labour to make demands which it would have been impossible for the Gas Company to concede, and the result would be enormous additional cost, and consequently make it impossible for the Gas Company to give the gas at this low rate. These are contingencies which will have to be faced. But Mr. Lyne thinks it would be safe in the operation of a sliding scale, and the increase or decrease of dividends according as prices went above or below the neutral zone. That would give a stimulus to the Gas Company in the conduct of their concern. I may say the published reports of the disbursements at the meetings of the corporation during the last two months conclusively established the fact that the next and only objection that the corporation have in this matter is as to the question of the B shares. I don't know why the corporation are so sensitive to this matter. But I am absolutely correct when I say that the question was at the last meeting whether they would or would not, so to speak, oppose the Provisional Order.

Mr. Will—And these negotiations are without prejudice to future action. It seems as we fail to agree we are relegated to the original position.

Solicitor-General—What I want Mr. Pellam to understand is what the corporation has been at. I am not going into the correspondence between the solicitors, but I am entitled to read and may refer to the published reports in the Wexford newspapers of the accounts of the proceedings, and by these reports I am told that but within a fortnight ago the only matter on which the corporation would or would not oppose was the matter of the B Shares, and actually the last division taken was on whether they would or would not oppose on the question of the B Shares. We are opposed here by the very body who invited us to seek this Provisional Order in consequence of antecedent transactions in connection with the finance of this company, over which you have no control, and with which the corporation have no concern.

Commissioner—I have got to consider the question of what the capital should be. Therefore, I am concerned to know whether the capital which has been issued has been spent on the undertaking.

Solicitor-General—Of course we will give you conclusive proof about that. That £3,000 was less than one-third of the actual profits. I may mention this company took the very proper course every year of publishing not merely a balance sheet, but a profit and loss and revenue account, and that was open for perusal by every member of the community. They show the increasing prosperity of the company and the increasing annual profits, and this because it was sought by the corporation to make a grievance out of the fact that we declined to let them in to

Probe Among and Investigate Our Books.

We told them they had our published accounts; those these accounts gave all the information that they were entitled to get, but we certainly declined and rightly excluded strangers and gas experts for the purposes of probing through the accounts of this company. But I am inclined to think that the permission they asked for they knew they would not get, and that they never intended to avail themselves of it. They preferred to be refused, so that they might pose as a body having a grievance, because I find in the published reports of their meetings that they came to the conclusion that owing to the expense they would not employ a gas expert, so that this operation was really intended more in the nature of enabling them to pose as persons having a grievance than in having any desire to investigate the condition of the company's accounts. As regards the capital account, that I understand, it is material to know all the antecedent history of the transactions in connection with the capital. For that purpose I think it is enough to say that absolute and convincing proof will be given. While the original capital was £5,000, £16,000 of the available profits were actually applied towards capital purposes.

Commissioner—Before you call any evidence it would be rather convenient to know what are the points the corporation dispute.

Mr. Will—I think that would be a rather convenient course. My learned friend referred to one matter which I wish to refer to, namely, that of our having been refused permission to inspect the books of the company until the offer was of no use to us—that was on last Thursday. We then had no means of investigating the accounts except some old documents. I dispute altogether that those accounts have been published, or have been made available to the public. The points we shall have principally to deal with will be the question of the standard price, and whether there should be any neutral zone, and all the other questions that circle round the standard price, and the question of capital, which it is proposed to raise to £24,000, and the additional £6,000 of borrowing powers, which would be very excessive. Well, then as to the question of the £3,000, the question of the illuminating power, the question of pressure and other points to which my learned friend has referred—

Chairman—I am afraid you are going into everything (laughter).

Mr. Healy—We are entitled to ask you to say as a matter of law that the corporation are not entitled to take procedure on the lines suggested by Mr. Will. They want you to constitute yourself into a Parliamentary committee. This is not a Parliamentary committee. This is an initial hearing for the purpose of seeing whether we are entitled to the consideration of the Board of Trade and the points opened by my learned friend are points for the Parliamentary committee, and I certainly will not waste your time by going into it.

MR. LYNE'S EVIDENCE.

Mr. John Lyne, manager of the Wexford Gas Company, was then examined by Mr. T. M. Healy. You are secretary and manager to the Gas Company? Yes. And you have heard the opening statement of the Solicitor-General? Yes. And what he said is accurate? Yes, in the main. Am I right in saying that, taking the original capital of £5,000, you have expended within the last thirty-five years at least £10,000 on capital expenditure? Yes, more than that; besides that £10,000 we have since the year 1866 never charged either for new meters, or for extensions for new services to the capital account; I charge them to revenue. And I understand you give the meters free? Yes, so far. Now in regard to the price—We have been told that during all those times, even while there were coal famines, practically no increase in price of gas was put upon the consumers? That is correct. Even, as I understand, during the last coal famine in 1899—even then in no way did you raise the price on the consumers? No; we had made a contract for coals, which enabled us to save £400 or £500 on that. And the public got the benefit? Yes, to some extent. In the whole history of the consumers' company there is no resolution of the corporation complaining of the price or quality of the gas? No. And I think their one complaint made against you was that you turned off the gas on the street a little earlier than usual? The only form of complaint I got was, I think, in '99, when I got a complaint about some lamps being extinguished at an indefinite time; I did not get day nor date nor hour; that was the only form of complaint I got. Now, in regard to the future—you seek to increase the capital to the extent of from £15,000 to £24,000—you seek provision for an expenditure of £9,000? Yes. Will you tell the Commissioner how you justify that demand? It is like this, sir—This year I find that we had an increase in the making of gas, which practically indicated an increase of consumption equal to about ten per cent. from the 15th of December to the 1st of April, and I think, it is likely, when we have larger mains, which we have already taken steps to provide, that the consumption will be increased in the same ratio next year, when we purpose to give the northern part of the town a better supply. That being so, we would be limited in the amount of gas that our present works would produce. We have not the room for a larger production till we extend

we will have practically to erect new gas works except gas holders that will entail a large expenditure, and will oblige us to

write off a fund for the purpose. Expenses by the time we have extended the new capacity we will have an increased business, which will enable us to pay an increased dividend without raising the price of gas. Mr. Healy—You come to the conclusion that to meet the capital demands of the future an increased expenditure of £9,000 will be necessary? Yes; that at the very least.

The Cross-examination.

Cross-examined by Mr. Will—Have you made a detailed estimate of this £9,000? Yes, and Mr. Hunt will give evidence on the point; I have myself made a rough estimate. When you asked for £3,000 you are expected to say, and I am entitled to ask what it is for? I will read them out for you with pleasure. A copy of the estimated expenditure was handed in.

Mr. Will—Did you or Mr. Hunt draw this up? I made it up roughly, and Mr. Hunt has gone over it since. And then Mr. Hunt is the gentleman responsible? Take, for example, the works for distribution—You have to keep them up from time to time, of revenue? Yes. Then that is the main thing that requires this new expenditure? You see the mains have become too small for us now owing to the increased consumption of gas. The retort house is the principal item? Yes. How many retorts have you at present? We have thirty-six only. In us? No. You have some spare ones? We had twelve spare ones, but they were not equally productive as the others that we have in use; if we had the increased mains this year we would only have six to spare, and that would be too small a margin. Now, over and above this you are asking for borrowing powers? You may reason in asking for borrowing powers was to enable us to get loans otherwise than by debentures. Commissioner—I think you may cut out that £2,000 for the two schooners. Mr. Will—Yes, I noticed that; I want to shorten this. You stated you received no complaints from the corporation. I think you will admit that there has been dissatisfaction in this town in connection with the illuminating power and pressure; I don't want to say too much, but isn't that so? Witness—There has been some, and it is usual if there is any deficiency in pressure to attribute that deficiency to the deficiency of lighting power. What is the illuminating power you have been supplying? Mr. Lyne—Fourteen candlepower. And the pressure? The pressure at the works will be at about one and a half inch; that would come down to a low pressure in the north end of the town during lighting hours. Your works are at present sufficient to supply fourteen candlepower? Oh, yes. And now the corporation intimated you to apply for a Provisional Order? Yes. That was, I think, early in 1902. Solicitor-General—That was on the 28th of January. Then did you ask your company to write to the corporation asking for their approval to the Provisional Order on the 6th of November? I forget the date. Mr. Healy—We admit that is the date. Mr. Will—You asked for their approval before the corporation knew anything of the contents of the draft order? Now, after that Provisional Order was submitted that they asked for permission to see the books of the Gas Company at the works? Yes. Why was that refused? On the advice of counsel. Mr. Will—I don't want to read his opinion. Solicitor-General—You have not got it; you are making a virtue of necessity. I may mention that the opinion was that of a distinguished colleague of your own at the English Bar (laughter). I may re-lieve your mind by saying it was not his. Mr. Will—I wish we had him here. Under cross-examination (laughter). On the rightly or wrongly, I am not attributing blame to you for this matter. Rightly or wrongly you refused to allow the corporation permission to inspect the accounts to the Gas Company? Witness—Yes; because it came to our knowledge at the time that the corporation had some of our published accounts dealing with the most important years we had. Mr. Will—The public didn't see your accounts; my instructions don't agree with your statement. Witness—Yes; I say the corporation had our accounts for the last and previous year. You mean published accounts? Yes. Published accounts for last year are no guide. I submit they are a good guide. When changed your mind last Thursday when you wrote to the corporation stating that they might look at your books? Yes; on the advice of counsel again.

Solicitor-General—That was when I came on the scene; I knew they would not be happy till they got them (laughter). Mr. Healy—That's our open Irish way; the moment an Irish counsel comes in he gives everything away (laughter). Mr. Will—I think my learned friend ought to admit that it would have been too late on Thursday last to give us the permission to examine the books. Solicitor-General—I admit only that they never had the slightest intention of employing experts. Mr. Will—My friend referred to a resolution by which the corporation decided not to employ experts; that was because you refused to let them see your books? Witness—Well, sir, as to your engineer, he could have got into the works on the same day that ours did. You never gave permission? I beg your pardon, you got permission on Thursday. When did Mr. Hunt come? On Thursday. Mr. Will—And you only wrote to us on Thursday that it would be possible to come and inspect the place, and I don't think it would be possible to bring an expert from England there who would

Mr. Healy—You could have been in time to climb up every lamp-post in Wexford (laughter). Mr. Will—You will take the account ending Nov. 1, 1900; will you tell me how much June, 2s. 10d. produced? Witness—It produced £1,823 10s. 6d.; but that was produced in a year in which we made some profits on coal, and you know, apart from our working as a Gas Company, we made a profit in coal. Mr. Will—This is the deal in coal. Mr. Will—This is the account for the year ending 30th of June, 1901. Now you observe that having reduced your price in 1899 to 2s. 10d., this account which ended 30th of June, 1901, shows the result of that reduction the profits made. It appears that the balance from the revenue account was £1,619? Witness—Yes. Upon the capital in your capital account of £6,000? I beg your pardon, the capital actually then was £7,676. But your profit balance was £1,619? Yes. That was over 25 per cent. profit? I have not calculated it. Besides that, in the balance sheet you have profits undivided to the amount of £1,800; that is at a price of 2s. 10d.? Yes, but that is accumulating for years you know. Yes, there is some substance in that, but as to the 2s. 10d. did you very well? Yes, undoubtedly. Now take the next year. Before the next year's account the corporation had next year to apply for a Provisional Order, and let us see what you proceeded to do. You proceeded to allot £3,000 shares. Solicitor-General—That was during the previous year. Mr. Healy—Your resolution to us was subsequent to our change of capital. Mr. Will—Well, between the account for the period the year ended June, 1901, and the year ended June, 1902, £3,000 shares had been issued. Solicitor-General—Yes; before you wrote the letter. Witness—Yes, a considerable time before that. Mr. Will—You have £4,200 unpaid on the £3,000 shares? Yes. That is available capital? Yes. Let us see what other available capital you have at present; you have a capital undivided of £1,664? Witness—Out of which a dividend has been taken for this year. Well, it won't absorb that much; it won't absorb £1,000? It will absorb £800, but it will be more next year. What is the £1,500 allotted for renewals? To replace plant worn out. You have that money on hands? We have not it actually in hand; of course it is going about in debts and goods. Therefore, of this £4,200 you have £1,500 practically in hand and £1,664 in hands? Portion of that has been written off as a reserve fund. But in the meantime you have it in hand; you may call up £4,200 at any moment? Yes, giving reasonable notice, of course. You don't expect to commence these new works for which you require £9,000 immediately? No, for I want other works immediately. What are the most pressing works? I want to enlarge purifiers, new large condensers, and a gas-holder we cannot rely on, when wants to be re-erected and telescoped at a cost of £2,000, for which available capital for renewal will suffice. You have discovered now that the whole plant is going to ruin? My dear sir, we are always doing some repairs. Is any part of them in a good state? Yes. Over what period do you expect you will require that capital? I expect to be using that capital within the next five years. Could you tell me how much you spent during the last ten years in the upkeep and renewal of the works? I could not really say? Mr. Will—Have you spent £10,000? Witness—You mean what we charge direct to revenue account? Mr. Will—What have you spent during the last ten years? You want to spend £9,000 in five years; what have you spent in the last ten years? Mr. Healy—Are you speaking of the revenue account or the capital account? Mr. Will—The accounts are so kept that I cannot tell what goes to the revenue and what to the capital account. Witness—I beg your pardon; it is quite clear. Mr. Will—What have you spent during the last ten years on your capital account? Mr. Healy—The question of what is really a capital charge is a very difficult general matter. I would suggest that you ask in a general way what would be the expenditure for the last ten years. Mr. Will—What have you spent upon capital purposes for renewals during the last ten years? Witness—I have here the balance sheet for 1898, and the expenditure was £1,989 9s. 2d. for the new gas holder. Portion of that, £601, was balance on our unexpended capital of £1,000; the remainder (about £1,300) was borne out of profits. In that same year we spent on wear and tear, meter services and maintenance of works £268 6d.—that is £2,400 that year on all work. That was a good year for you? Yes, sir, and for the gas consumers. Mr. M. J. (Counsel)—A good year for Wexford (laughter). Mr. Healy—The year '98 (laughter). Mr. Will—This document which has been handed to me shows £10,000 expended; may I say for all purposes capital, and revenue? Witness—Not at all; only for capital. That is from 1898 to 1902 the total capital is £10,300? Yes. Now, taking the years from 1899 to 1902, during which ten years you spent £4,000, you have done that for a 3s. rate eight years from 1898 to the present time? Yes. Mr. Healy—That there has been a constant complaint regarding the pressure in the north of the town owing to small mains. Mr. Will—So that according to those figures you have made £6,000 for the last ten years over and above the dividend? I suppose those are the correct figures. How long have you paid that 10 per cent. dividend? From the first. I see frequent mention of the items of expenditure on mains for those years? Yes, that means enlargement of mains

it does not mean in all cases actually new mains; when we take up a main and find portions of it good enough we relay it; the cost of relaying is the only cost we charge; we don't take credit for any mains we take up. Taking the year ending next June, you anticipate a good thing out of it? I think it will be rather less than the last year; we have derived a good benefit from our sale of coke; our sale for it is not so good as it should be during the winter; we sell it at lower prices than we should have sold it, and we were selling it this year at a reduction of a penny per bushel for portions of the year, and for other a half-penny; we were selling it at 4d. instead of 4½d. and 5d. a bushel. Mr. Will—Yes, but tar is going up. Witness—But tar, I must say, is not going up much; that is one of our worst products. Mr. Will—Having quoted the 80th article of Association, drew attention to the fact that under the article the company could not draw a higher dividend than ten per cent. Solicitor-General—They have power to change the article at any time they like. Mr. Healy—Will you explain your reasons for not undertaking the substantial deepening of certain of the sewers of the town? Mr. Will—We have agreed on that point. Commissioner—I understand you to say, as a matter of fact, you want £17,252. You asked for £9,000, and borrowing powers of £6,000, and with £4,200 of expended capital that would be £19,000. That is about £2,000 more than what you asked for. Witness—We want a margin, too; we want every penny of it. Chairman—But you don't show it. Witness—It will be shown to you, sir.

MR. HUNT'S EVIDENCE.

Examined by the Solicitor-General, Mr. Charles Hunt said—I am a member of the Institute of Civil Engineers and past president of the Institution of Gas Engineers. I am practising in Westminster, and have had experience of the management of gas undertakings for over thirty years. As Chief Engineer to the the Windsor-street Gas Works belonging to the Corporation of Birmingham I made an examination of the works of the Wexford Company and am able to make an independent examination of them. Solicitor-General—Have you made any estimate having regard to the progress of the works and the increase in gas consumption of the amount that will be required in the immediate future in the way of expenditure? Yes; on the expenditure on the next 12 years, and I calculate that the increased consumption will be 21,000,000 per annum; that is, calculating on the basis of the last five years which had been nearly an increase of 4½ per cent. the five years previous to that showing only an increase of 3 per cent. compound. On the basis of annual consumption does the proposed capital of £24,000 compare favourably with that of other towns? Yes; at the present time, taken on the basis of the proposed expenditure it will still be very favourable. You are acquainted with the present prices of gas in other towns in England similar in size and situation to Wexford? Yes. Two shillings and tenpence is the minimum, I suppose? Yes, in Ireland with the exception of Belfast. Could you describe the nature of those works that will be required in the near future? Certainly; the immediate expenditure required is £4,400 for the additional enlargement of mains, new condensers, additional purifiers and for the telescoping of one gas-holder. Commissioner—When you enlarge the means you charge the whole on the capital? No, only the difference in cost. Solicitor-General—Would that expenditure on further increases beyond what was supplied last year of five millions per annum, leaving 16,000,000 to be provided for out of the new capital? I estimate that the new works will require an expenditure of about £700 per million, which works out at £11,200, which added to £4,400, makes £15,600. In laying regard to the annual increase in consumption you think your estimate is a reasonable one? I think so; very reasonable. Am I right in saying that in places like Wexford there seems to be a greatly increasing demand for gas for domestic purposes? Yes; and that fact has hardly been touched in Wexford up to the present. Did you test the illuminating power? I did. What is it? It made it fourteen and a quarter candles. Now, in your opinion, what would be sufficient requirement for a place like Wexford? Fourteen candles is ample. You know the standard price suggested? Yes, I think 2s. 10d. is an exceedingly low price, and when a low price is fixed a margin is required. I saw that in London a short time ago they had to increase their prices 6d. and 7d. per thousand owing to the rise in coal. Everywhere labour is a varying element you know? Yes; and it is a cause of increasing cost and of course, therefore, of increasing the cost of gas.

The Cross-examination.

Mr. Will—You saw those works for the first time on last Thursday? Yes. Suppose you were told that the company went in there in 1865, and down to 1892 the capital was £6,000? Yes. And you heard to-day that from the year 1893 down to 1902 the whole money expended upon capital purposes has been £4,000? Yes. Has the consumption of gas been increasing in the past? Yes, and latterly in increasing ratio. When you say latterly you mean when? Within the last five years. Your calculations are based upon the assumption that the present use of gas will be doubled in 12 years? Well, no; not doubled—21,000,000 or 22,000,000. To what do you look for this increase? I don't know. I don't know the increased potentialities of the system. I think would be the prepaid metre system which has been hardly adopted yet, and with such a population I consider there is a large field for this system. Up to a

point? Yes. I won't go into the question of decreasing population, but is there any other element which you consider in your twelve years' calculations with the increase of 21 millions? Further increasing consumption is going on, and now I understand there are only half a dozen gas cooking stoves in use in the town at present. There is nothing else you have to rely upon for the increase? No; but probably some increase will be accounted for by the manufacture of machines, as I understand they are made in the town. We have not been allowed to see the works; how are they? Are they in good order? Yes, very. What power are they capable of supplying? Fourteen and a quarter candles. Coal gas? Yes. Is the pressure good? Pressure at the works is good, but the pressure throughout the system is not good everywhere. To what is that due? To insufficient mains. With sufficient mains could that be cured? Yes, and a heavier consumption would follow. There is no doubt but with the present works there are making fourteen candles power gas and making the company good profit and something over? There are no such large profits now. Mr. Will—They are paying 10 per cent. Witness—Yes, but upon a small capital. And saved £6,000 within the last ten years? Yes, but that won't go on because there is further expenditure of capital. I see here "new coal stores in yards 4 and 5, £1,500?" Yes. That is a large cost I think. What is the reason for the coal stores? They are more shelter, and don't cover the whole yards. What is the size of the mains? Half of the present mains are three inches and under. How long have they been down? I suppose as long as the company are supplying gas. And only now you discovered they are wanted? Yes; now that the consumption is increasing. Commissioner—How long do you think your estimate will last? Witness—Ten or twelve years. Isn't the general thing eight or ten years? No; generally ten or twelve I think. As regards the standard price—You fixed the standard price at 2s. 6d., and what was the result? I estimate on the basis of last year's return; the gas manufactured was then nearly 2s., and the profits worked out a 9s. Supposing you increased the price of gas could you increase it up to 3s. 9d. and still pay ten per cent.? Yes, with a reduction of dividend.

MR. WILL'S ADDRESS.

Mr. Will—The position of the corporation in this matter is this—They represent, of course, the consumers, and it is expected of them on an occasion like this that they should do their endeavour to protect those consumers by seeing that the charges as proposed be made as reasonable and proper charges which would be substantiated by the Board of Trade, and that the capital proposed is such as would keep the company within the Parliamentary limits, and as to the proposals of the Bill, that they are fair, just and reasonable. Now, my learned friend made a great deal of the negotiations that have taken place, and I have an impression, which I claim as a correct one, that the corporation have been most fair and above board in this matter. They have shown that their whole desire has been to do what is fair and just in the interests of the consumers. You must remember, on the other hand, that they have not had the assistance of an expert accountant and engineer, and the reason for that is because of the unusual course which has been taken up by the Gas Company in this case of refusing access to their works. Now, then, I think that my learned friend's allusion with this matter when he refers to the negotiations and offers that we have made to the company, and he ought to have borne in mind that we have not had the opportunity in this matter. Now, of course, my friend operates this for what it is worth, and it is an undoubted fact that the Corporation of Wexford invited the Gas Company to come here for the Provisional Order, but while on the one hand they do that, they naturally expect to have from my friend's clients the reasonable information which would give them an opportunity of finding out what was right and fair. Yet from that time down to last Thursday that information and opportunity have been refused. Now, my friend's clients—I don't propose to read the letter, because they have ready access to it—wrote to us on the 6th of November asking our consent and approval of the order now sought. Now, I don't wish to complain in this matter—all the gentlemen concerned are men of position and substance in this town—but I will review by way of explanation what happened. They sent us the Provisional Order for approval before we ever knew anything of its contents. Then we asked for access to the works and the books, and this was denied. What then was the course left to the corporation to pursue, being in the dark as to what the capital ought to be, what the accounts would show—in the dark as to what the price was to have been. They actually proposed in that draft order to have

handed, as I said, a Plan and out, there were seven cases of Provisional Order introduced, the sliding scale was introduced, but I don't find a single case in which the neutral zone was sanctioned. Now, so far as the 3s. 9d. is concerned, it is a matter of common knowledge that the corporation have always stood against that figure. Now, dealing with the £4,000 worth of shares, my learned friend says you precedents from Waterford and Queenstown and says they are cases in point. He says that the money authorities to be distributed as paid up shares was money that might have been divided. Now, my friend, when he reads that statement did not see the full force of it, and should have known that this money could not have been paid as dividend under the 80th article of association.

Mr. Healy—We could have changed that at any moment.

Mr. Will—But you didn't. My learned friend himself referred to the prospectus. He showed a sheet issued at the time the company was formed which said that the dividend was to be limited to ten per cent., and that any profits arising out of that sum would go to the reduction of the price of gas and to keep the works in order. I want to call attention to this—the moment we invited them to put their house in order and go for Parliamentary powers the following takes place. You see they have been getting on with this £6,000 as a whole capital up to the end of the account for the year ending 30th June 1901. This £6,000 was the whole capital, and they have out of the profits expended £9,000 or £10,000, money which they had raised upon works, as shown upon the table handed to me. Very well now, the moment the matter came up for consideration as to the method of proceeding regarding the order the scene changes. Having read a letter under date 18th February, 1902, from Mr. Lyne in reply to the correspondence from Mr. Browne, town clerk, Mr. Will proceeded—in June, 1902, the company set about raising new capital, and raised another £10,000, of which £1,200 was paid up. They allotted the £3,000 in shares, and if you look to the Revenue account you will find that the directors' fees were going up, that the salaries were going up, that the wear and tear of meter services and lamps were going up.

Mr. Healy—How much are the salaries going up?

Mr. Will—You will see that it is £465; that is not much though.

Mr. Healy—And they were £395 before. Perhaps they raised the salary of one of their clerks.

Mr. Will—What then is the sum that the 3s. rate or the 2s. 10d. rate produces—£2,600 within the last ten years, and I submit that 2s. 10d. is as large a sum as they ought to be allowed to charge, and certainly if you are against me upon that point I think 3s. at the outside should be the figure.

Commissioner—You mean a fixed maximum?

Mr. Will—Yes, for standard, if you are against us. I am willing to concede them the sliding scale, but

A Sliding Scale Without a Neutral Zone.

Mr. Healy—Well I suppose you won't suggest that in your next famous book (laughter).

Mr. Will—There is one important point to bear in mind in this matter, and that is that no more expenditure will be necessary in the production of a candle power equal to fourteen. You have it from the last witness that they are producing fourteen candle-power gas, and a little over at the present works. Therefore, this is not a case in which the company are entitled to plead that the gas Works will not in future be able to give the candle power that will be required of them. Now having regard to the pressure, Mr. Hunt said that the works at present were sufficient to give 1½ inch, and when the mains were renewed that will right itself. Now, then as regards Mr. Hunt's figures, I submit that these figures are outside figures, and everybody accustomed to these matters knows that engineers when called to give expert evidence for a company are naturally anxious to include everything which the most improbable contingency may render necessary. Now, sir, to some extent his evidence on this matter as to the nature of the repairs and improvement, it may possibly be that they are necessary. I have no means of contravening his statements, but I think they should be taken with a grain of salt, and for this reason, that we have been refused access to have the place and books examined and I am only groping in the dark now, as to the question of the £3,000, and how it affects the matter.

This £3,000 Was Unlawful.

It has been unlawfully issued, and unlawfully issued in this way—You can't issue fully paid up shares to shareholders, and the courts have held that a shareholder must be a person who pays for his shares. You can't give shareholders shares for nothing—fully paid up—he must pay for them.

Mr. Healy—Are not these in the cases of the winding up companies?

Mr. Will—It does not do for the company to pay for the shares and give them to the shareholders, and accordingly it has been held in winding up cases that the shareholder is in this position—that he must not only pay for them, but he must also receive any dividend that he has received upon them. I can't do better than quote the reasoning of Lord Justice Lindley who puts this matter very clearly. Solicitor-General—I don't think it is necessary to go into that. I don't dispute the principles at all.

Having quoted Lord Justice Lindley in the case of the Marine Insurance Com-

January 1893, and the case heard in the House of Lords of the Oregon Gold Mining Company v. Roper, 1892 (appeal case 125). Mr. Will continued—My learned friend says that we are outsiders, and I think he is in error. We represent the town and the consumers as far as they are concerned with this case. On the new capital asked to be authorised the consumers are asked to pay dividends upon £3,000 and not only that, but if there is to be a sliding scale the consumers are asked to pay more than 5 per cent. in certain contingencies upon the £3,000. More than that still in the clauses with regard to the borrowing powers, the £3,000 are to be calculated, but the particular point is that the consumers are asked to pay a dividend upon that £3,000, and therefore, I say it is not a point to be put on one side at all; it is a fair legitimate point.

In the Interest of the Consumers, and should be raised before you. It works out in such a way that it enables instead of an increase of the ten per cent. a payment to the shareholders of 12½ per cent. I submit then I have answered my friend's arguments that I am no outsider, and my clients no outsiders in this matter. If you see fit in regard to the illuminating power, I shall be disposed to accept fourteen candle-power. If my friend would meet me in some way, and I won't labour the question of pressure, but we ought to be allowed to test it some place near the works, and in regard to the death of the pipes you require no more about that, because what my learned friend suggested I will accept—that the clause be adopted—"whenever reasonable practicable." In regard to the purchase clause, my friend has risen as far as three years. I don't think that I shall be justified in asking for any longer period than that. Now there remains this to be said—That up to the present moment my consent and the consent of the corporation has been withheld, and rightly withheld, and I submit for your consideration that the course taken by the other side could not be justified. I therefore insist on the protection of the interests of the consumers, and on the part of the corporation, consent to willingness to meet the other side and put our heads together. Failing in that I will ask the Board of Trade not to give their assent to the order without permission being given for an engineer and expert visiting the works to see their position and condition.

Solicitor-General—I don't think it right that you should be bringing out this matter of the accountant and engineer, because I have here on the public papers the

distinct statement made by the corporation that they would not employ experts.

Mr. Will—That is because they would not be allowed into the works.

Solicitor-General—No; it was on the ground of expense, and expense only, that they refused to employ experts.

Mr. Will—What was the use of incurring expense in bringing down skilled engineers and accountants when they would not be permitted into the works?

Solicitor-General—That was not the ground on which they did not employ them; it is solely on the grounds of the expense.

Mr. Will—A gas accountant and engineer on whatever side are a great value to the court in assessing.

Commissioner—I don't purpose to give any decision at the present moment. I was going to say only that the capital of the proposed company must be reduced somewhat. Of that I am quite sure. I think Mr. Hunt's estimate is rather liberal, too, and I think ten or twelve years is rather more than usual, and will, I think, have to be reduced somewhat. Then I think the maximum price must be modified. I don't like that neutral zone, and I think it is too large, but I should like to consider that point. I am not prepared to say at present exactly whether it should be a fixed sum. Better, I think, have the sliding scale, and the corporation for its would be in a better position in some respects.

THE RESULT.

An adjournment was then made, and on resuming at half-past two o'clock,

The Solicitor-General said—My friends and my colleagues met, and with the assistance of our clients, who have shown a disposition to meet one another in this matter, I think we will be able to come to an agreement with regard to those matters that were really in dispute. First of all the question of illuminating power. There was a contest as between thirteen and sixteen, and we have agreed that the illuminating power shall be fourteen, coupling that with a clause taken from the West Ham Provisional Order. That the capital be fixed at £20,000 is agreed to, and the borrowing powers to be, of course, one-fourth of that—another £5,000. Well, then, as regards the price, we have agreed that there should be a sliding scale from 3s. 4d. to 2s. 10d., we undertaking that as heretofore there shall be no charge for meters. There is to be a purchase clause to be put in operation within three years, and to contain the usual clause for the protection of existing officers. It is also part of the arrangement that the price in the event of the purchase being arrived at is not to be enhanced by reason of the Provisional Order.

Commissioner—Well, then you will kindly submit that clause now or send them to me.

Mr. Will—It is in the amendment to be handed in. It is provided also that in assessing the sum to be paid by the corporation to the Gas Company in the event of the sale, the value of the undertaking would not be deemed to be enhanced by reason of the fact that the company have obtained this Act.

Solicitor-General—Of course they will regard the capital value in assessing it, and the fact of our having the benefit of statutory powers shall not be deemed an enhancement by reason of the company having acquired those statutory powers. Then we have agreed about the depth of the pipes, which are to be laid to a certain depth "as far as reasonably practicable." Those are really the only points in dispute.

Commissioner—Now, then, shall I get the consent of the corporation?

Mr. Will—I am happy to say that having put our heads together, we have arrived at a solution that will meet with your approval. We think it is for the benefit of the town, and that being so, the corporation will upon these terms give their consent.

Commissioner—Very well; I should like to have their consent formally given.

Mr. Will—Quite right. A special meeting shall be convened and the requirements of the Board of Trade complied with.

Commissioner—I think that is all gentlemen.

The Solicitor-General and Mr. Will having thanked the Commissioner for the manner in which he conducted the inquiry, and Mr. Pelham having acknowledged the compliment, the proceedings ended.

14th April 1903.

A Special Meeting of the Council was held this day pursuant to the Mayor's requisition, at the Town Hall at noon.

The members present were

Alderman - George Sadden

Councillors - Joseph Doyle, Cameron Rogers, William Hyangan,
James Hare, Robert Stanton, John Tygh, Joseph Kelly,
James H. Hyaton

Mrs W. J. Connor Corporation Solicitor was also in attendance
Councillor Rowe acted as Chairman in the absence of the Mayor

The minutes of meeting of 30th March 1903 were read & signed.

The Financial Statement Book of Receipts was produced, examined and authenticated by the signature of the Chairman and the counter-signature of the Clerk showing the sums which had been received in the month of March and the ledger entries to be made in respect of same.

The Financial Statement Book of Expenditure was also produced, examined and authenticated by the signature of the Chairman and the counter-signature of the Clerk showing the sums which had been ordered for payment at the Stated Finance Meeting held next before the above mentioned day being in respect of expenses incurred up to the last day of the preceding month and the ledger entries to be made in respect of same.

The Ledger was also produced posted up to the day of the last Stated Finance Meeting with the proper debits and credits as ordered on that day.

Reference was made to the fact that a compromise had been effected between the Corporation and the Gas Consumers' Co after evidence had been taken and the arguments of Council had been heard at the Board of Trade Inquiry held in Wexford on Monday 6th Instant into the matter of the proposed Wexford Gas Provisional Order.

Having regard to this fact it was necessary that the formal consent of the Corporation should be given to the draft Provisional Order on its being altered and amended in manner agreed to by Council on behalf of both of the contending parties and the present meeting was summoned chiefly with the object of such formal consent being given.

It appeared however from a letter received from Mr Vesey Knox B.L. that the Corporation was not in a position to give its consent to the draft Provisional Order. It was therefore necessary that the amendments to be introduced in the matter it was necessary that the amendments to be introduced

into the Order should be framed and assented to by the Solicitors on both sides, and the Corporation Solicitor said that this could not be accomplished for at least ten days. Thereupon it was resolved on the motion of Councillor Rogers seconded by Councillor Mangan that this meeting at its rising do stand adjourned till Monday 27th Inst to adopt such resolution as may be advised in order to carry out on the part of the Corporation the terms of the settlement come to at the Inquiry into the matter of the Wexford Gas Order.

The Local Government Board per their letter No 17,378: 1903 dated 31st March 1903 forwarded a copy of a Provisional Order dated 24th March 1903 made by them exempting the Town of Wexford from contributing to various County Charges and requiring the County Council of Wexford to pay each year to the Town a sum equal to $\frac{2}{45}$ th of the expense of maintaining main roads in the County at large so as to put the financial relations between the Town and the County on an equitable basis.

Thereupon it was ordered - That in accordance with the instructions of the Local Government Board as contained in their letter above cited the Town Clerk be requested to write to Herbert E. Boyce Esq. Local Government Board Whitehall asking him to take charge of the Bill to be introduced into Parliament to confirm the Provisional Order.

Mr R. G. Allanson - Winn of 22 South Frederick Street Dublin stated by letter that in ~~conjunction~~ conjunction with another Engineer he was working out a Scheme for supplying certain Irish Towns with Electricity either for lighting or traction or both and he wished to know if the Corporation would be disposed to consider the question of making use of the supply if the cost per Board of Trade Unit worked out at a very moderate figure. It was probable that in adopting electricity for say lighting considerable profits and economies would be effected in his opinion by the Corporation.

It was ordered - That Mr Allanson - Winn be informed that the Corporation would be inclined to look favourably upon any Scheme calculated to effect improvement and saving in lighting and supplying power by electric energy.

John Mangan
Mayor

20th April 1903.

An informal meeting of the Council was held this day in the Hotel at noon.

The members present were

Aldermen - George Hadden, Walter Walsh.

Councillors - Joseph Doyle, Michael Connor, John Tyghe, John Connor, James H. Mason, William Hangan, Nicholas O'Neill, Joseph Kelly, James Hore, Richard Crabbe, Howard Rowe.

Mr W. J. Connor Corporation Solicitor was also in attendance.

Councillor Rowe acted as Chairman in the absence of the Mayor.

The Corporation Solicitor stated that since the date of last meeting of the Council it had transpired that the Amendments to be introduced into the Wexford Gas Provisional Order pursuant to the agreement come to at the Board of Trade Inquiry on the 6th Instant would require to be lodged with the Board of Trade on or before the 25th Inst and therefore it was necessary that a resolution of the Corporation consenting to the terms of the Order subject to the amendments being inserted should be adopted at once. He had however to point out that there was one question on which he and the Solicitors of the Gas Company in framing the amendments were at variance. This was the question of pressure. He understood that by the terms of the compromise the pressure between sunset and midnight was to be one inch and in this view he was supported by Council for the Corporation whereas the Gas Company were labouring under the belief that the pressure between sunset and midnight was to be only eight tenths of an inch and they were not disposed to give way on the point.

He had however communicated with Mr Pelham Commissioner of the Board of Trade pointing out where the Gas Company in their correspondence previous to the Inquiry had offered to supply gas under pressure of one inch up to midnight though they tried now to recede from that position and he had therefore with Councils advice framed the amendments to the Order in the terms as understood by him as regards pressure and was prepared to lodge them with the Board of Trade in due time on obtaining the necessary authorization from the present meeting.

The meeting entered on a discussion which circled mainly round the question of the bonus shares, which as was shown at the Inquiry had been issued by the Gas Company in an irregular manner. Some members considered it was a mistake on the part of the Corporation to overlook this irregularity notwithstanding the

concessions on other points made by the Gas Company, but the following resolution was adopted on a division having been taken, six members being for, and five against the proposition and two members refraining from taking part in the division.

Proposed by Alderman Madden seconded by Councillor Hyattson
That the Corporation do hereby, as local authority and road authority within the meaning of the Gas and Water Works Facilities Act 1870 assent to the Provisional Order for which application has been made to the Board of Trade by the Wexford Gas Consumers' Company, on the promoters undertaking to procure the insertion therein of the amendments, whereof copies have been initialled in triplicate by Mr O'Connor as Solicitor to the Corporation.

John Clancy
Mayor

22nd April 1903

A Special Meeting of the Council was held this day in the Town Hall at 7:30 P.M.

The members present were

John Clancy Esq Mayor (in the chair)

Aldermen - Walter Walsh, Martin Kehoe.

Councillors - Joseph Doyle, John Tygh, Howard Rowe, Joseph Kingsbury,
William Hyangan, James Hore, Benjamin Hughes,
Joseph Kelly, Michael O'Connor, James H. Hyattson,
Nicholas O'Neill, Cameron Rogers, James J. Stafford,
John O'Connor.

The minutes of meetings of 14th and of the 20th Inst were read & signed.
A report from the Finance and Works Committee showed that they had examined the Poor Rate Collectors Accounts for half year ended 31st March 1903 and found that out of the total assessments there were items of Rate amounting to £24:3:1 which were irrecoverable, these having been assessed on premises which proved to have been for a part or for the whole of that period unoccupied.
The Waterworks Committee reported on the Water Rate Account of the outstanding Rates the sum of £21:4:0½ was found to be irrecoverable and the rest of the outstanding Rate £6:6:11 was collectible and to be carried forward as arrears.

These reports were adopted nem. con.

Reference was made to the vacancy created in one of the offices

of Aldermen of St. Sileas Ward by the late demise of Alderman Patrick Ryan whereupon it was proposed by Councillor Hore seconded by Councillor Rowe and adopted unanimously.

That we take this the earliest opportunity of expressing our regret at the death of our lamented colleague the late Patrick Ryan who as a valued and useful citizen, as an Alderman of the Corporation, and in his capacity of Chief Magistrate of this Borough for two years, as well as in all his other relations of life possessed, in a high degree, the respect, confidence and esteem of the Corporation and of the entire community of the town of Wexford; that an expression of our sympathy be conveyed to his relict Mrs Ryan.

Letter No 21, 733/1903 dated 21st April 1903 from the Local Government Board was read communicating the sanction of that Department to the appointment of Mr Patrick Shanahan as Town Surveyor of Wexford at a salary of £40. a year. The making of Rates for the service of the current financial year was proceeded with when on the motion of Councillor Rogers seconded by Councillor Hangan it was Resolved - That there be now struck the undernamed Rates and Assessments as agreed to on 23rd Decmo.

A Borough Rate of One Shilling, a Rate in lieu of Co. Cess of One Shilling and Sixpence, a Public Water Rate of Elevenpence, a Domestic Water Rate of One Shilling and a Poor Rate of Two Shillings and sixpence in the Pound on the net assessable value of property within the Borough for the services of the year ending 31st March 1904 and that the Books containing the items of these various assessments be now sealed and signed. The various Rate Books were then sealed and signed.

John Clancy
Mayor

4th May 1903.

A Statutable Meeting of the Council was held this day in the Tholsel at noon.

There were present

John Clancy Esq. Mayor (in the Chair)

Aldermen - Walter Walsh & Matthew J. Furlong.

Councillors - Joseph Kelly, James Cullimore, James Aore,

Benjamin Hughes, Howard Rowe, William Hyangan,

John Tygh, James H. Gahan, Joseph Kingsbury,

Robert Stanton.

The minutes of meeting of 22nd April ultimo were read & signed. The following is a copy of a letter which was read and which on the motion of Councillor Hughes seconded by Councillor Stanton was ordered to be inserted on the minutes.

Westgate, Wexford. 2nd May 1903.

W^m A. Browne Esq^r

Town Clerk

Dear Sir. I am deeply grateful for your kind letter of the 24th ulto. transmitting a copy of the vote of condolence of the Corporation of Wexford on the death of my husband. From the time he first became a member of the Corporation his colleagues in the Council were invariably most kind to him. Their vote of condolence which is couched in such touching language will do much to lighten our burden on his death. Pray convey to the Corporation the expression of my deep gratitude. May I also take this opportunity of thanking you personally for your great kindness.

Yours truly
H. J. Ryan.

Liabilities which had accrued due up to the end of last month amounting in the aggregate to £331. 15. 10 were submitted to the meeting and having been examined were approved and an authorization was signed to enable the Treasurer to pay them on presentation to him of Paying Orders numbered from 40 to 44 inclusive.

Summary and Reconciliation of Treasurers Account for the month ended the last day of April 1903 including the payments made at the Stated Finance Meeting held on this day.

Summary

Balance due by Treasurer as per last monthly statement

Total sum received to close of last month

Balance due to Treasurer as per last monthly statement

Payments ordered at the Finance Meeting

Net Balance due to Treasurer being difference of above totals

919	15	9
31	13	0
951	9	9
-	-	-
1331	15	9
380	6	8

Reconciliation.

Balance per Bank Books due by Treasurer	951	9	8
Outstanding Orders (including those issued at this meeting)	1331	15	10
Total	2283	5	6
Yet Balance as above due to Treasurer	380	6	2

The zeal and ability which the present Postmaster of Wexford always displayed in the discharge of his duties and the various useful reforms which he was instrumental in bringing about in the Postal and Telegraph Services in Wexford District were matters to which reference was made. From what fell from members it appeared to be opportune at the present time when a chance of promotion had presented itself to Mr Parker that the Corporation should mark their appreciation of his services to the public.

Thereupon it was resolved on the motion of Councillor Hyangan seconded by Councillor Rowe.

That we the Members of Wexford Corporation desire to place on record our appreciation of the efforts of Mr J. R. Parker Postmaster of Wexford in improving the Postal and Telegraph facilities in Wexford District since he came here in 1894 and we wish to bring his efficiency and courtesy to the public under the favourable notice of the Postal Authorities with a view to his further advancement in the Postal Service.

Regarding the vacancy created in the office of County Councillor for Wexford by the demise of the late Alderman Ryan the following resolution was adopted viz

Proposed by Councillor Hyangan seconded by Councillor Bullimore.

That as a vacancy has occurred in one of the two offices of County Councillor for the Urban District of Wexford and as the duty will devolve on the County Council to fill the vacancy by co-option we respectfully suggest to the members of the County Council the propriety of co-opting the present Mayor of Wexford as representing the Borough.

B. J. H. C.

2nd June 1903.

A Statutable Meeting of the Council was held this day in the School at noon.

There were present

Aldermen - Walter Walsh, Matthew Doyle, George Madden,
Martin Stiles.

Councillors - James Hore, James Cullimore, Joseph Kelly,
Joseph Doyle, Edward Hore, Joseph Kingsbury,
Benjamin Hughes.

Councillor Hughes acted as Chairman.

The minutes of meeting of 4th May last were read and signed. Liabilities which had accrued due up to the end of last month amounting in the aggregate to £205:2:9 were submitted to the meeting. They were examined and an authorization was signed to enable the Treasurer to pay them on presentation to him of Paying Orders numbered from 75 to 98 inclusive.

Summary and Reconciliation of Treasurers Account for the month ended 31st May 1903 including the payments made at the meeting held on this day.

Summary

Balance (if any) due by Treasurer as per last monthly statement	919	3	2
Total sum received to close of last month	857	3	2
Total	859	3	2
Balance (if any) due to Treasurer as per last monthly statement	380	6	2
Payments ordered at above mentioned meeting	205	2	9
Total	585	8	11
Net Balance due by Treasurer (being difference of above totals)	333	14	3

Reconciliation

Balance per Bank Books due by Treasurer	540	4	1
Outstanding Orders (including those issued at this meeting)	206	12	9
Net Balance as above due by Treasurer	333	14	3

Two of the items included in the liabilities ordered for payment were made a subject of discussion. These were (1) an item of £12:11: Half years rent due on the Technical School and (2) £6:11:6 costs incurred by the Local Government Board in connection with an application made to that Department for sanction for a loan for a Technical School House. The question raised was were not these items a charge properly on the funds of the Technical Instruction Committee instead of the funds of the Council.

This was granted but yet it was considered advisable for the Council to pay the items for the present in the position to meet the demands on their resources.

Councillor Rowe then proposed the following motion which was seconded by Alderman Madden and adopted.

That in view of the fact that the sum of £3,500 a year has now been placed by Government at the disposal of the Department of Technical Instruction for Ireland for purposes of instruction, and that also at the instance of the Department this Corporation struck a rate of one penny in the Pound for Technical Instruction in Wexford, being assured by the Department of an equivalent grant which said grant has never yet been given, we now respectfully call on the Department to carry out their assurances in this respect.

A list of decisions given by the Commissioner of Valuation in cases where appeals were made to him for a revision of valuation put on premises for rating purposes in various parts of the town was submitted. It was observed that in the case of the newly-reclaimed land of the Wexford Engineering Company the valuation was struck out of the list and the case was transferred to the Schedule of exempted premises. The case seemed to have been treated in an exceptional way so it was decided to write to the Commissioner and ask him for full information on the matter.

An application from the carters in the service of the Council for an increase of wages was read. According to their statement, their wages of 4/- a day was under the standard rate of wages in Wexford. This appeared to be borne out by facts, so on the motion of Councillor Rowe seconded by Councillor Kelly it was

Resolved - That the carters be paid at the rate of 4/6 a day in future.

In response to advertisements published two tenders were received in respect of supplying cement required in the current year. Messrs Thompson Brothers offered to supply the material for 37/- per ton exclusive of the cost of bags and The Wexford Timber Company for 36/6 a ton besides the cost of bags. Both firms would charge 1/- each for any empty bags not returned.

The tender of the Timber Company was accepted on the motion of Councillor Rowe seconded by Alderman St. John.

The following orders were made as to footpaths.

That a concrete footpath be laid in Talbot Street in continuation of the existing footpath there.

That a concrete footpath be laid at the west side of Diamond road from Mr Doyle's premises to where the boundary line of the Borough crosses that road.

That the work of laying footpaths be done by the staff of employees

in charge of the Town Surveyor, instead of being done by contract.

Regarding the suggested demolition of the Tholsel Councillor Cullimore gave notice that he would propose on the earliest available occasion that that building be pulled down and the necessary steps taken to provide a set of Municipal Offices over the market in the Ballring.

On the motion of Alderman Madden seconded by Alderman Walsh it was decided to procure a typewriter of best quality and most modern construction for use in the Town Clerk's Office.

John C. Cawney Mayor

6th July 1903

A Statutable Meeting of the Council was held this day at the Tholsel at noon.

There were present.

Aldermen - Matthew J. Furlong, Walter Walsh, Matthew Doyle, Martin McHae.

Councillors - John Syghe, Joseph Doyle, James J. O'Hara, Joseph Kelly, Michael O'Connor, Benjamin Hughes.

Councillor Hughes acted as Chairman.

Liabilities which had accrued due up to the end of last month amounting in the aggregate to £681: 16: 6 were submitted to the meeting. They were examined and an authorization was signed to enable the Treasurer to pay them on presentation to him of Paying Orders numbered from 101 to 117 inclusive.

Summary and Reconciliation of Treasurers Account for the month ended 30th June 1903 including the payments made at the meeting held on this day.

Summary

Balance (if any) due Treasurer as per last monthly meeting	383	14	3
Total Sum received to close of last month	467	13	
Total	1101	4	3
Balance (if any) due to Treasurer as per last monthly Statement			
Payments ordered at above mentioned meeting	681	16	6
Total	681	16	6
Net Balance due by Treasurer (being difference of above Totals)	419	10	9
Reconciliation			
Balance per Bank Books due by Treasurer	1101	4	3
Outstanding Orders (including the sum of the meeting)	681	16	6
Net Balance as above due by Treasurer	419	10	9

Proposed by Alderman Furlong seconded by Councillor Kelly
That this meeting do now stand adjourned as a mark of respect to the memory of our late Colleague Councillor Rogers whose tragic death on this day has evoked general and profound sorrow throughout this, his adopted town, where his broad-mindedness, integrity and practical sympathy with his fellow-men were admired and appreciated.

Proposed by Councillor Hughes seconded by Councillor Kelly
That a copy of above resolution be conveyed to the deceased Councillors' children in evidence of the sympathy felt for them by this Council in their irreparable loss.

It was then arranged that the postponement as decided on should be to Wednesday 15th Instant.

John Clancy
Mayor

15th July 1903.

An adjourned Statutable meeting of the Council was held this day at the Town Hall at 7:30 P.M.

The members present were

John Clancy Esq. Mayor (in the Chair)
Aldermen - Matthew Doyle, Walter Walsh, Martin Maher,
Matthew Furlong.
Councillors - James Cullimore, Benjamin Hughes, Joseph Kelly,
James Abre, Joseph Doyle, Nicholas Quill, Frank Kingsbury,
Howard Rowe, James J. Mahony, John O'Connor,
Robert Barton, Michael O'Connor.

The minutes of meetings of 2nd June and 6th July 1903 were read and signed.

The following was ordered to be inserted on the minutes.
Upper George Street Wexford.
15th 7th 1903.

Dear Sir,

Kindly convey to the members of the Corporation on behalf of the family and myself our warmest thanks for the tribute of respect which they paid to the memory of my father in adjourning their meeting on the 6th Inst and for the terms in which they referred to him in the resolution of adjournment. It is a great comfort to us to know that he was held in such high esteem by his fellow-councillors and that

His loss is deeply regretted by the people of his adopted town for whom he always entertained the warmest possible regard.

I must also thank you for your personal expression of sympathy.

W. A. Browne Esq.

Town Clerk Wexford.

I am, yours truly
Augusta Blanche Rogers

A proposition made by Councillor Cullimore and seconded by Alderman Doyle to the effect that the Tholsel building should be taken down as being unfitted for the purpose of Municipal Offices and that new offices should be provided elsewhere in lieu of the existing offices was a matter that gave rise to considerable discussion. Amendments to the proposition were moved by members who were apprehensive of the project being calculated to exhaust the borrowing powers of the Corporation, and thus delay other projects that were in contemplation. These were discussed but were withdrawn in consequence of Councillor Cullimore amending his proposition so that it read as follows:

That the Tholsel be demolished and steps taken at once to provide Municipal Offices at a cost not exceeding £3,500 but that the demolition of the Tholsel be not proceeded with until suitable Municipal Offices be obtained.

The question was then put and carried unanimously.

It was announced that the Wexford Timber Co. were prepared to dispose of a disused timber yard abutting on Crescent Quay and bounded on one side by Henrietta Street. The premises were suitable as a site for Artizans or Labourers Dwellings and occupied a central position in the town. A suggestion was thrown out that the Committee charged with the duty of selecting sites for dwellings should be requested to inspect the yard and if it was what it was represented to be that they should ascertain the terms on which the interest of the Timber Co. could be purchased.

The suggestion was adopted.

A letter from Dublin Castle dated 19th June 1903 No. 10423 dealing with the status of a Mayor of a Borough who for the time being became a Justice of the Peace for such Borough was read. From this it appeared that it was incumbent on Mayors before acting as magistrates to take the Oath of Allegiance and the Judicial Oath as were taken by Justices of the Peace and moreover that the act of a Mayor in adjudicating as a magistrate without having taken the Oath of Allegiance subjected him to penalty.

The contents of the letter were noted.

A Bill of Costs amounting to £527:18:10³ as furnished by the Corporation Solicitor was laid before the meeting in view of having it taxed by the Taxing Master. It consisted entirely of expenses attendant on the opposition given by the Corporation to the Wexford Gas Provisional Order in its original terms. It appeared that out of the total of the Bill the sum of £364:11:2 was out of pocket expenses defrayed by the Solicitor and was made up of fees paid to Counsel, Gas Experts, printing expenses and other disbursements; the remainder £163:7:8 being for services properly rendered by him.

Concerning this matter it was decided to refer the Bill to the Committee who prepared the case of the Corporation in relation to the Provisional Order.

It was announced that Mr Lyne as a member of the School Attendance Committee had become disqualified by reason of his having absented himself from meetings of the Committee for the last six months and over. It was now incumbent on the Corporation to appoint a person to fill the vacancy that had occurred through Mr Lyne's delinquency.

Whereupon it was moved by Alderman Walsh and seconded by Councillor Hughes.

That the name of Mr Kelly J. C. be inserted in the list of members of the School Attendance Committee in place of Mr Lyne.

The question was put and carried.

Mr Howard Rowe made application by letter for a renewal of a lease of fields at rear of Shawell Mill held from the Corporation at a rent of £8. a year consequent on the term of the former lease having recently expired.

This was a matter which was fully deliberated on whereupon it was resolved on the motion of Alderman Furlong seconded by Councillor Kelly to grant the renewal of lease as bid for, for the legalized period of 31 years on the same terms as heretofore or as near thereto as possible having regard to the provisions of Section 54 of the Local Government Act 1898 and subsequent amending Acts.

Attention was called to the fact that workmen serving under the Town Surveyor had a grievance which called for a remedy.

It was pointed out that they were not treated as regards their remuneration according to the custom prevailing in the town of Wexford, by which Drainers and Labourers who called on to do night work were paid at the rate of one and a half times

and in some cases twice what was paid them for day work. That this was so was recognized by all members present and thereupon the following resolution as proposed by Councillor J. E. Mahon and seconded by Alderman Furlong was adopted: viz

That workmen in the employment of the Council be in future paid for services rendered by them during overtime at the rate of one and a half times the wages paid for work done during the day.

Joseph

4th, August 1903.

A Quarterly Meeting of the Council was held this day in the Tholsel at noon.

The Members present were:-

Aldermen----- George Hadden, Matthew J. Furlong, Walter Walsh, Matthew Doyle
Councillors--- James Here, Nicholas O'Neill, William Mangan, Richard Crosbie,
Joseph Doyle, James Mc'Mahon, Howard Rowe, Michael O'Connor,
John O'Connor, Joseph Kelly, Benjamin Hughes.

Councillor Hughes acted as Chairman in the absence of the Mayor.

The Minutes of Meeting of 15th July 1903 were read and signed.

Liabilities which had accrued due up to the end of last month amounting in the aggregate to £688:1:11 were submitted to the Meeting and having been examined were approved and an authorization was signed to enable the Treasurer to pay them on presentation to him of Paying Orders numbered from 118 to 145 inclusive. Summary and Reconcilement of Treasurer's Account for the month ended the last of July 1903 including the payments made at the Meeting held on this day.

SUMMARY

Balance (if any) due by Treasurer as per last monthly statement	£ 419:10:
Total sum received to close of last month	523: 1: 1
Total	£ 942:12:
Balance (if any) due to Treasurer as per last monthly statement	. .
Payments ordered at above mentioned meeting	£ 688: 1: 1
Total	£ 688: 1: 1
Net Balance due by Treasurer (being difference of above totals)	254:10:

RECONCILEMENT

Balance per Bank Books due by Treasurer	£ 942:12:
Outstanding Orders (including those issued at this Meeting)	£ 688: 1: 1
Net Balance as above due by Treasurer	£ 254:10: 8

The Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction per their letter of 27th July 1903 (No 13067/03) acknowledged receipt of the Town Clerk's letter of the 6th June Ultimo containing resolution of the Corporation requesting the Department to

BO

Election
th

I, the
Office
the s
that t
name
State
numb
duly
Ward

WARD.

St Selskar

do.

do.

Dated this 17

ROUGH OF WEXFORD.

a Councillor for the St. Selskar Ward of
Borough, on 13th August, 1903.

undersigned, being the Returning
at the Election of a Councillor for
Ward, do hereby give notice
Candidate at the Election whose
names entered in Column 6 of the
list hereunder, opposite to the
names in Column 5, has been declared
elected a Councillor for St. Selskar

NAMES OF CANDIDATES.		Places of Abode.	Number of Votes Recorded.	Name of Candidate Elected.
Surnames.	Other Names.			
2	3	4	5	6
Byrne	Patrick	Main-St., North, Wexford	184	Patrick Byrne
Leigh	James	Hill Street	91	
Meyler	Patrick	Selskar	36	

13th August, 1903.

WM. A. BROWNE,

Returning Officer.

©: Wexford Borough Council

and in some cases twice what was paid them for day work. That this was so was recognized by all members present and thereupon the following resolution as proposed by Councillor J. E. Hannon and seconded by Alderman Furlong was adopted. viz

That workmen in the employment of the Council be in future paid for services rendered by them during overtime at the rate of one and a half times the wages paid for work done during the day.

BOROUGH OF WEXFORD.				
a Councillor for the St. Selskar Ward of Wexford Borough, on 13th August, 1903.				
A Quarter				
The Members				
Aldermen				
Councillors				
Councillors				
The Minutes				
Liabilities				
aggregate				
were approved				
them on payment				
Summary of July 1st				
Balance ()	Patrick Byrne	184	Main St., North, Wexford	Patrick
Total sum		91	Hill Street	James
total		30	Selskar	Patrick
Balance ()				
Payments of				
Net Balance				
Balance per				
Outstanding				
Net Balance				
The Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction per their letter of 27th July 1903 (No 13067/03) acknowledged receipt of the Town Clerk's letter of the 6th June Ultimo containing resolution of the Corporation requesting the Department to				

make an equivalent grant to Wexford Urban District. From this it appeared that the question of the allocation of the grant in aid of Technical Instruction was still under the consideration of the Authorities.

The contents of the letter were noted.

Regarding a Bill of Costs Which was a subject of debate at last Meeting of the Council, it was reported that the Committee who had conducted the opposition to the Wexford Gas Provisional Order had met and had examined the Bill. Out of the total items numbering 439 there were 50 which appeared to be excessive, but one item of £35 being fee set down for personal services rendered by the Solicitor in relation to the Inquiry was a matter which should be strongly objected to on the Bill being taxed.

This being the purport of the Committee's report the following resolution was adopted.

Proposed by Councillor Kelly and seconded by Councillor Mangan:-

That the requisition for taxation of the Bill be sealed and signed; and that Mr Healy Solicitor be instructed to attend on taxation and call attention to the items impugned by the Committee.

On the urgent request of Messrs Wm. B. Nunn & Co. Malsters who complained of the effluvia from an open grate in Gibsons Lane where their malthouse was situated being most offensive it was decided to replace the open grate over the sewer by a stench-trap.

The question of appointing a Committee to select a site and provide a design for the proposed Municipal Offices subject to the ~~approval~~ approval of the Council was introduced and considered.

Alderman Walsh proposed that any Committee appointed for the purpose should not exceed six Members. Experience showed him that it conduced to expedition to restrict the number of members of a Committee to the lowest point possible.

The proposition was seconded by Alderman Hadden and was adopted.

Thereupon the following were selected as the Committee viz:-

Councillor Here, Alderman Hadden, Alderman Furlong, Councillor Mangan, Councillor Hughes, and Councillor Cullimore.

It was announced that Messrs Tyler & Sons were willing to let the upper portion of their premises in Main Street as temporary offices for use of the Town Clerk during the interval between the pulling down of the Tholsel and the erection of the proposed new Offices. Messrs Tyler & Son on being approached in the first instance asked a rent of £30 a year for the use of the apartments but consequent on some further negotiation they abated the demand to £25 a year.

Thereupon it was proposed by Alderman Hadden, seconded by Councillor O'Neill and adopted:-

That the premises in question be hired for one year on the terms specified in letter of Messrs Tyler of 28th July 1903.

W. J. Hughes

©: Wexford Borough Council

Note - For election of Committee to select site and provide design for proposed Municipal Offices see Minutes on 5th August 1903 see Finance and Works Committee Book.

7th September 1903.

A Statutable Meeting of the Council was held this day at the Tholsel at noon.

There were in attendance :-

Aldermen)) George Hadden, Walter Walsh, Matthew Doyle, Martin Kehoe.

Councillors-- Richard Crosbie, James Hore, Joseph Kingsberry, Joseph Doyle,
James J. Stafford, Robert Hanton, Patrick Byrne, James Cullimore,
Nicholas O'Neill, Michael O'Connor, John O'Connor, John Tyghe,
Joseph Kelly.

On the motion of Councillor Kelly seconded by Alderman Hadden the chair was taken
by Councillor Hughes.

The minutes of 4th August 1903 were read and signed.

Liabilities which had accrued due up to the end of last month amounting in the
aggregate to £175 : 5 : 7 were submitted to the Meeting and having been examined
were approved and an authorization was signed to enable the Treasurer to pay them
on Presentation of Paying Orders numbered from 146 to 167 inclusive.

Summary and Reconcilement of Treasurers Account for the month ended the last
day of August including the payments made at the Meeting held on this day.

SUMMARY

Balance (if any) due by Treasurer as per last monthly statement	254 : 10 : 8
Total sum received to close of last month	<u>666 : 4 : 3</u>
Total	920 : 14 : 11
Balance (if any) due to Treasurer as per last monthly statement	: : :
Payments ordered at above mentioned meeting	Total 175 : 5 : 7
Net Balance due by Treasurer (being difference of above Totals)	745 : 9 : 4

RECONCILEMENT

Balance per Bank Books due by Treasurer	920 : 14 : 11
Outstanding Orders (including those issued at this Meeting)	<u>175 : 5 : 7</u>
Net Balance as above due by Treasurer	745 : 9 : 4

The Council assembled this day for the purpose of filling a vacancy created in the
office of Mayor by the lamented death on Saturday the 29th August 1903 at his
residence in Anne Street Wexford of the late Right Worshipful John Clancy which sad
event was the subject of a resolution of condolence on the 2nd Instant.

On the Meeting having been opened the function of electing a Mayor was proceeded
with.

Councillor Robert Hanton proposed.

" That Councillor James J. Stafford be and is hereby elected Mayor of Wexford for
the remainder of the now current year in room of the late deceased Mayor"
The proposition was seconded by Councillor Michael O'Connor.

It was put to the Meeting and carried with acclamation.

The newly-elected Mayor was then installed. On taking the chair he made and
subscribed a declaration of assistance to the office of the Mayor. Thanks to his Coll-
eagues for calling him to the position of Chief Magistrate of the Borough he

expressed regret at the occurrence which necessitated the election of a Mayor before the late Mayor's tenure of office had been completed.

The following is a copy of a letter received from Mr William Redmond M. P. and ordered to be inserted on the Minutes.

Rosslare Sunday.

Dear Mr. Browne,

Will you please convey to the Members of the Corporation the deep sympathy which I feel with them and the people of Wexford in the loss which has been sustained in the death of the Mayor who was so much respected and esteemed by all classes. My brother, and many of the Irish Party, who knew Alderman Clancy well join with me in this expression of sympathy and regret. I feel personally that I have lost one of my best friends in Wexford and I know that the Town has lost one who was true to the best traditions of Wexfordmen.

With deep regret,

I remain,

Yours very truly.

W.A.BROWNE ESQ.

WILLIAM REDMOND

Town Clerk Wexford.

The following business was also disposed of:-

A Sealed Order issued by the Local Government Board under date of 22nd August 1903 was read authorizing the holding of two half yearly instead of quarterly meetings by the County Council and the several Rural District Councils in County of Wexford. This Order, it was seen, did not affect the town of Wexford.

A circular letter from the same Department Dated 31st August 1903 No 12,986 was read. It contained information as to the latest dates on which applications from local authorities for Provisional Orders requiring confirmation by Parliament should be received by the Local Government Board and was accompanied by a book of instructions as to the procedure to be followed in applying for such Provisional Orders.

The contents of the circular were noted.

A notice lodged by Messrs Huggard & Brennan Solicitors on behalf of Mrs Mary O'Connor Building Contractor was submitted. It appeared that a scaffolding, her property, erected against a building in Lower Rowe Street had been wantonly and maliciously damaged on the night of August 29th and it was her intention to apply to the County Court for six pounds as compensation for loss sustained by reason of the said criminal injury.

A Constabulary report received on the case showed that the damage consisted in the side poles of the scaffolding having been let drop down to the ground by reason of the ropes which held them to upright poles having been untied.

On this matter having been considered it was

Ordered:- That the Corporation Solicitor appear and defend the case at the County Court failing a compromise of the claim being made by him on the basis that £3 is

©: Wexford Borough Council

adequate compensation for the loss sustained.

The Town Surveyor's report for the month of August was read. It seemed that the probable cost of erecting a paling as proposed in Trinity Street where the adjoining swamp was used as a dumping ground was £13 including the cost of a gate. This paling would prevent offensive matter from being unloaded from carts on the footpath surreptitiously as was frequently the case. However some of the members present said that the owner of the swamp Mr. Walsh was willing to raise the retaining wall of the roadway several feet above the level of the footpath at his own expense if the Corporation gave consent to the work being done. This being so it was agreed on the motion of Councillor Hughes, seconded by Councillor Hore to appoint a Committee to inspect the wall and report on the matter.

The Committee was named and included Councillors Hore, Hanton, Byrne, and Kelly joined with the Mayor and assisted by the Town Surveyor.

Regarding a Committee report adopted on the 17th September 1902 attention was called to the fact that up to the present Mr William Malone had done nothing in the way of making good the damage done by him in the process of brickmaking in a field at Townparks. The Town Surveyor had lately inspected this field and taken measurements as directed, and his report book showed that the cost of filling up the excavations would not be less than £210.

Thereupon Councillor Hore proposed that the matter of Mr. Malone omitting to discharge his obligations in regard to levelling and draining the land be put into the hands of the Corporation Solicitor with instructions to take such action as may be proper. This was seconded by Alderman Walsh and was adopted.

It was Ordered. That the Corporation Seal be affixed to the Deed of Agreement now submitted whereby Messrs Tyler & Sons agree to let portion of their premises in Main Street for use as temporary offices for the Town Clerk.

James J. Stafford

BOROUGH OF WEXFORD.

ELECTION OF ALDERMAN

ST. IBERIUS WARD of the
above Borough,

ON 28th SEPTEMBER, 1903.

The undersigned, being the Returning Officer at the above Election, do hereby give notice that the Candidate at the Election whose name is entered in Column 6 of the Statement hereunder opposite to the number entered in Column 5 has been declared duly elected Alderman for St. Iberius Ward.

ALDERMAN.

Names of Candidates.		Places of Abode.	No. of Votes recorded.	Name of Candidate Elected.
Surnames.	Other Names.			
2	3	4	5	6
O'CONNOR,	JOHN,	Allen Street,	133	
TYGHE,	JOHN,	John Street, Wexford,	256	JOHN TYGHE.

28th day of September, 1903.

WM. A. BROWNE,

©: Wexford Borough Council

RETURNING OFFICER.

THE PEOPLE Printing Works, Wexford.

adequate compensation for the loss sustained.

Th
prob
swam
woul
surr
said
of t
Corp
moti
insp
Th
join
Re
to t
maki
Town
as d
woul
Th
disc
hand
prop
It
now
Main

BOROUGH OF WEXFORD.

ELECTION OF ALDERMAN

ST. IBERIUS WARD of the

above Borough.

ON 28th SEPTEMBER 1903.

the undersigned, being the Returning Officer at the above Election, do hereby give notice that the Candidate at the Election whose name is entered in the Statement hereunder and the number entered in Column 1 of the Statement has been declared duly elected for St. Iberius Ward.

ALDERMAN.

Name of Candidate		Other Names		Place of Abode		No. of Votes received		Name of Elector	
JOHN TYONE		JOHN		John Street, Wexford.		12		JOHN TYONE	
JOHN TYONE		JOHN		John Street, Wexford.		12		JOHN TYONE	

28th day of September, 1903.

W.M. A. BROWNE.
RETURNING OFFICER.
THE FREE PRESS, Wexford, Wexford.

BOROUGH OF WEXFORD.

Transcript of a Resolution adopted unanimously by the Municipal Council of Wexford on 2nd September 1903.

RESOLVED:-

That we, the Council of the Borough of Wexford, in Meeting assembled, do take this, the earliest opportunity to acclaim our profound and heartfelt joy on knowing that the Papal Throne, rendered vacant by the demise of the late Sovereign Pontiff, Leo the Thirteenth, of glorious memory, has been worthily filled in the person of his Holiness Pope Pius the Tenth, and we pray that His Holiness, as the Vice-gerent of Christ on Earth, may accept the homage of our attachment and loyalty to his person and throne.

Sealed and Signed per resolution of the Municipal Council of Wexford this 2nd day of September 1903.

William A. Browne,

Town Clerk.



adequate compensation for the loss sustained.

The
prob
swam
woul
surr
said
of th
Corpe
moti
insp
The
join
Re
to th
maki
Town
as d
woul
The
disc
hand
prop
It
now
Main

BOROUGH OF WEXFORD.

RETURN OF POLLING OFFICER

of the

1903.

turning
heresy
at the
ered in
tender
Column
elected

W. M. A. BROWN

JOHN TYGHE

W. M. A. BROWN

RETURNING OFFICER

THE BOROUGH OF WEXFORD, WICK.

5th October 1903.

A Statutable Meeting of the Council was held this day at the Town Clerk's Office at noon.

The members Present were

James J. Stafford Esq. Mayor (in the chair)

Aldermen:- Matthew Doyle, W. Walsh, George Hadden, John Tyghe, Martin Kehoe.

Councillors:- Joseph Doyle, Joseph Kingsberry, James Hore, William Mangan,

Patrick Byrne, Richard Crosbie, Joseph Kelly, James Smith,

Benjamin Hughes, Michael O'Connor, James M'CMahon, Howard Rowe.

The minutes of Meeting of 7th September 1903 were read and signed.

Liabilities which had accrued due up the end of last month amounting in the aggregate to £785 : 9 : 3 were submitted to the Meeting and having been examined were approved and an authorization was signed to enable the Treasurer to pay them on presentation to him of Paying Orders numbered from 168 to 183 inclusive.

Summary and Reconcilement of Treasurer's Account for the month ended the last day of September 1903, including the payments made at the Meeting held on this day.

SUMMARY

Balance (if any) due by Treasurer as per last monthly statement £ 745 : 9 : 4

Total sum received to close of last month 713 : 17 : 3

Total £ 1459 : 6 : 7

Balance (if any) due to Treasurer as per last monthly statement

Payments ordered at above mentioned Meeting £ 785 : 9 : 3

Total £ 785 : 9 : 3

Net Balance due by Treasurer (being difference of above totals) £673 : 17 : 4

RECONCILEMENT

Balance per Bank Books due by Treasurer £ 1468 : 16 : 7

Outstanding Orders (including those issued at this Meeting) £ 794 : 19 : 3

Net Balance as above due by Treasurer £ 673 : 17 : 4

The following is a transcript of a letter which it was decided to insert on the Minutes.

Collegio Irlandese Roma.

26 th September 1903.

Dear Sir,

I have been requested by the Acting Secretary of State to His Holiness to convey the warm thanks of the Holy Father to the Members of the Corporation of Wexford for their congratulations on His accession to the Pontifical Throne, and for their expressions of loyalty and attachment to the Holy See.

As a pledge of his appreciation, the Holy Father sends his Apostolic Blessing to the Corporation and Town of Wexford.

I am, Faithfully Yours,

Wm. A. Browne Esq.

©: Wexford Borough Council

Edward Byrne Vice-Rector

Irish College.

Town Clerk, Wexford.

Tenders received in respect of taking down the old building known as the Tholsel were dealt with. The specification of this work provided inter alia that useful material saved in the process of demolishing the building would be the property of the Contractor. Eight persons tendered to do the work. The sums asked for the service to be rendered materially varied in amount, ranging from £20 down to £4. Councillor Mangan proposed that a contract should be made with James Roche of King Street whose tender to remove the building for a sum of £5 was the lowest received from a recognized artizan competent to deal with the class of work required. The motion was seconded by Alderman Hadden and was adopted, subject to a Bond for £50 being given by Roche joined by his two proposed Sureties Messrs S. Stamp and T. Salmon in the sum of £25 each for the due fulfilment of the contract.

The opening by the Corporation of a new street from John Street to Airhill so as to continue Upper George street to the road at Airhill was proposed by Councillor Crosbie. He pointed out amongst other considerations that if the proposal were put into effect the difficulty at present experienced of procuring sites for dwellings within the town area would be solved.

The meeting deliberated on the question. It was thought well in the absence of details as to cost etc of proposed street to take no decisive action. Therefore the resolution following as proposed by Councillor Crosbie seconded by Councillor Hughes was adopted.

That a Committee be appointed to inquire into the desirability of opening up a new street from the head of George Street to Air Hill, and to inquire into the probable cost of making the same.

A Committee under the foregoing resolution was then appointed consisting of Aldermen Hadden and Walsh and Councillors Byrne, Crosbie, Hore and Michael O'Connor.

In view of the removal of the Tholsel, attention was drawn to the fact that such of the fish sellers as had standings in the piazza under the building would have to be dispossessed, and it was for the meeting to decide whether or no any market accommodation was to be provided for this class of dealers in future.

The matter was considered. A suggestion made by the Mayor as to a section of the Meat & Butter Market in the Bull Ring being set apart for the use of Fishsellers commended itself to the meeting and thereupon the Committee appointed on 4th August last re proposed Municipal Offices was asked to consider the suggestion and report thereon.

The Medical Officer of Health reported in reference to an application from the Corporation tenants residing in working class dwellings at Hill Street that pigs could not be kept in yards attached to these houses without causing a nuisance and danger to health. This was his opinion come to on visiting the houses but notwithstanding this opinion some of the Members present declared their willingness to accede to the request of the tenants. The majority however were not disposed to run counter to the Medical Officer's advice, stating that the yards were only twenty-

one foot in depth, but an order in the following terms was made viz :-

That the Medical Officer of Health be asked to state whether pigs can be kept without danger to health in the lane skirting the yards, and that the Town Surveyor be asked to report if any obstruction will arise in the lane if pigstyes be put up in it.

Attention was called to the fact that a portion of the wall of a disused cart-house in the Bullring had collapsed. The house in question was part of the building about to be demolished, but nevertheless the wall would require to be rebuilt as it supported the gable of Messrs Somers and Porter's bakehouse. As to the responsibility of the Corporation in the matter, this had been determined by a Committee who had inspected the gable and found that it was incumbent on the Corporation to secure it.

Thereupon it was ordered:-

That a specification be prepared and tenders invited by advertisement in respect of the work of restoring the wall.

Alderman Tyghe having lately been elected as Alderman for St Iberius Ward and having made and signed a declaration accepting that position, he handed in his resignation as Councillor of the same Ward, an office which he also held.

The resignation was accepted.

The Surveyor's general report for the month of September was read. As to the intended extension of the water main in Spawell road it appeared the necessary pipes were now on order, and the Surveyor wished to know if the work of laying them was to be done by contract.

Touching the matter an order was made directing a specification to be prepared and tenders invited in respect of the work in the usual way.

On the recommendation of a Special Committee it was ordered that the gas lamp near the east end of Allen Street be taken down and re-erected on the angle of the house in the possession of the Misses Harpur Confectioners so as to light Allen Street and Main Street at once.

It was Ordered:- That the gas lamp suspended from the wall of the Tholsel be taken down and put up on the house of Messrs Somers & Porter.

The Solicitor's Bill of Costs as taxed pursuant to decision come to by the Council on 4th August last was submitted along with the Taxing Masters certificate. The deductions made in the Bill on taxation amounted to £13: 4: 8 and this, together with the credits of £183: 15: 0 left a balance of £349: 4: 8 due to the Solicitor in connection with the matter of the Wexford Gas Provisional Order. It was pointed out that this liability, which was chargeable on the Borough Fund, was one which the Council were not in a position to meet in the current year, so the question of paying the Bill was deferred sine die.

James J. Stafford

21st. October 1903.

* A Special Meeting of the Council (acting as ex-officio Town Commissioners)
was held this day at the Tholsel at 7: 30 P.M.

The members present were

James J. Stafford Esq. Mayor (in the chair)

Aldermen John Tyghe, Walter Walsh, Matthew Doyle.

Councillors Benjamin Hughes,,James Hore,,Joseph Kelly, James M'Mahon,
Nicholas O'Neill, James Cullimore, Joseph Doyle, Joseph Kingsberry,
Howard Rowe, Michael O'Connor, Robert Hanton.

The meeting was especially summoned to consider a case in which the Owner of four dilapidated dwellings at Westgate Wexford had omitted to comply with a Magistrates Order directing him within a prescribed time, which had now elapsed, to take down certain portions of the buildings.

A copy of the Order made by the Magistrates in the case, under the Towns Improvement Clauses Act 1847, was submitted to the Meeting whereupon it was proposed by Councillor O'Neill seconded by Councillor Rowe.

That the Town Surveyor be and is hereby directed to put the houses into a state of security and to that end that he have the work specified as follows carried out at once and with the least possible expense to the Owner.

- 1 Reilly's Take down at least five feet of the front wall.
- 2 Unoccupied Take down five feet of front wall and chimney (a) between two unoccupied houses.
- 3 Unoccupied Take down five feet of front wall and chimney (b) over roof of Doyle's room.
- 4 Doyle's Take portion of south chimney (c) and roof of Doyle's room next No 3.

James J. Kafford

2nd. November, 1903.

A Quarterly Meeting of the Council was held this day at the Town Clerk's Office at noon

The Members present were:-

James J. Stafford Esq. Mayor (in the chair)

Aldermen- George Hadden, Walter Walsh, Matthew Doyle, Martin Kehoe, John Tyghe,

Councillors- James Hore, Benjamin Hughes, Patrick Byrne, James McMahon, John O'Connor, Robert Hanton, Joseph Kingsberry, Joseph Doyle, Howard Rowe, Michael O'Connor, Joseph Kelly.

The Minutes of Meetings of 5th. & 21st. October, 1903 were read and signed.

©: Wexford Borough Council

were approved and an authorization was signed to enable the Treasurer to pay them on presentation to him of paying Orders numbered from 184 to 212 inclusive.

Summary and Reconcilement of Treasurer's Account for the Month ended the last day of
October 1903, including the payments made at the Stated Finance Meeting held on this
day:-

BALANCE (IF ANY) DUE BY TREASURER AS PER LAST MONTHLY STATEMENT	£673 : 17 : 4
TOTAL SUM RECEIVED TO CLOSE OF LAST MONTH	<u>847 : 0 : 2</u>
TOTAL	1520 : 17 : 6
BALANCE (IF ANY) DUE TO TREASURER AS PER LAST MONTHLY STATEMENT	0 : 0 : 0
PAYMENTS ORDERED AT ABOVE) MENTIONED MEETING	
TOTAL	1107 : 18 : 8
NET BALANCE DUE BY TREASURER (BEING DIFFERENCE OF ABOVE TOTALS)	412 : 18 : 10

BALANCE PER BANK BOOKS DUE BY TREASURER	1520 : 17 : 6
OUTSTANDING ORDERS (INCLUDING THOSE ISSUED AT THIS MEETING)	<u>1107 : 18 : 8</u>
NET BALANCE AS ABOVE DUE BY TREASURER	412 : 18 : 10

A Committee engaged in selecting sites for additional dwellings for the working classes submitted to the Meeting two offers in writing which they had received from persons willing to dispose of plots of ground. It appeared that a Mrs Williams of White Rock was prepared to sell land in William Street capable of accommodating thirteen houses of the class required for £175. She held under lease for 969 years at the nominal rent of one shilling a year. Dr. R. H. Cooper held a piece of ground at Monument place on which it was practicable to build at least seven houses. He was prepared to demise the plot to the Corporation by lease for a term of 900 years or thereabouts for a rent of £4:10:0 a year.

evoking a long discussion which resulted in a motion proposed by Alderman Hadden and seconded by Councillor Rowe being adopted in the following terms:-

That as regards such of the intended dwellings as are to be erected at Monument place the maximum cost of construction be limited to £140 per house , but in the case of the houses for William street that this limit be reduced to £100 per house.

The Committee who had selected the locus in quo of the proposed sites were then appointed to have plans and designs of dwellings prepared conformable to the spirit of the foregoing resolution

F I S H D E A L E R S !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Committee appointed to provide market accommodation for fish sellers dislodged from the present Fishmarket reported that having inspected the Butter Market in the Bullring they came to the conclusion that a portion of this market convenient to the entrance from Common Quay Street should be set apart for the use of fishsellers . They decided to recommend that this section should be screened off by means of iron sheeting; that the floor should be laid in concrete; and a doorway opened in the side wall to give access to Common Quay Street. They agreed that five fish tables - one for each of the occupants of the old Fishmarket - should be provided, and in order to expedite the work of removing the Tholsel took it upon themselves to request the Town Surveyor to have constructed without delay ,five flagged-topped tables in accordance with a plan suggested by him leaving the rest of the work to be done by contract at the convenience of the Corporation. The Committee considered that a Rent of One Shilling a week paid in advance should be demanded for the use of each fish-table.

On the motion of Alderman Walsh seconded by Councillor Kelly the foregoing report was adopted.

K E E P I N G P I G S . . .

With reference to an order made on the 5th Ultimo Dr. Pierse reported that having again inspected Hill Street he was of opinion that the keeping of pigs in the lane and skirting the yards of Working Class Dwellings in that street would be attended with danger to health. He stated also that a large number of the occupiers of the houses were averse to the keeping of pigs in this lane.

Having regard to this opinion no action was taken by the Meeting in the matter of the application of the tenants for permission to keep pigs.

T U R N C O C K .

The Turncock applied for an increase of his wages. He claimed the consideration of the Council by reason of the fact that the duties of his post were gradually becoming more onerous than they used to be. Especially hard was the work of detecting waste of water which rendered it necessary for him to be out frequently after midnight

The Meeting considered that the Turncock was sufficiently requited

and on the motion of Councillor Hughes seconded by Councillor Joseph Doyle it was decided to increase the wages of the officer named to £1 : 0 : 0 per week for the future thus placing him as regards remuneration on the same footing with his predecessor.

SURVEYOR'S GENERAL REPORT.

The Town Surveyor's report for the month of October was read. It dealt with several matters, including the old-time water system, the cost of laying concrete footpaths in 1902 as compared with the cost of the same work in 1903, the need for repairing mud carts in actual use and disposing of discarded mud carts and fish tables having been constructed in compliance with directions of a Committee.

The following order was made thereon.

That discarded mud carts be disposed of by auction, except such of them as in the opinion of the Town Surveyor may be turned to account without the need of any serious outlay being made on them, and that any useful cart requiring attention be put into a state of repair.

James Stappard

24th November 1903.

A Special Meeting of the Council was held this day at the Town Clerk's Office at noon.

The Members present were:-

Councillors:-Benjamin Hughes, Joseph Kelly, James Hore, Howard Rowe, William Mangan, Richard Crosbie, Nicholas O'Neill, Michael O'Connor.

The Corporation Solicitor and the Town Surveyor were also present.

Councillor Hughes was moved to the chair.

The Meeting was summoned to determine what was the measure of responsibility attaching to the Corporation in a case in which portions of three adjoining premises in the Bullring were in an insecure condition, one of these premises being a disused Fire Engine Room belonging to the Corporation, another a bakehouse in the possession of Mr William Porter, and the third a stable, formerly used as a dwelling house, now owned by Mr. James Kelly; and to take such action in the matter as appeared expedient.

The Meeting on assembling proceeded to the Bullring. It was seen, on the buildings being inspected, that the back wall of the Fire Engine Room was in imminent danger of falling and, as was declared by the Town Surveyor, that consequent upon this wall falling or being taken down a cross wall in Mr. Porter's bakehouse and a party wall between the bakehouse and Mr. Kelly's stable would also fall unless the three walls were taken down simultaneously.

The Solicitor stated for the guidance of the Meeting that as Messrs Porter and Kelly had acquired the right of use in the wall and property of the Corporation it was not

competent for the latter to let fall or take down the wall to the detriment of the adjoining premises.

It was also seen that Mr. Kelly's premises were in a bad state of disrepair and in view of the approaching removal of the Engine Room it was not possible to take down the end wall of it without endangering Mr. Kelly's premises further.

Under all the circumstances of the case it was thought advisable that an amicable settlement should be come to with the other two parties concerned.

To this end Messrs Porter and Kelly were brought into consultation whereupon after considerable discussion they agreed to abide by the terms set forth in the following resolution as proposed by Councillor ^{Byrne} ~~O'Neill~~ seconded by Councillor O'Neill and adopted.

That the Corporation contribute a sum of £5 towards the cost of making secure the party wall between the premises of Mr. William Porter and that of Mr. James Kelly and a sum of £7 towards the cost of making secure the cross wall resting on the breast of Mr. Porter's bake ovens, this offer is made subject to the condition that the Corporation will be indemnified against any loss or damage that may accrue consequent on the taking down or rebuilding of the walls or any portion of the premises in question or on the taking down or rebuilding of the walls of the old Engine Room and also on condition that Messrs Porter and Kelly will make secure the premises in question.

James J. Stafford

2nd December 1903.

A Special Meeting of the Council was held this day for the purpose of dealing with the case of James McMahon, labourer, who had lately forfeited the privilege of being any longer a member of the Corporation.

The Members present at the Meeting were:-

James J. Stafford Esq. Mayor (in the chair)

Aldermen:- Walter Walsh, Matthew Doyle.

Councillors:- Benjamin Hughes, James Cullimore, John J. Kehoe, Joseph Kelly,
James Smith, Howard Rowe.

There was submitted to the Meeting a Certificate of an Order made on the 25th November 1903 at the Wexford Court of Petty Sessions convicting James Mahony otherwise known as James McMahon for stealing and assisting in the stealing of three naggin bottles of whisky and sentencing him to be imprisoned for one calendar month with hard labour.

Thereupon a Declaration was drawn up in the following terms and signed in conformity with the requirements of the Application of Enactments Order 1898. viz.

Local Government (Ireland) Act 1898. Urban District of Wexford.

Whereas on the 15th day of January 1903 James McMahon alias James Mahony of

For 21. IBERINS MARKD of the spode

NOTICE OF A CONVENTION

BOBONCH OF MEXEORD.

NOTICE OF
CONVENTION

competent for the latter to let fall or take down the wall to the detriment of the adjoining premises.

It was also seen that Mr. Kelly's premises were in a bad state of disrepair and in view of the approaching removal of the Engine Room it was not possible to take down the end wall of it without endangering Mr. Kelly's premises further.

Under all the circumstances of the case it was thought advisable that an amicable settlement

To the
consider
resolution
adopted.

secure
Kelly and
breast
the Corp
consequ
in ques
and also
in ques

A Spec
the ca
any lo
The Me
James
Alderm
Council

Ther
Novemb
otherw
naggar

with hard labour.

Thereupon a Declaration was drawn up in the following terms and signed in conformity with the requirements of the Application of Enactments Order 1898. viz.
Local Government (Ireland) Act 1898. Urban District of Wexford.
Whereas on the 15th day of January 1903 James McMahon alias James Mahony of

NOTICE OF RESULT OF ELECTION

BOROUGH OF WEXFORD.

ELECTION OF A COUNCILLOR

For St. IBERIUS WARD of the above

I, the undersigned, being the Returning Officer at the Election of a Councillor for the said Ward, do hereby give notice that the Candidate at the Election, whose name is entered in Column 6 of the Statement hereunder, opposite to the number entered in Column 5, has been declared duly elected Councillor for St. Iovarius Ward.

COUNCILLOR.

Ward.	Names of Candidates.		Places of Abode.	Number of Votes Recorded	Name of Candidate Elected
	Surnames.	Other Names.			
1	2	3	4	5	6
ST IBERIUS	KEHOE	JOHN J.	Main Street.	213	JOHN J. KEHOE.
do.	REDMOND	PATRICK	Patrick Street.	56	

Dated this 25th day of November, 1903.

WM. A. BROWNE,

RETURNING OFFICER.

competent for the latter to let fall or take down the wall to the detriment of the adjoining premises.

It was also seen that Mr. Kelly's premises were in a bad state of disrepair and in view of the approaching removal of the Engine Room it was not possible to take down the end wall of it without endangering Mr. Kelly's premises further.

Under all the circumstances of the case it was thought advisable that an amicable settlement

To the consideration of the resolution adopted.

secure the Kelly and breast of the Corporation consequent in question and also in question

A Specification of the case any local The Meeting James Alderman Council

There November otherwise

with hard labour.

Thereupon a Declaration was drawn up in the following terms and signed in conformity with the requirements of the Application of Enactments Order 1898. viz.

Local Government (Ireland) Act 1898. Urban District of Wexford. Whereas on the 15th day of January 1903 James McMahon alias James Mahony of

RETURNING OFFICER

WM. A. BROWNE

Dated this 22th day of November, 1903.

Name of Candidate	Number of Votes	Place of Abode	Name of Candidate		Date
			Official Name	Residence	
JOHN A. KENNEL	2	Patrick Street	JOHN A. KENNEL	REDMOND KENNEL	ST. IRENE'S

DECLARATION
I, the undersigned being duly elected and qualified for the office of Returning Officer of the Urban District of Wexford, do hereby declare that the result of the election held on the 15th day of January 1903, in the Urban District of Wexford, is as follows:—
The candidates who were elected are:—
JOHN A. KENNEL, of Patrick Street, and
REDMOND KENNEL, of St. Irene's.

Bride Street Wexford was duly elected a Councillor for No. 2 Urban District Electoral Division (St. Mary's Ward) in the Urban District of Wexford, and whereas the said James McMahon alias James Mahony has since his election, namely on the 25th day of November 1903 been summarily convicted of a crime and sentenced to imprisonment for one calendar month with hard labour without the option of a fine and has not received a free pardon, and has therefore become disqualified for being a member of a Council of a District within the meaning of Article 12 (4) of the Application of Enactments Order 1898.

Now therefore we, the Council of said District in pursuance of the power vested in us by Article 12 (10) of said Order hereby declare the said office of Councillor for said Division to be vacant and direct that the publication, within three days, of a copy of this Document at, on, or near the Town Hall Wexford shall be deemed sufficient notice of said vacancy for all purposes.

Given under our hands and Corporate Seal this 2nd day of December 1903.

James J. Stafford	}	Three Members of said Urban District Council
John J. Kehoe.		
Joseph Kelly.		

William A. Browne Town Clerk.

James Stafford

7th December 1903.

A Statutable Meeting of the Council was held this day at the Town Clerk's Office at noon.

The Members present were:-

James J. Stafford Esq. Mayor (in the Chair)

Aldermen :- Matthew Doyle, George Hadden, Matthew J. Furlong, Martin Kehoe.

Councillors:- James Smith, Joseph Kelly, James Hore, James Cullimore, Patrick Byrne, William Mangan, Robert Hanton, Howard Rowe, John O'Connor, Richard Crosbie, Benjamin Hughes.

The Minutes of Meetings of 2nd and 26th November and of 2nd December 1903 were read and signed.

Liabilities which had accrued due up to the end of last month amounting in the aggregate to £118 : 0 : 7 were submitted to the Meeting and having been examined were approved and an authorization was signed to enable the Treasurer to pay them on presentation to him of Paying Orders numbered from 213 to 228 inclusive.

Summary and Reconcilement of Treasurer's Account for the month ended the last day of November 1903 including the payments made at the Stated Finance Meeting held on this day.

S U M M A R Y .

Balance (if any) due by Treasurer as per last monthly statement	£412:18:10
Total sum received to close of last month	<u>386: 5:11</u>
Total	799: 4: 9
Balance (if any) due to Treasurer as per last monthly statement	- - -
Payments ordered at above-mentioned Meeting	<u>£118: 0: 7</u>
Total	118: 0: 7
Net balance due by Treasurer (being difference of above Totals)	£681: 4: 2

R E C O N C I L E M E N T .

Balance per Bank Books due by Treasurer	£799: 4: 9
Outstanding Orders (including those issued at this Meeting)	<u>118: 0: 7</u>
Net Balance as above due by Treasurer	£681: 4: 2

S A N I T A R Y .

The Local Government Board per their letter of 14th November 1903 (No.64,153) forwarded a report received by them from Dr. Pierse on a case of Scarlatina that occurred in Selskar, Wexford. The patient, Mary Flood, it appeared had been removed to hospital and it was set down that the probable source from which she had been infected was some other case of Scarlatina which had been concealed. The Local Government Board stated that the Corporation would do well to take into consideration the advisability of adopting the Infectious Disease (Notification) Act 1889 in the Borough.

The Meeting took the suggestion of the Local Government Board in the matter very fully into consideration but nevertheless came to the conclusion not to adopt the Act in question.

W E I G H B R I D G E .

A letter from the Forth Agricultural and Industrial Association was read. A Conference had been held between the Members of this Body and Representatives of the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland and part of the business transacted on the occasion consisted of the adoption of a resolution requesting the Wexford Urban Council to erect a Weigh Bridge for the convenience of farmers attending Fairs in the Town.

This question was one which the Meeting was at a loss to come to a decision upon without being possessed of information as to the cost attendant on providing and maintaining the machine and as to the extent to which farmers would likely avail of facilities to sell their cattle or pigs by live weight.

Therefore it was Resolved on the motion of Councillor Hughes seconded by Councillor Mangan to appoint a Committee composed of Alderman Doyle and Councillors Kelly, Cullimore, Mangan, and Hughes to inquire into the matter and report thereon.

W I D E N I N G M A I N S T R E E T .

The taking down of the house in Mill Street opposite Monk Street was to widen the thoroughfare was a matter to which attention was given. The rent paid by the

Occupier of the house in question was £27 a year. This was paid to the Estate of McGuire's Minors, who held the premises from Miss Furlong at a rent of £20 a year out of which the latter paid a head rent of £10 : 10 : 0 made less by an allowance on foot of taxes. The proposition was that the Corporation should buy up Miss Furlong's interest, so that the McGuire Estate would be liable only for the head rent of £10:10. and in consideration of this the Trustees of the Estate were prepared to throw down the house, widen the street, and build a new house. It appeared that Miss Furlong, having been approached on the subject of disposing of her interest, was in no way anxious to sell it but rather than put any obstacle in the way of improving the town she was prepared to accept £250 as purchase money, a sum which when invested would realize an income equal to her present profit rent of £11 or thereabouts.

Now concerning the two houses which adjoin the one in question on the north side, and which also protrude beyond the line of the street, it was noted that no project for regulating the line of the street would be complete unless these houses were dealt with also. It was pointed out that these buildings were not in a good state of repair, and the probability was they would be acquired on easy terms. The question then resolved itself into a proposition for taking down the entire three houses, and this having been considered the following resolution was adopted.

Proposed by Councillor Hanton, Seconded by Councillor Mangan.

That a Committee of the undernamed Members, assisted by the Town Surveyor, be appointed to confer with Mr. O'Connor on the subject of taking down the three houses mentioned, with a view to the thoroughfare being widened at a point where the congestion of traffic is most conspicuous viz:- Alderman Hadden and Councillors Hore, Hanton, Mangan, Byrne, and Cullimore.

ALLEGED MALICIOUS INJURY.

A notice signed by Archdeacon Latham was read intimating that it was his intention to apply at the next ensuing sitting of the County Court for £5. as compensation for criminal injury done to the property of the Representative Church Body in Wexford.

The notice specified that one pane of glass in St. Iberius Church, and a portion of the iron railing in front of the Church had been wantonly damaged, and to make good the damage it would require an outlay of £5.

On coming to consider this matter, the Meeting was informed that an examination of the Church by the Police went to show that the injury complained of was not done maliciously. It was probable that the tracery work on the railing was broken by the impact of carts coming in contact with it in the streets, and the window, which was in the rear of the building, and shut off by high walls from the streets, was, in all likelihood, broken by a small missile thrown at random from Church lane, or some of the yards adjoining the building at the rear.

Under these circumstances it was decided to depute the Mayor and Alderman Hadden to see Archdeacon Latham and request him to abandon his intention of seeking for compensation for the trifling loss sustained, rather than that an aspersion should be

cast on the character of the town.

BRICKMAKING AT TOWNPARKS.

With reference to an order made on 7th September last, a letter received through the Corporation Solicitor from Mrs Malone of Belvidere, was read. The writer, speaking for her husband and herself, stated it was their intention to level the field at Townparks next Spring, when weather would permit of levelling work being done on land. The corn earth stripped off the surface was put to one side and would be spread again over the field. They proposed to continue the brick making operations until the portion of the field that was still undisturbed was brought to a level with the other portion.

Thereupon it was ordered

That Mr O'Connor Solicitor be instructed to insist on William Malone fulfilling the terms of the Agreement under which he was permitted to excavate the land.

EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN ACT.

A copy of the above Act, as transmitted by the Local Government Board per their letter of 2nd December Instant (No.151/M. 1903), was submitted. The leading provisions of the measure were read and discussed. It was not, however, deemed necessary as yet for the Corporation to take steps under the Act.

James Stafford

4th January 1904.

A Statutable Meeting of the Council was held this day at the Town Clerk's Office at noon.

The members present were:-

James J. Stafford Esq. Mayor (in the chair)

Aldermen:- Walter Walsh, George Hadden.

Councillors:- John J. Kehoe, Howard Rowe, Benjamin Hughes, James Hore,
John O'Connor.

The minutes of Meeting of 7th December 1903 were read and signed.

Liabilities which had accrued due up to the end of last month amounting in the aggregate to £136:13:10 were submitted to the Meeting and having been examined were approved and an authorization was signed to enable the Treasurer to pay them on presentation to him of Paying orders numbered from 229 to 236 inclusive.

Summary and Reconcilement of Treasurers Account for the month ended the last day of December 1903 including the payments made at the Stated Finance Meeting held on this day.

SUMMARY.

Balance (if any) due by Treasurer as per last monthly statement	681 : 4 : 2
Total sum received to close of last month	<u>209 : 6 : 7</u>
Total	1490 : 10 : 9
Balance (if any) due to Treasurer as per last monthly statement	- - -
Payments ordered at above-mentioned Meeting	<u>136 : 15 : 10</u>
Total	136 : 13 : 10
Net Balance due by Treasurer (being difference of above totals)	1353 : 16 : 11

RECONCILEMENT.

Balance per Bank Books due by Treasurer	1496 : 15 : 9
Outstanding Orders (including those issued at this Meeting)	<u>142 : 18 : 10</u>
Net balance as above due by Treasurer	£ 1353 : 16 : 11

The bereavement which had fallen on Councillor Joseph Kelly by the death, on the 29th Ultimo, of his mother the late Mrs Margaret Kelly of Main Street South was alluded to by the Mayor.

The observations of the Mayor were followed by expressions of sympathy from the other Members present and Alderman Hadden proposed that the Meeting stand adjourned as a mark of respect to the memory of the deceased and that the sympathy of the Corporation with Councillor Kelly in his bereavement be conveyed to him.

The proposition was seconded by Councillor Kehoe and was adopted.

Notices of motion to be considered at the adjourned Meeting were given and accepted as follows.

Councillor Kehoe to move that five additional gas lamps be put up on Redmond Road

Alderman Hadden to move that the Redmond Road and any other road that may be selected be put under the process of steam rolling with a view to the County Council being asked to have an equal length of road treated by a Steam Roller as an experiment.

Councillor John O'Connor to move that a gas lamp be put up midway in Mary Street.

It was then arranged to hold the adjourned Meeting on Monday next at noon.

James Stafford

11th January 1904

An adjourned Statutable Meeting of the Council was held this day at the Town Clerk's office at noon.

There were present.

James J. Stafford, Esquire, Mayor (in the Chair)

Aldermen:- George Hadden, Matthew Soyle, John Zyke, Walter Walsh + Martin Kehoe.

Councillors:- John J. Kehoe, William Mangan, Benjamin Hughes, Howard Rowe, Patrick Byrne, Joseph Soyle.

John O'Connor, Richard Brodie, + Michael O'Connor

The Minutes of the Meeting of the 4th inst. were read + signed
alleged malicious injury

A letter from archdeacon Latham Rector of Wexford was read intimating that the proceedings taken by him to obtain compensation for the injury done on St. Theresa's Church would not be followed up in consequence of the representations made to him by the Corporation. Satisfaction was expressed at the magnanimity shown by St. Latham in the matter.

Dust Bins - charge for emptying
The fixing of a charge to be made for the privilege of having the contents of dustbins removed by the scavenging carts was a question brought under consideration

The practice with householders of having receptacles filled with shop sweepings and ashes, and in some cases noisome matter, outside doors awaiting the arrival of the scavenging carts had become so objectionable that it called for some restriction being put upon it.

It involved additional expense in respect of the work of clearing the streets, and this was unfair to the ratepayers who had their ashpits emptied at their own expense

The following resolution was adopted as proposed by Councillor Rowe, seconded by Councillor Mangan

That on payment of a charge of five shillings a year, and on providing dust bins of a pattern and material to be approved by the Town Surveyor, householders be given the right to have the contents of these receptacles taken away by the scavenging carts; that handbills be distributed notifying that from the 1st February next it will be open to householders to obtain this right on paying the charge

to the Town Sergeant.

With regard to the proposed widening of Main Street North, a Committee appointed on the 4th December last recommended in reference to the house belonging to the estate of Mc Guire's minors, that Miss Furlong should be paid by the Corporation £150 in full of her demand of £250 which she had since been induced to abate to £225. The Committee did not suggest that Miss Furlong should be asked to accept £150 in full payment of their demand, but some of the residents of Main Street North had volunteered to contribute the remaining £75 in consideration of having the street widened and it was the opinion of the Committee that the Corporation would be well advised to acquire Miss Furlong's interest for £150.

In the case of the two houses adjoining the one above referred to it appeared these belonged to the estate of Captain Talbot. They were held in fee simple free of all rents etc. The proprietor's agent Mr George W. Barr of New Ross signified by letter his willingness to convey the fee simple to the Corporation, making out good title to do so for £140 if this offer were accepted within ten days from 1st January. The meeting having decided to deal with the latter case first, proceeded to discuss it. Mr Barr's offer was admitted by all to be a most liberal one and, and the Corporation would be wanting in duty to refuse to accept it.

Wherefore on the motion of Alderman Hadden seconded by Councillor Mangan it was unanimously Resolved; - That the offer of Mr Barr as contained in his letter of the 4th instant to the Town Clerk be and is hereby accepted. Discussion then took place on the question of buying out Miss Furlong's interest. It resulted in the adopting of the following resolution as proposed by Alderman Hadden and seconded by Councillor Kehoe:

That the sum of £150 be paid to Miss Furlong for her interest in the house in Main St North, in order to extinguish that interest and leave the estate of the McGuire's minors liable only for the head rent of £10:10 or thereabouts; that this payment be made on the express condition that the Trustees of the Mc Guire estate will (as they have offered to do) take down the existing building and erect a new house at a cost of not less than £400 adjoining with the adjoining house of Mr James Barty and so that the space that will be left in front of the new

house will form part of the thoroughfare"
Alderman Walsh dissented from this resolution
The need for having additional gas lamps erected
in the streets was considered. Propositions were made
to the effect that five additional lamps should be
put up in Redmond road so as to continue the present line
of lamps on that road to the boundary line of the Borough;
that a lamp should be put up midway in Mary Street
and a lamp stationed at the west side of the Haythe
The meeting was reluctant to come to a decision on these
propositions in the absence of a report from a Committee
so it was decided to appoint a Committee comprising
Alderman Walsh and Doyle and Councillors Kelly, Horvath,
Mangan and Kehoe to traverse the streets after dark
on an early date and report as to where lamps are needed.

Steam Rolling of Roads

The advisableness of adopting the modern method of
repairing roads by the process of steam rolling was brought
under notice. It was contended that steam rolling as
shown by the experience of other Districts where it had been
tried, would amply justify a departure from the present
system in Wexford of sheeting roads with broken stones.
The new method was at least worthy of being put under a trial
Whereupon the following resolution was passed as proposed
by Alderman Hadden and seconded by Councillor Rowe.

Resolved:- That a mile of road more or less including
the Redmond road be subjected to the process of steam
rolling as an experiment, provided the District Council
and County Council will treat with a steam roller an
equal length of County road in continuation of such of the
Urban Roads as may be so treated.

Brostown Cemetery

It was announced that all grave spaces priced at 10/-
each in the portion of Brostown Cemetery reserved for
Catholics had been sold out and it was for the meeting
to determine whether any additional ground would be
allotted for grave spaces at the same price. It was also
pointed out that the demand for grave spaces in respect of
which no charge was made had proved to be greater than had
been anticipated. This entailed expense which was saddled
on the Town although the Board of Guardians it
rested to provide for the burial of deceased persons whose

Notice of Result of Elections.

Borough of Wexford.

Election of Councillors for the above Borough
in the year 1904.

I, the undersigned, being the Returning Officer at the election of Councillors for the said Borough do hereby give notice that the Candidates at the election whose names are entered in Column 6 of the Table hereunder opposite to the numbers entered in Column 5 have been declared duly elected Councillors, and I hereby declare that the persons whose names are entered in the said Column 6 or in Column 7 and opposite to whose names no numbers are entered in Column 5, where no Polls have been taken, were duly elected or are to be deemed to be elected Councillors for the Wards opposite to the names which in Column 1 the names of such Candidates are entered.

Wards	Names of Candidates		Places of Polls	Numbers of votes recorded	Names of Candidates elected to be re-elected	Name of retiring Councillor deemed to be re-elected
	Surnames	Other Names	Street			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
St. James	Lordison	James	John Street	-	James Lordison	
do	Manton	Robert	John Street	-	Robert Manton	
St. Mary's	Carroll	Thomas	Rose Rock	-	Thomas Carroll	
do	Cullimore	James	Stonebridge	-	James Cullimore	James Cullimore
do	O'Brien	Thomas	Bridge Street	-	Thomas O'Brien	
St. Peter's	Here	James	George St	-	James Here	
do	Gannon	Michael	Main Street	-	Michael Gannon	

Dated this 16th day of January 1904

©: Wexford Borough Council

M. J. O'Brien
Returning Officer.

house will form part of the thoroughfare"
Alderman Walsh dissented from this resolution
The need for having additional gas lamps erected
in the streets
to the effect
put up in Re
of lamps on t
that a lamp
and a lamp
The meeting
propositions
so it was de
Alderman V.
Mangan an
on an early

The advisable
repairing roads
under notice.
shown by the
tried, would c
system in Mex
The new method
Thereupon the
by Alderman
Resolved:-
the Redmond
rolling as an
and County
equal length
Urban Roads

It was anno
each in the p
batholics ha
to determine
allotted for
pointed out
which no charge was made had proved to be greater than had
been anticipated. His entailed expense which was saddled
on the Town although it was with the Board of Guardians it
rested to provide for the burial of deceased persons whose

relatives were not in a position to pay the expenses of the burials. On this matter having been considered it was decided to reduce the price of twenty two spaces in Section E to 10/- each namely spaces numbered 113, 128, 137, 152, 161, 176 and 185 to 200 inclusive and of fifty two spaces in Section A numbered from 116 to 141 inclusive, 150 to 174 inclusive and 348 and to communicate with the Clerk of Wexford Union drawing attention to Section 4 of the Public Health (Ireland) Amendment Act 1879 and stating that the expense attendant on burials in cases coming within the meaning of that Section will in future have to be borne by the Guardians of the Poor

James Stafford

23rd January 1904.

A Quarterly Meeting of the Council was held this day at the Town Hall at noon.

There were Present:-

James J. Stafford Esq. Mayor (in the chair)

Aldermen:- George Hadden, Walter Walsh Matthew Doyle, Martin Kehoe.

Councillors:- John K. Kehoe, William Mangan, Joseph Kingsberry, Joseph Doyle, Benjamin Hughes, Patrick Byrne, Robert Hanton, James Hore, Howard Rowe, Michael O'Connor.

The Minutes of Meeting of 11th January Instant were read and signed.

The election of a Mayor was proceeded with.

Councillor Hanton proposed:-

That our present Mayor who has worthily filled the civic chair for the last five months, be and is hereby elected Mayor for the year commencing this day and until his Successor be appointed and shall have accepted office.

The proposition was seconded by Alderman Hadden, and having been put was carried unanimously.

The Mayor thereupon accepted office. He thanked the Meeting for the honor conferred on him.

The election of three Councillors for St. Mary's Ward on the 15th Instant without a Poll (an occasion on which a casual vacancy was filled at an ordinary election) rendered

it necessary for the Meeting to declare which of the three Councillors in question was to fill the casual vacancy.

The matter was considered.
The matter was ~~considered~~ The decision came to was that Councillor Thomas O'Brien was to be deemed elected to fill such casual vacancy.

The claims which the Catholics of Ireland had for the establishment in Ireland of a Catholic University
The claims which the Catholics of Ireland had for the establishment in Ireland of a Catholic University

Doyle, seconded by Councillor Doyle it was resolved to request the Mayor along with Councillor Kehoe, Hore, and Hanton to attend, as representatives of this Council, the proposed Conference to be held in Dublin with the object of pressing the Catholic University Question on the attention of Parliament and Government.

The Proposer and Secunder of above resolution were also asked to attend the Conference.

The Meeting adjourned to Monday next 1st. Proximo.

James Stafford

1st February 1904.

A Statutable Meeting of the Council was held this day at the Town Clerk's Office at noon.

The Members present were,

James J. Stafford Esq. Mayor (in the chair)

Aldermen:- Walter Walsh, George Hadden.

Councillors:- John O'Connor, James Hore, Thomas O'Brien, Richard Crosbie, William Mangan, Robert Hanton, Joseph Kingsberry, Thomas Carroll, James Goodisson, Benjamin Hughes, John J. Kehoe, Joseph Kelly, Michael O'Connor, Howard Rowe.

The Minutes of Meeting of 23rd January Ultimo were read and signed.

Liabilities which had accrued due up to the end of last month, amounting in the aggregate to £841 : 1 : 5 were submitted to the Meeting, and having been examined were approved, and an authorization was signed to enable the Treasurer to pay them on presentation to him of Paying Orders numbered from 237 to 253, and from 255 to 272 inclusive.

Summary and Reconcilement of Treasurers Account for the month ended the last day of January 1904 including the payments made at the Meeting held on this day.

S U M M A R Y .

Balance (if any) due by Treasurer as per last Statement.	£ 1353 : 16 : 11
Total sum received to close of last month	306 : 18 : 2
	<hr/>
Total	1660 : 15 : 1
	<hr/>
Balance (if any) due to Treasurer as per last statement.	- - -
Payments ordered at above-mentioned Meeting.	841 : 1 : 5
	<hr/>
Total	841 : 1 : 5
	<hr/>
Net Balance due by Treasurer (being difference of above Totals)	£ 819 : 13 : 8

RECONCILEMENT.

Balance per Bank Books due by Treasurer	£ 1660 : 15 : 1
Outstanding Orders (including those issued at this Meeting)	841 : 1 : 5
Net Balance due by Treasurer	£ 819 : 13 : 8

Councillor Hughes gave notice that he would, on the next available occasion, propose that the salary of the Caretaker of the Town Hall and of the Office Cleaner as from the 1st February 1904 be increased by such amount as appeared commensurate with the additional duties lately imposed on these employees.

The notice was accepted.

STANDING COMMITTEES.

The appointment of Standing Committees for the ensuing year was proceeded with. Councillor Hughes proposed.

That the Finance and Works, the Waterworks, and the Sanitary Committees be composed of the entire Council for the ensuing year.

This was seconded by Alderman Walsh and adopted.

Councillor Hanton proposed.

That the Technical Instruction Committee be formed of the following seven Members of the Corporation viz:- The Mayor for the time being, Aldermen Hadden, Furlong, Walsh, Councillors Hughes, Rowe, and Hore, in addition to the Protestant Rector for the time being, the Catholic Administrator for the time being, the Superior of the Christian Brothers for the time being, Messrs M. A. Ennis J. P. J. S. Thompson, and P. Henrahan.

Councillor Rowe proposed that a Committee be appointed to see that the requirements of the new Wexford Gas Act be carried out within the Borough; such Committee to consist of five Members of the Council. This was seconded by Councillor Mangan, but it was not carried in the form in which it was proposed, Alderman Walsh having moved an amendment which was seconded by Councillor John O'Connor and carried to the effect that the proposed Committee be composed of all the Members of the Corporation.

The motion as amended was then adopted.

QUARTERLY MEETINGS.

The fixing of the dates on which three Quarterly Meetings of the Council were required to be held previous to the 15th. of January 1905 was considered.

Councillor Kelly proposed and Councillor Crosbie seconded the following which was passed viz:-

That a Quarterly Meeting be held on Monday 2nd. May next at noon; another on Tuesday 2nd. August next at noon and a third on Monday 7th. November, next at noon.

PUBLIC LIGHTING.

A Lamp Committee appointed on the 11th. Ultimo made a report. As to Redmond road it was necessary to have the position of all the lamps on that road changed so that they would stand farther apart, and with the addition of two new lamps, form a line from Mr. Doyle's premises to Wexford Bridge, ending

in a lamp stationed opposite the entrance to the Bridge. In William street the position of two of the existing lamps required to be re-arranged and an additional lamp to be set up. In the Faythe the re-arrangement of the position of two existing lamps and the erection of two additional lamps were needed, and a lamp was required in Mary street at the point where that street widened. The Committee recommended that the work entailed by their report being carried into effect should be completed against the opening of the Lighting Season of 1904-5.

On the motion of Councillor Hanton seconded by Councillor Michael O'Connor it was Resolved- That the report now read be adopted, subject to the lamp near the entrance gate of the Selskar Iron Works at Redmond Road being left undisturbed.

OVER-LINE RAILWAY BRIDGES.

A letter from the Secretary of the County Council was read relating to over-line Bridges on the system of the Dublin Wicklow and Wexford Railway Company in the County Wexford. The Company had offered to pay the County Council an annual sum of £30 in consideration of the latter maintaining all the roadway on, and the approaches to, the Bridges in question. The offer would have been accepted were it not that one of the Railway Bridges was within the boundary of the Town of Wexford, as to which the County Council had no power to enter into an agreement. The County Council wished to know if the Corporation were satisfied to accept £2 : 10s a year in respect of the maintenance of the roadway over and the approaches to this Bridge.

It was Ordered- That the County Secretary be informed in reply to his letter that in the absence of information as to the extent to which their responsibility would go in case they undertook to keep the roadway in question in repair the Corporation refrained from coming to a conclusion but they were prepared to enter into direct negotiations with the Railway Company in the matter if necessary.

DUSTBINS - DIFFERENTIAL CHARGE.

Councillor Kingsberry gave notice of a motion to be considered at a Meeting to be convened for the 10th Instant to the following effect.

" That the resolution adopted on 11th January Ult. regarding the charge of five shillings for emptying dust bins be rescinded in so far as relates to premises valued at £5. and under, and that in these last mentioned cases the charge be fixed at one shilling a year per bin, payable in advance."

STREET IMPROVEMENT .

Attention was called to the fact that Mr P. J. Carroll was engaged in making secure the front of his house in Cornmarket, in accordance with the requirements of the Town Surveyor, and the question was would it not be well for the Corporation to avail of the opportunity to have the angle formed by the front walls of the house taken away and by this means widen the street. The building stood at a point where the street took an abrupt turn, almost at right angles, and was so narrow that it was not possible for more than one vehicle to pass the point at one time. The question had been under the consideration of the Finance & Works Committee, and some of its Members had inspected the house and interviewed Mr Carroll. He, it

transpired, had employed a Contractor to shore up the wall and insert a new bressummer supported on new story posts and masonry, together with doing other contingent work, for a sum of £35. This outlay was enough to make the house perfectly safe, but to pull down the front and rebuild it in a straight line would involve an expenditure of £65, as estimated, besides reducing the capacity of the house. Mr Carroll had consented to take off the angle on condition the Corporation paid him £30. being the difference between the above amounts. He waived any claim for compensation for loss of ground on pressure being put upon him by the Committee. It would add four feet, or thereabouts, to the width of the street if the front of the house was set back.

The Meeting considered that the terms on which Mr Carroll was prepared to widen the street were very favourable, and therefore on the motion of Councillor Hughes seconded by Councillor Rowe it was

Resolved:- That Mr Carroll be paid £30. on the terms stated.

PROPOSED NEW ACCOUNTS ORDER.

A letter from the Local Government Board (No. 1101/1904) dated 16th January 1904 was read intimating with reference to the circular letter of that Department of 25th March 1903 that the issue of the new Accounts Order had been unavoidably delayed and that it would not be possible to issue it in time to permit of any changes in the form of the existing accounts being carried into effect by the beginning of the ensuing local financial year.

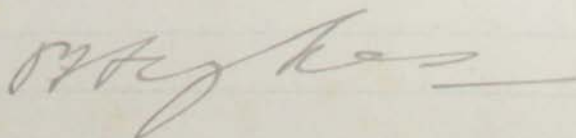
THE JURIES (IRELAND) ACTS.

The same Department per their circular letter of 15th January 1904 (No 74480/1903) forwarded a copy of an Order in Council, fixing a scale according to which the expenses of printing, and the remuneration of "existing" Clerks of Unions, Secretaries of County Councils, Clerks of Councils of Urban County Districts, and Collectors of Poor Rate in carrying into execution "The Juries (Ireland) Acts" shall be calculated.

POOR LAW REFORM.

A communication from Mr G. A. Mahon Secretary of the Poor Law Reform Commission dated 9th January 1904 was submitted. The Council were requested to furnish replies to a list of queries on points on which the Commission wished to gather public opinion; and also to depute two members of the Council to attend and give evidence at a Local Inquiry which the Commission proposed to hold in due course.

The subject matter of this last communication was discussed, but no action was taken.



10th. February, 1904.

A Special Meeting of the Council was held this day at the Town Clerk's Office at 7.30PM

There were in attendance :-

Benjamin Hughes Esq. (in the chair)

Alderman :- Walter Walsh.

Councillors :- Howard Rowe Joseph Kelly, Joseph Kingsberry, Thomas O'Brien, Thomas Carroll, James Goodisson, Robert Hanton, William Mangan, Michael O'Connor, John O'Connor, Richard Crosbie.

The Minutes of Meeting of 1st. February, 1904. were read and signed.

DUST BINS - PROPOSED DIFFERENTIAL CHARGE.

Councillor Kingsberry proposed a motion of which he gave notice to propose at last meeting viz :-

"That the resolution adopted on 11th. January, Ultimo, regarding the charge of five shillings for emptying dust bins be rescinded in so far as relates to premises valued at £5 and under, and that in these last mentioned cases the charge be fixed at one shilling a year per bin, payable in advance."

This was seconded by Councillor John O'Connor, but on the question being put it was found that only six of the Members present were in favour of making a differential charge as proposed.

The motion was declared lost.

James J. Stafford

7th March 1904.

A Statutable Meeting of the Council was held this day at the Town Clerk's Office at noon.

The Members present were:-

James J. Stafford Esq. Mayor (in the chair)

Aldermen:- Walter Walsh, George Hadden, Matthew Doyle.

Councillors:- Howard Rowe, John O'Connor, Thomas O'Brien, Robert Hanton, William Mangan, James Hore, Joseph Kelly, Patrick Byrne, Benjamin Hughes, Joseph Kingsberry, John J. Kehoe.

The minutes of Meeting of 10th February 1904 were read and signed.

Liabilities which had accrued due up to the end of last month, amounting in the aggregate to £206 : 12 : 8 were submitted to the Meeting, and having been examined were approved, and an authorization was signed to enable the Treasurer to pay them, on presentation to him of Paying Orders numbered from 273 to 294 inclusive.

Summary and Reconciliation of the Treasurer's Account for the month ended the last day of February 1904 including the payments made at the Meeting held on above-

mentioned day.

S U M M A R Y .

Balance (if any) due by Treasurer as per last monthly statement. £ 819:13:8

Total sum received to close of last month. 355:10:8

Total 1175: 4:4

Balance (if any) due to Treasurer as per last monthly statement - - -

Payments ordered at above-mentioned meeting 206:12:8

Total 206:12:8

Net Balance due by Treasurer (being difference of above totals) 969:11:8

R E C O N C I L E M E N T .

Balance per Bank Books due by Treasurer 1181: 4:4

Outstanding Orders including those issued at this Meeting 211:12:8

Net Balance as above due by Treasurer £ 969:11:8

PROPOSED WORKING CLASS DWELLINGS.

Designs prepared by the Town Surveyor for nineteen dwellings proposed to be provided by the Council for the use of the working classes, were submitted to the Meeting.

They had hitherto been before a Committee and had met with approval. It was seen that the site selected in William Street in connection with the Scheme would accommodate twelve houses of the class designed, and the site at Monument Place seven houses, but the buildings for Monument Place would be more commodious and contain more apartments than those for William Street, the estimated cost of construction in the one case being £140 per house, and in the other £100 per house. A computation made showed that the set of dwellings of the better class could not be let for less than 3/11d per week per house, and the others for not less than 3/- without making a demand on the Borough Fund.

Councillor Hughes then moved that the plan and designs for the houses for Monument Place be approved by the Council.

This was seconded by Councillor John J. Kehoe and was adopted.

Councillor Rowe proposed the approval of the plan and designs for the dwellings for William Street.

This motion was seconded by Councillor Mangan, and was adopted.

The Scheme having been carried up to this stage on the present occasion, it was decided to defer its further consideration to Wednesday 9th Instant.

Attention was called to the existence of a plot of land at the east end of Fisher's Row. This plot seemed an eligible site for small dwellings. It was situate in a locality where it was said houses would let freely. The question was, was it available On this point the Town Clerk was asked to make inquiries.

DOMESTIC SCAVENGING.

The Local Government, per their letter of 12th February 1904 (No. 7900:1904) in reference to an outbreak of scarlatina and typhus fever in Oxford asked the Corporation to take

into consideration again the recommendation of Dr Crean, Consulting Sanitary Officer, as to the removal, free of charge, of refuse from the dwellings of the poorer classes in the Town. The matter evoked considerable discussion. It was pointed out that in virtue of the system of domestic scavenging at present in operation, householders had the option to have dustbins emptied into the scavenging carts at the nominal charge of five shillings per annum, or in cases where the use of an ashpit was preferred, to have the contents of these receptacles removed by the scavenging carts on payment of one shilling for each cartload of manure taken away; further that ~~at~~ a large number of cases no system of domestic scavenging was needed, there being gardens attached to one-third of the number of dwellings in Wexford. However, on the motion of Councillor Hughes, seconded by Alderman Hadden, it was resolved to defer the consideration of the question raised by the Local Government Board for a month. Meantime Alderman Hadden gave notice of his intention to propose the partial revocation of a resolution passed on the 11th January last regarding the charge for emptying dustbins, with a view to enabling these receptacles to be emptied at a charge of 1/- per year, in cases where the Valuation of premises are below a standard to be hereafter determined on.

WEXFORD BAR.

The following resolution, proposed by Alderman Hadden and seconded by Councillor Mangan, was unanimously adopted.

That we beg to draw the attention of the Harbour Board to the very unsatisfactory state of the Bar at present, owing to which the shipping trade of the Port is much impeded, and great loss and injury inflicted upon the Town.

That in view of the comparatively early completion of the Rosslare Railway, and of the facilities it will offer for competition on the one hand, and for the expansion of trade on the other, it is of the utmost importance that the Harbour be put into, and maintained in, a state of complete efficiency.

FERRYCARRIG BRIDGE.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Councillor Rowe, seconded by Councillor Hanton.

That we respectfully call the attention of the County Council to the dangerous and dilapidated condition of Ferrycarrig Bridge, and request them to consider the advisability of erecting a new bridge in its place.

AUDITOR'S REPORT.

A Report of the Local Government Board Auditor on the Accounts of the Corporation for the year ended 31st March 1903 was submitted. The only matter requiring the attention of the Corporation was the absence of a Bond in the case of the Collector of Rents. The Meeting decided to take no action on the Report, as yet.

RATES - COLLECTOR'S ACCOUNTS.

The Books of the Collector of Borough Rate and of Rate in lieu of County Cess in respect of the current financial year have been checked by

by the Finance Committee. Of the former Rate a sum of £35:5:2 was outstanding, and of the latter the outstanding items amounted to £47:11:5. The progress made with the Collection was satisfactory. Having regard to the approaching close of the year, the Committee recommended that all items of uncollectible Rate (which in the case of the Borough Rate amounted to £27:16:9, and in the case of the Rate in lieu of County Cess to £37:7:4) should be written off the books.

The recommendation was adopted.

CELEBRATION OF ST. PATRICK'S DAY 1904.

A Committee of residents of Wexford invited by letter the Mayor and Members of the Corporation to join a procession which was being organized to traverse the principal streets of the town on the 17th Instant, in honour of the National Apostle of Ireland. The Committee would be glad to assign a place in the procession to the Governing Body of the Town on the occasion.

This matter was considered. The Meeting expressed a desire that the Members of the Corporation, headed by the Mayor and Town Clerk and attended by the Mace Bearer should take part in the proposed demonstration.

QUARTERLY MEETINGS . . .

The Local Government Board, per their letter of 9th February Ult. (No. 7,317/1904) expressed their approval of the dates fixed by the Urban District Council for their Quarterly Meetings in 1904.

The consideration of further business remaining to be disposed of was deferred to Wednesday next 9th Instant.

James Stafford

9th March 1904.

An adjourned Statutable Meeting of the Council was held this day at the Town Clerk's Office at 7: 30 P. M.

The Members present were:-

James J. Stafford Esq. Mayor (in the chair)

Aldermen Walter Walsh, Matthew Doyle.

Councillors James Goodisson, Thomas Carroll, Benjamin Hughes, Joseph Doyle,

Joseph Kelly, James Hora, Patrick Byrne, Joseph Kingsberry,

William Mangan, Michael O'Connor, Robert Hanton, Howard Rowa,

Thomas O'Brien.

The minutes of Meeting of 7th Inst. were read and signed.

Councillor Hughes pointed out where additional demands on the time of the Caretaker of the Town Hall and of the Office Cleaner had arisen consequent on the demolition of the Tholsel. He moved the addition of £2. a year to the remuneration paid to each of these employees. This motion, which was seconded by Councillor Mangan, failed to be

carried, but a motion proposed by Councillor Hore, and seconded by Alderman Walsh, on the matter was carried by the casting vote of the Mayor, as follows:-

That in the case of the woman employed in cleaning the Town Clerk's Offices, the remuneration paid be increased by £2. a year as and from the 1st Ultimo. f

The procurement of an auxillary Street Sprinkler was advocated. It was said that a second sprinkler was needed for the requirements of the town in periods of dry weather, and on the motion of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Mangan, it was

Resolved:- That a new watering cart be provided, and be of such design, and obtained at such cost, as may be recommended by a Committee, and approved by the Council.

The Committee was formed to deal with this matter. It included Councillors Hore, Hanton, Byrne, and Mangan, assisted by the Surveyor.

A letter dated 24th Ultimo, from the Clerk of Wexford Union was read. The Guardians required to know what were the terms on which they could acquire the interest of the Corporation in portion of the land at Coolcotts held by Mr Jeffares as tenant, in case it should be decided to enlarge the burial ground at Coolcotts which was used in connection with the Workhouse. They also wished to know the terms on which the Corporation would allot a plot of ground in Crosstown Cemetery for the needs of the poor, in the matter of the burial of the dead.

This matter was considered. As to the first query, Councillor Hore proposed that the Corporation as landlords, consent to Mr Jeffares conveying to the Board of Guardians, any part of his holding at Coolcotts, subject to the Guardians paying to the Corporation a share of the rent proportionate to the area of the plot to be converted into a burial ground.

This was seconded by Councillor Kelly and adopted.

As to the second query, it was proposed by Councillor Rowe, seconded by Councillor Mangan, and Resolved:- That the Guardians be informed they can purchase any grave-spaces they require in Crosstown Cemetery at the prices specified in the Schedule of Charges applying to that burial ground.

As a further step in the promotion of a Scheme for dwellings for the working classes, the Meeting took up the consideration of an Estimate of the Expenditure which the provision of the nineteen houses of the class designed would involve. This showed that the carrying out of the Scheme would entail an outlay of £2576:10 which included cost of erection of the buildings, purchase of land, Architects fees, Law Costs &c. &c. Then as to the Annual Expenses, the chief item of which came under the heading of repayment of Loan, these would amount to £164:16s rendering it necessary to charge a rent of 3/11 per house per week in the case of the houses for Monument Place, and 3/- per house per week in the case of the houses for William Street, assuming that the annual expenses were to be entirely discharged out of the income from the houses. Discussion on this matter resulted in the adoption of a resolution, as proposed by Councillor Byrne, and seconded by Councillor Hanton viz:-

That a Loan of £3,000 be raised by the Corporation, and that the weekly rent to be charged for the use of them be, as near as may be, as follows:-

3/11d for each of the larger-sized houses, and 3/- each for the smaller-sized ones.

A letter was read from a Provisional Committee formed to promote the holding, in Dublin, of an Exhibition of Irish Arts, Industries, and Manufactures. The Exhibition was to be held on the lines of the Irish National Exhibition of 1882. The Provisional Committee were anxious that the Corporation of Wexford would give an expression of opinion in favour of the project, and appoint a delegation to attend a Meeting to be held in the Mansion House Dublin, on an early date in support of the project.

This matter was considered, but the sense of the Meeting was in favour of an International, rather than an National Exhibition, and the letter was marked "read".

The Report of the Local Government Board Auditor on the Accounts of the Wexford Technical Instruction Committee for year ended 31st March 1903, and an Abstract of these Accounts, were laid before the Meeting.

James J. Stafford

28th. March, 1904.

A Special Meeting of the Council was held this day in the Town Clerk's Office at noon, in pursuance of the Mayor's requisition.

The Members present were:-

James J. Stafford Esq. Mayor (in the chair)

Aldermen - George Hadden, John Tyghe.

Councillors - James Hore, Benjamin Hughes, Michael O'Connor, Robert Hanton, John J. Kehoe, Joseph Kelly, Howard Rowe.

The Minutes of Meeting of 9th. Instant were read and signed.

RATES OF INTEREST ON LOCAL LOANS.

A Treasury notice received through the Local Government Board per their letter of 9th. March, 1904. (No. 13,474) was read. It intimated that the rates of interest chargeable on Loans granted out of the Local Loans Fund had been increased by the Treasury. It also specified what such rates would be according as the period of repaying a Loan would be 20. 30. 40 or 50 years, e. g. in the case of a Loan borrowed for the last-named period the rate of interest would be $4\frac{1}{2}\%$.

Having regard to the terms of this notice and in view of the intended borrowing of a Loan to provide small dwellings in Wexford the Meeting decided to ascertain what were the terms a Bank would be disposed to lend a sum of £3,000 to the Corporation on, before applying to the Board of Public Works for a Loan, but meanwhile to apply to the Local Government board for sanction of the Scheme directly the plans specification &c. of the buildings were completed by the Town Surveyor.

FIXING OF RATES

An estimate of the various items of expenditure to be incurred in carrying on the Municipal administration of the Borough in the financial year ending 31st. March, 1905, was laid before the Meeting.

©: Wexford Borough Council

income from sources other than rates, the net sums required to be raised by rates were as follows:- By a Borough Rate £1,119:17:3. by Rate in lieu of County Cess £1430:5:10. by Water Rates £1743:1:4. and by a Poor Rate £1434:1:4.

The County Council Demand for 1904-5, was also submitted. In virtue of the adjustment of the financial relations between the County and the Town of Wexford the sum of the Demand was made less by a rebate of £727:7:3. This was what the overcharges on the Town amounted to in the five years ending 31st. March, 1904. The amount of this rebate was questioned. There did not appear to be any deduction made on foot of the unexpended balance to the credit of the Town at the close of each of the five years in question; and as regards the current half year it was observed that the rebate made in respect of it could not have been computed on the basis of actual expenditure. These were points which needed to be reviewed before the Corporation could be taken to regard the adjustment as final. It was therefore decided to call the attention of the County Secretary to these matters.

Coming back to the question of the General Estimate Councillor Rowe proposed that £140 be set down in the Estimate by way of provision for the intended new system of sewerage for St. Selskar Ward.

Alderman Hadden seconded the motion and it was adopted.

Councillor Hore proposed that provision be made in the Estimate for raising by means of the Rate in lieu of County Cess a sum of £140 to be applied in part payment of the legal expenses incurred by the Corporation in connection with the Gas Company's Provisional Order Act.

This was seconded by Councillor Michael O'Connor and adopted.

Thereupon Councillor Kehoe proposed and Councillor Kelly seconded the following motion which was adopted:-

That the Estimate as amended and signed by the Mayor be approved; that a Borough Rate of One shilling, a Rate in lieu of County Cess of Two shillings, a Domestic Water Rate of One shilling, a Public Water Rate of elevenpence and a Poor Rate of One shilling and eightpence in the Pound be agreed on preliminary to such Assessments being made for the service of the financial year 1904-5.

OVERLINE RAILWAY BRIDGE.

A letter was read from the Engineer of the Dublin Wicklow and Wexford Railway. The Railway Company wished that the Corporation should maintain the approach to and the road over the Bridge crossing the railway track at the North end of the Town. The Company were prepared to pay an annual sum of £2:10s. to the Corporation in consideration of the latter performing this service.

The matter was referred to the Town Surveyor to report thereon, on the motion of Councillor Hore seconded by Alderman Hadden.

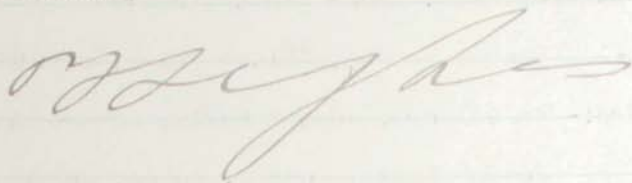
RENT COLLECTOR'S BOND.

The Local Government Board per their letter of 19th. March, 1904. (No. 14,701)

regarding the absence of a bond from the Corporation. The points pointed out

that should any loss be sustained by reason of the Collector omitting to enter into a Bond of Security the Corporation would be held responsible for such loss.
thereupon it was Ordered:-

That the Rent Collector be required to provide security to the sum of £50 for the due fulfilment of his obligations to the Council.



30th March 1904.

A special meeting of the Council was held this day, pursuant to the Mayor's requisition, at the Town Clerk's Office at 7:30 P. M.

The Members present were:-

Aldermen Walter Walsh.

Councillors Howard Rowe, John J. Kehoe, Joseph Doyle, Benjamin Hughes, Michael O'Connor, Thomas Carroll, James More, John O'Connor, Joseph Kingsberry.

On the motion of Councillor Rowe seconded by Councillor Kehoe the chair was taken by Councillor Hughes in the absence of the Mayor.

The minutes of Meeting of 28th Inst. were read and signed.

Liabilities which had accrued due up to date of present meeting, amounting in the aggregate to £850 : 14 : 7, were submitted and having been examined were approved, and an authorization was signed to enable the Treasurer to pay them on presentation to him of Paying Orders numbered from 295 to 316 inclusive.

Summary and Reconciliation of Treasurer's Account for the month ending the last day of March 1904 including the payments made at the meeting held on this day.

S U M M A R Y .

Balance due by Treasurer as per last monthly statement	£ 969 : 11 : 8
Total sum received to close of last month	<u>895 : 7 : 9</u>
Total	<u>1865 : 18 : 7</u>
Balance due to Treasurer as per last monthly statement	- - -
Payments ordered at above mentioned meeting	<u>850 : 14 : 7</u>
Total	<u>1004 : 14 : 10</u>
Net Balance due by Treasurer being difference of above totals	<u>861 : 4 : 7</u>

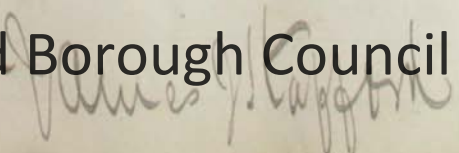
R E C O N C I L E M E N T .

Balance per Bank Books due by Treasurer	<u>1100 : 14 : 10</u>
Outstanding Orders	<u>95 : 19 : 0</u>
Net Balance as above due by Treasurer	<u>1004 : 14 : 10</u>

The Waterworks Committee reported on the Water Rate Account. Of the outstanding Rates, the sum of £28:2:7 was found to be irrecoverable, and the rest of the outstanding Rate, £5:1:8 was collectible, and to be carried forward as arrears.

This report was adopted by the Council.

©: Wexford Borough Council



5th April 1904.

A Statutable Meeting of the Council was held this day at the Town Clerk's Office at noon.

The Members present were:-

James J. Stafford Esq. Mayor (in the chair)

Aldermen:- George Hadden, Walter Walsh, Martin Kehoe.

Councillors:- James Here, Joseph Kelly, Howard Rowe, Robert Henton, Michael O'Connor, Joseph Doyle, John J. Kehoe, Joseph Kingsberry, Benjamin Hughes, William Mangan.

The minutes of Meeting of 30th March last were read and signed.

The advisability of the Council removing refuse from the dwellings of the poorer classes in the Town, free of charge, was brought under consideration. This was a question that had hitherto been discussed on the 6th March Ultimo, without having been settled. Councillor Rowe moved that the cleansing of ashpits be done at the expense of the Corporation in all cases where the valuation of dwellings for poor rates purposes was £3 and under. This was seconded by Alderman Hadden. It applied to about two-thirds of the entire number of dwellings in the Town. This motion did not meet the views of all the Members present. Some were opposed to it because of the expense it was calculated to involve, without affording a benefit commensurate with such expense, while on the other hand, the opinion was expressed that to limit the operation of a system of domestic scavenging to any one class of dwellings was bad in principle. However, the motion, on a division, was carried by eight votes against four.

The following report, received from the Medical Officer of Health, was read.

Upper George Street, Wexford.

5th April 1904.

To the Urban Sanitary Authority of the
Wexford Urban District.

As Medical Officer of Health of the Wexford Urban Sanitary District I hereby report to you that on the 29th Ultio. I visited the house at King Street Wexford occupied by Patrick Maloney, Town Postman.

I found there, a case of Malignant Scarlatina, the patient being a child aged 5 years named Michael Maloney, then not fit for removal without danger of fatal consequences.

I found during my attendance there, that the premises were in a most unsanitary condition, a large quantity of manure and filth accumulated, and four pigs kept in such a filthy state as to cause a nuisance and danger to health.

I also found that three cows were kept near the house, and that the milk was being sold, and probably spreading infection far and wide, the mother of the child milking the cows, and selling the milk.

I found the dwelling house overcrowded, two small bedrooms providing sleeping

accommodation for 9 persons, five being 15 years old or upwards.

I had young Maloney removed to the Fever Hospital when immediate danger had passed (2nd Inst) and directed that the sale of milk be prohibited until danger of infection has ceased.

The house has been disinfected by the Sanitary Sub-Officer, and the latter informs me that the nuisance has been removed.

The place, in my opinion, is not suitable for the keeping of pigs, the ground is so low that it cannot be properly drained, and a nuisance must be caused by accumulated filth.

I recommend that Maloney be compelled to remove the pigs at once and that he be required to remove to a suitable house, also that, in future, he must keep his cowshed in a sanitary condition.

Cases like the above, show the extreme necessity that exists, to put in action the provisions of the Infectious Disease(Notification) Act.

Thomas Pierse,

Medical Officer of Health

There was an Order made on this Report as follows:-

That the recommendations of the Medical Officer of health be put into effect, and to that end that notice be served on Patrick Maloney to have the pigs on his premises removed therefrom at once; that proceedings be taken under Section 107 of the Public Health Act 1878 to put a stop to the overcrowding of his dwelling house, and that diligent watch be maintained, to ensure that he keep his cows under proper sanitary conditions.

The Irish Fiscal Reform League, in a communication dated 26th March Ultimo, asked that the Corporation would pass a resolution in the following words viz:-

" That we consider the present conditions of Free Trade in these countries prejudicial to the material interests of Ireland and absolutely destructive to the prospects of success of the scheme of peasant proprietary to which the country is committed.

That we desire to impress upon the Government the need for such a tax upon foreign manufactured goods, and agricultural produce, as may encourage the increase of tillage and the Irish cattle trade, and preserve the struggling and nascent industries of Ireland"

Councillor Hughes proposed the adoption of a resolution in the form suggested.

Councillor Rowe seconded the motion, but it failed to be carried after a long and vigorous debate.

The Executive of the United Irish League invited by letter the Corporation to appoint six Delegates to attend the National Convention of the League to be held in the Mansion House Dublin, on Thursday 21st April Instant.

The Meeting took no action on this matter.

James J. Stafford

18th April 1904.

A Special Meeting of the Council was held this day, pursuant to the Mayor's requisition, at the Town Clerk's Office at noon.

The Members in attendance were,

James J. Stafford Esq Mayor (in the chair)

Aldermen:- Walter Walsh, George Hadden, Martin Kehoe.

Councillors:- Benjamin Hughes, Howard Rowe, Patrick Byrne, Thomas O'Brien,
Joseph Kingsberry, John O'Connor, Joseph Kelly, Robert Hanton,
Michael O'Connor, William Mangan, Joseph Doyle, James Hore.

The minutes of last Meeting were read and signed.

Mr M. J. O'Connor applied by letter for payment to him of a sum of £90, being the purchase money which the Corporation agreed to pay him so far back as 1894, in respect of taking down an old stable in Selskar Street, and thus widening that thoroughfare. The reason why this matter had remained in abeyance for so long a period was because Mr O'Connor had not been able to make good title to the plot on which the building had stood. He was still in the same position with regard to the plot. The Solicitors having charge of the Estate of the late Judkin Fitzgerald paid no attention to Mr O'Connor's offer to pay £20 as costs, if a conveyance of the Fee Simple Estate in the plot were given to him. This plot was the only portion of the Estate in question in the County Wexford, and the inference was that the Landlord has no proper title. However, the position of affairs had materially changed since 1894. It appeared the Receiver of the Estate had been informed that the ground had been used entirely as part of the public street, and he had asked for no rent for the last six years. Mr O'CONNOR submitted that in the circumstances, and having regard to the fact the plot had formed part of the public street for ten years, he was entitled to be paid for the loss of his interest in the building he had removed as per agreement with the Corporation. He undertook to indemnify the Corporation against paying any rent or against any other claims or charges if the £90 were paid to him.

The Meeting fully considered this question, whereupon Councillor Byrne proposed, and Councillor Rowe seconded the following resolution which was unanimously adopted. That the sum of £90 owing to Mr O'Connor Solicitor, in respect of plot of ground let in by him with Selskar Street, be paid to him as soon as the state of the Corporation funds will admit of it being paid, on condition that he will, in conjunction with a Surety, will enter into a Bond for £90 indemnifying the Corporation against loss, in case any loss should arise therefrom.

The Local Government Board, per their letter No 20,202 dated 14th April 1904 in reference to a report of the Medical Officer of Health on a case of Scarlatina which occurred in the house occupied by Patrick Maloney, a vendor of milk, at King Street asked if the distribution of milk from the infected premises had been prevented, and whether the Sanitary Sub-Officer had drawn attention to the insanitary condition of the premises prior to the outbreak of Scarlatina therein. They also urged the Council

to adopt the Infectious Disease (Notification) Act and the Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act 1890 in the interests of the public health.

Regarding this matter it was ordered as follows:-

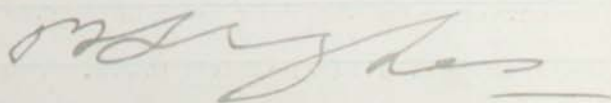
That the Local Government Board be informed that every precaution possible was taken in the case to prevent the spread of the disease, and to that end the distribution of milk was put a stop to until the Medical Officer of Health allowed it to be resumed, the patient was removed to hospital, the house and the clothing in contact with the patient were disinfected, the cows and pigs kept at the rear of the house were removed, the yard at the rear was cleaned and the manure taken away, the Occupier was compelled to use three of the four rooms in the house as bedrooms to minimise the overcrowding, pending his removal, early in May next, to a house in the Paythe suited to the proper accommodation of himself and his family, the Sanitary Sub-Officer's Report Book shows that he notified the Medical Officer of Health of the insanitary state of the premises among others, on 21st March last, that the Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act was adopted in Wexford Urban District on 13th January 1902, but as to the Infectious Disease (Notification) Act the Council have had the question of adopting it several times under consideration and found it was unnecessary to bring the Act into operation. On the present occasion they fail to see any reason to change their opinion on the matter.

The making of Rates for the service of the financial year ending 31st March 1905 was a question considered, whereupon the following, moved by Councillor Rowe and seconded by Councillor Hanton was adopted.

Resolved That there be now struck the undernamed Rates and Assessments as agreed to on the 28th March 1904.

A Borough Rate of One Shilling, a Rate in lieu of Co. Cess of Two Shillings, a Public Water Rate of Eleven Pence, a Domestic Water Rate Of One Shilling, and a Poor Rate of One Shilling and Eight Pence, on the net assessable value of property within the Borough, for the services of the year ending 31st March 1905, and that the Books containing the items of these various assessments be now sealed and signed.

The Rate Books were produced and were duly sealed and signed.



2nd May 1904.

A Quarterly Meeting of the Council was held this day at the Town Clerk's Office at noon.

The members present were:-

Aldermen:- Walter Walsh, George Hadden, Matthew J. Purlong.

Councillors:- James Hore, James Goodisson, Joseph Doyle, William Mangan, Benjamin Hughes, Patrick Byrne, Michael O'Connor, Joseph Kingsberry.

On the motion of Alderman Hadden seconded by Councillor Mangan the chair was taken by Councillor Hughes in the absence of the Mayor.

The minutes of Meeting of 18th April 1904 were read and signed.

Liabilities which had accrued due up to the end of last month amounting in the aggregate to £1149 : 7 : 2 were submitted to the Meeting, and having been examined were approved, and an authorization was signed to enable the Treasurer to pay them on presentation to him of Paying Orders numbered from 317 to 350 inclusive.

Summary and reconciliation of Treasurer's Account for the month ended in April, including the payments made at the Meeting held on this day.

SUMMARY.

Balance due by Treasurer as per last Statement	£ 1004:14:0
Total sum received to close of last month	31:18:0
	<hr/>
	£ 1036:12:10
Balance due to Treasurer as per last statement	- - -
Payments ordered at above meeting	1149: 7:2
	<hr/>
	1149: 7:2
Balance due to Treasurer (being difference of above totals)	112:14:4

RECONCILEMENT.

Balance per Bank Books due by Treasurer	1036:12:10
Outstanding Orders including those issued at this Meeting	1149: 7:2
Net Balance as above due to Treasurer	£ 112:14:4

The Accounts of the Poor Rate Collector were brought under notice. They had been examined by the Finance Committee. The Committee's examination showed that for the year ended 31st March 1904, items of rate amounting to £65:4:4 were for various reasons irrecoverable. The remainder of the outstanding items, amounting to £51:5:7 was deemed by the Committee to be collectible, and was recommended to be carried into the current year's accounts as arrears.

The recommendation was adopted.

On the subject of the adjustment of the financial relations between the County and the Town of Wexford (as to which a question was raised at Meeting of Corporation on 28th March last) there was read a letter from the County Secretary. The explanation he gave was not deemed satisfactory, inasmuch as it failed to show

whether at the close of each of the five years ended in March last there was any unexpended balance to the credit of the Borough, assuming that the County Demands were discharged within the year to which each such Demand applied. It was evident the County Secretary had misapprehended the question put to him on the point.

The Meeting therefore decided to ask Councillor Hore and the Town Clerk to inspect the Ledger of the county Council, and see how it was that no credit was given to the Borough under the head of "unexpended balances" in the matter of adjusting the financial relations between the County and the Town.

A design for improving and embellishing a wall which had formed the back wall of the Tholsel in the Bullring was submitted by the Town Surveyor. The estimated cost of making the proposed improvement was £90. The matter was considered, and on the motion of Alderman Hadden seconded by Councillor Mangan it was resolved to approve of the design, subject to the ornamental gables being raised to a level of three feet or so higher than the Surveyor proposed. It was further decided to authorize the Works Committee to approve of the specification, and invite tenders in respect of having the improvement carried out.

With regard to the proposal to purchase the Owner's interest in two dwelling houses in Selskar Street the Corporation Solicitor sent in a draft conveyance. The title was set forth in the draft deed, and was briefly as follows. Captain Talbot was tenant of the estate for life, and his son Major Talbot was tenant in tail in remainder. The Estate was subject to certain incumbrances and family charges. The premises to be conveyed to the Corporation would remain subject to these, but they were indemnified by the rest of the estate. The Solicitor advised that as it was imperative to take down the houses there was no alternative but to take a conveyance from the landlord. This was as good a title as the Corporation could hope to obtain. Thereupon it was resolved on the motion of Alderman Hadden seconded by Councillor Hore:-

- That the draft deed of conveyance be approved on the part of the Corporation, and the work of demolishing the buildings be proceeded with in view of the sanction of the Local Government Board being obtained to the purchase of the houses.

On the motion of Councillor Mangan seconded by Councillor Kingsberry it was decided to increase, by one shilling a week, the wages of the Corporation Employee entrusted with the work of making a weekly visit to Stonebridge River and cleaning it out; that in the case of this man's occasional helper the helper be paid one shilling extra in any week when his services may be required.

The Surveyor reported he had in stock a quantity of old slates &c. saved in the process of taking down the upper portion of two dilapidated houses in Selskar Street. He required to know how he would dispose of this material. He was instructed to have it sold by auction.

The need for having some improvements carried out in Crosstown Cemetery was brought under notice. The walks required to be gravelled and water rested on the surface of the ground in one place. A Committee was appointed to visit the Cemetery and report thereon viz:- Alderman Walsh and Councillors Byrne and Michael O'Connor.

James J. Stafford

6th June 1904.

A Statutable meeting of the Council was held this day at the Town Clerk's Office at noon.

The members in attendance were:-

James J. Stafford Esq. Mayor (in the chair)

Aldermen:- Matthew Doyle, George Hadden.

Councillors:- James Hore, Benjamin Hughes, Joseph Kelly, Robert Hanton,
John O'Connor, Joseph Kingsberry, William Mangan, James Goodisson,
Thomas Carroll, Richard Crosbie, John J. Kehoe, Michael O'Connor.

The minutes of Meeting of 2nd May 1904 were read and signed.

Liabilities which had accrued due up to the end of last month amounting in the aggregate to £543 : 6 : 7 were submitted to the Meeting, and having been examined were approved, and an authorization was signed to enable the Treasurer to pay them on presentation to him of Paying Orders numbered from 351 to 369 inclusive.

Summary and Reconcilement of Treasurer's Account up to the last day of May 1904, including the payments made at the Meeting held on this day.

S U M M A R Y.

Balance due by Treasurer as per last Monthly Statement	
Total sum received to close of last month.	£ 802 : 13 : 4
	<hr/>
Total	£ 802 : 13 : 4
Balance due to Treasurer as per last Monthly Statement.	112 : 14 : 4
Payments ordered at above-mentioned Meeting.	543 : 6 : 7
	<hr/>
Total	656 : 0 : 11
Net Balance due by Treasurer	146 : 12 : 5

R E C O N C I L E M E N T

Balance per Bank Books due by Treasurer	695 : 17 : 6
Outstanding Orders including those issued at this Meeting	549 : 5 : 1
	<hr/>
Net Balance as above due by Treasurer	£ 146 : 12 : 5

Alderman Doyle alluded to the death which had taken place since last Meeting of the Council of Mrs Elizabeth Doyle, of Charlotte Street Wexford, mother of Councillor Joseph Doyle. He moved that the sympathy of the Council be conveyed to Councillor Doyle in his bereavement. The motion was seconded by Benjamin Hughes, and was adopted.

It was Ordered:- That application be made to the Committee of Householders having charge of the old Pipewater System for £15. being the sum of four years rent paid by the Corporation for use of a passage to the old Reservoir, it being the condition on which this Committee were given charge of the old Water System that they should recoup the Borough Fund any payment made out of it in respect of the rent in question.

Mr J. S. Thompson, Captain Wexford Volunteer Fire Brigade, who attended the Meeting, stated that at the fire which had lately occurred at Mr Rowe's Flour Mills, Spawell Road, the older line of fire hose proved to be altogether inefficient and would have to be discarded for the future. It was necessary to provide the brigade with a second new line of hose. It was also necessary to provide a hose reel of modern style, as the present one was so heavy and cumbersome that it overtaxed the energies of the members of the Brigade to move it hurriedly to the scene of action on occasions of an outbreak of fire. It was shown that the cost of the hose would be £30 or so, and of the hose reel £15 or so.

Thereupon Councillor Kehoe proposed, and Councillor Kelly seconded the following motion which was passed.

That there be procured 500 feet of fire hose made up of six 75 feet lengths, and one 50 feet length, all of 2½ inch diameter, and furnished with couplings, and that tenders in respect of supplying these articles be invited by advertisements in the local press.

Further it was resolved on the motion of Alderman Hadden, seconded by Councillor Hughes That a hose reel be procured for the use of the Fire Brigade, and that tenders be invited by advertisement in respect of supplying the apparatus, on the Town Surveyor preparing a specification of it.

It was stated that Members of the Police Force in assisting to extinguish this fire had had their uniforms badly damaged, and they were intended to apply to the Norwich Insurance Company for means to purchase new clothing to replace the damaged articles. It was suggested to the Meeting that the Corporation should support the claims of the Constabulary on the consideration of the Insurance Company in the matter. It was decided to request the Town Clerk to write to the local Agent of the Insurance Company on the subject.

The Secretary of the Commissioners of National Education, by letter dated 19th May 1904 drew attention to the fact that the period of service of the School Attendance Committee for Wexford would terminate on the 31st July next, and requested that five persons be appointed by the Corporation to be Members of the new Committee from 1st August 1904.

Thereupon the following were appointed to serve as Members of the Committee viz:- Alderman Purlong, and Councillors Hore, Rowe, Mangan, and Kelly, being half of the full number of Members of that Committee.

A Committee submitted a plan for a supplementary watering cart. They considered that a cart capable of holding 250 gallons, and provided with a pump

and suction hose was best suited to the requirements of the Corporation. Such cart was procurable at a cost of £31 : 15 inclusive. On this matter having been considered it was decided, on the motion of Councillor Mangan, seconded by Councillor Kehoe.

That tenders be called for by advertisement in regard to supplying a Watering Cart of the design selected by the Committee, but that the pump and suction hose attachment set down as costing £4 be dispensed with.

The expediency of adopting Bye-Laws under the Public Health Acts, and of revising the existing Bye-Laws in force in the Town was brought under consideration, and on the motion of Councillor Hughes, seconded by Councillor Mangan it was Resolved:- That a Committee be formed of Councillors Hore, Hughes, Mangan, and John O'Connor to draft a set of Bye-Laws applicable to the Town, and that the Local Government Board be asked to furnish the Council with a copy of Model Bye-Laws for the guidance of the Committee.

With regard to order made on 28th March last, the Town Surveyor reported that he had inspected the Railway Bridge at the junction of Redmond Road and the Bridge crossing the Slaney. He considered that £2 : 10 a year, as offered by the Railway Company to the Corporation on condition that the latter would maintain the road and footways over the Railway Bridge was sufficient remuneration for the service required. It appeared however that the concrete forming the footways was almost worn out, and required to be taken up and replaced by fresh concrete.

It was thereupon Ordered:- That the Corporation do accept the offer of the Railway Company, provided the Company will put the footways into a state of repair but that a written Agreement be entered into between the Corporation and the Company, making provision for either party to terminate the contract on the expiration of six months from the date of giving notice to that effect to the other party.

Alderman Doyle referred to the fact that the flag, bearing the Arms of the town, which it was customary to hoist on the Municipal Offices on occasions of public rejoicing had become worn out and was unfitted for further use. He proposed that a new Municipal Flag be provided at the expense of the Ratepayers.

This motion was seconded by Councillor Kelly and was adopted, Councillor Hughes dissenting.

A copy of an Order dated 24th March 1904 made by the Lord Lieutenant and Privy Council confirming an Order issued by the Local Government Board on 9th July 1903 amending Regulations as to the issue of Stock by Urban Authorities was laid before the Meeting.

It was Ordered:- That the footpaths in the quarter of the Town where the Fairs are held be washed immediately after the close of the Fair on Fair Days.

©: Wexford Borough Council

James Stafford

8th June 1904.

A Special Meeting of the Council was held this day at the Town Clerk's Office at 7 : 30 P. M. to adopt Part 3 of the Housing of the Working Classes Act 1890 in view of the approval, by the Local Government Board, of the Scheme of proposed new dwellings. The members present were:-

James J. Stafford Esq. Mayor in the chair.

Councillors:- Joseph Kelly, Benjamin Hughes, James Hore, William Mangan, Thomas Carroll, James Goodisson, Joseph Kingsberry, Michael O'Connor, Thomas O'Brien.

The minutes of Meeting of 6th Inst. were read and signed.

On the motion of Councillor Hughes, seconded by Councillor Mangan it was unanimously Resolved That we, the Municipal Council of the Borough of Wexford, hereby adopt Part 3 of the Housing of the Working Classes Act 1890.

James Stafford

4th July 1904.

A Statutable Meeting of the Council was held this day at the Town Clerk's Office at noon.

The Members present were:-

James J. Stafford Esq. Mayor (in the chair)

Aldermen:- George Hadden, Walter Walsh.

Councillors:- James Cullimore, John O'Connor, Joseph Kingsberry, Joseph Doyle, James Hore, Michael O'Connor, Benjamin Hughes, Joseph Kelly, Thomas O'Brien.

The minutes of meeting of 8th June 1904 were read and signed.

Liabilities which had accrued due up to the end of last month, amounting in the aggregate to £313 : 13 : 9 were submitted to the meeting. They were examined and approved, and an authorization was signed to enable the Treasurer to pay them, on presentation to him of Paying Orders numbered from 370 to 397 inclusive.

Summary and Reconcilement of Treasurer's Account for the period ended the last day of June including the payments made at the Meeting held on this day.

S U M M A R Y .

Balance due per Treasurer as per last statement	146 : 12 : 5
Total sum received to close of last month	606 : 18 : 6
Total	753 : 10 : 11
Balance due to Treasurer as per last statement	- - -
Payments ordered at above-mentioned Meeting	313 : 13 : 8
Total	313 : 13 : 8
Net Balance due by Treasurer	439 : 17 : 3

RECONCILEMENT.

Balance per Bank Books due by Treasurer	754 : 19 : 1
Outstanding Orders (including those issued at this Meeting)	315 : 1 : 10
Net Balance due by Treasurer	439 : 17 : 3

Nine tenders received in respect of supplying 500 feet of Fire Hose furnished with seven pairs of couplings complete, were opened. It was seen that in order to ascertain which of these offered the most advantageous terms it would be necessary for the Meeting to devote a considerable period of time to the consideration of them. Thereupon Alderman Walsh proposed that the tenders, together with the samples of hose accompanying them, should be taken and examined by the Captain of the Fire Brigade, assisted by the Town Surveyor, and the result of the examination reported to the Meeting before it dissolved. This was seconded by Councillor Cullimore and was adopted.

The two functionaries referred to reported subsequently that on merit they had chosen three out of the nine tenders. They left it to the Meeting to decide which one of these three was to be accepted. The tenders recommended were from Matthew Harpur Wexford, who asked £34 : 5 : 0 R. H. Shaw Wexford who asked £26 : 5 : 0 and Shand Mason & Co. London who asked £30 : 5 : 0

The sample of hose furnished by R. H. Shaw was of best quality. The weight of the material was adapted to the requirements of the Fire Brigade, and the price asked was the lowest. So, therefore, on the motion of Councillor Hughes seconded by Councillor Kelly, Mr. Shaw's tender was accepted.

Alderman Hadden proposed that the thanks of the Council be tendered to Mr. Thompson for his services as Captain of the Volunteer Fire Brigade, and for the zeal he displayed in having it kept up to the highest state of efficiency.

Councillor Michael O'Connor seconded this, and it was passed unanimously. Mr. Thompson thanked the Meeting for its appreciation of his services.

Two tenders received in respect of supplying a watering cart were opened and read. One was from Matthew Harpur Wexford and the other from R. H. Shaw Wexford. Both traders were prepared to supply the cart fully up to specification, the former for £27 : 15, and the latter for £26 : 3 : 6.

Thereupon it was resolved on the motion of Councillor Kelly seconded by Councillor Doyle, that Mr Shaw's tender, being the lower of the two, be hereby accepted.

With regard to the pending acquisition and demolition of two old houses in Selskar Street, the Finance and Works Committee recommended the Meeting to consider the question of selling the buildings directly they became the property of the Corporation. The disposal of the houses on the condition that they were to be pulled down and the street widened to the satisfaction of the Corporation would relieve the latter from the consequences that would ensue, in case in taking down these

houses the adjoining insecure property was damaged. The matter was considered, and on the motion of Alderman Hadden, seconded by Councillor Hughes it was

Resolved:- That the interest in the premises at Selskar Street to be acquired by the Corporation be sold by auction on the condition that the purchaser will, within one month after date of purchase, take down the present dilapidated houses and let portion of the ground on which they stand in with the street, so that the front of any future structure on the ground will be in line with the adjoining house of Mrs Malone and of Mr Frank Carty.

With regard to intended improvements on wall in the Bullring which had formed the back wall of the recently demolished Tholsel, it appeared that Mr William Porter, whose premises abutted on the wall, was dissatisfied with what was proposed to be done.

According to the terms of a letter received from his Solicitors Messrs Huggard and Brennan, the ornamental pediments which it was designed to raise on the wall in order to screen off Mr Porter's back premises from public view, were calculated to exclude the light from several of his windows. On this letter having been brought, some weeks back, under the notice of the Finance and Works Committee, they deputed Councillors Mangan and Rowe, along with the Town Surveyor, to see Mr Porter and make terms with him. The result of the interview was that he undertook to waive all claims against the Corporation by reason of the exclusion of light from the windows, and to allow a valley to be put at the back of the pediments where these would abut against the roof of his bakehouse, provided the Corporation would carry out the improvement in accordance with the modified plan which was produced to the present Meeting, and provided also that they would put into repair the gable and chimney of Mr. Porter's house. A letter, received from Mr Porter, was read for the Meeting. It ran to the same effect. Discussion took place, whereupon it was found necessary to have Mr Porter present. He was sent for and attended the Meeting. An interview which took place between him and the meeting ended in the adoption of the following resolution, which was passed with his acquiescence, on the Motion of Councillor Hughes, seconded by Councillor Michael O'Connor.

That the design of ornamentation for wall in Bullring now submitted, be approved, and in consideration of Mr Porter having given his consent to the improvement being carried out according to this design, the Corporation agree to repair the weather slating on the gable of his house, and cement the chimney of the house all round.

In view of the Council putting a system of domestic scavenging into operation, it was pointed out to the Meeting that the cost attendant on the removal of house refuse, free of charge, would have to be defrayed out of the Borough Fund, as required by the Public Health Act 1878. This Fund was barely sufficient to meet the annual demands upon it, so that there was no alternative but to fall back on the moneys raised by the Rate in lieu of County Cess. But on the point whether these moneys could be devoted to the purpose, the Town Surveyor was not prepared to advise the Council to apply to the Local Government Board for a Sealed

Order, enabling such a course to be taken, seeing that the system about to be organized did not apply to the whole District or to any prescribed part or entity of the District, but was to be a partial system in the sense that it was to apply to all dwellings in the town valued at £3 and under. In the circumstances it was well for the Council to be guided by legal advice before taking any further steps in the matter. Alderman Hadden proposed that Counsel's advice be taken on the point. The motion was seconded by Councillor M O'Connor, and it was adopted.

With regard to the proposed re-arranging of the gas lamps and the erection of two additional lamps on Redmond Road, the Secretary of the Gas Company requested the Council by letter to re-consider their decision.. The existing lamps were, if anything, too far apart, and to place them at a greater distance from each other would be a regrettable mistake. The average distance between them was 60 yards, which would be increased to 107 yards if what the Council wished to be done was carried out. He did not wish it to be understood in any way that the Company refused to comply with the order of the Council, but it was considered advisable to bring the matter under notice before any change was made. The Meeting considered the question but decided to adhere to the original decision.

The Town Surveyor's Monthly Report was read. The only important matter dealt with was the necessity for constructing a sewer through part of Green Street where no sewer existed. Some of the houses in the street had drains which discharged surface water into the water tables. A 6 inch pipe sewer about 200 yards long to connect with the sewer in the lower part of the street was required.

On the motion of Councillor Hughes, seconded by Councillor O'Brien it was Resolved. That a sewer be constructed as suggested and that tenders be invited from Contractors in respect of constructing it, as per specification to be drawn up by the Town Surveyor.

The necessity for having the woodwork of the Artizans and Labourers Dwellings painted was brought under notice. It was suggested that the inside of the windows, as well as all the external woodwork of the houses, should be painted. The matter was considered, but the following motion, as proposed by Councillor Kelly, and seconded by Councillor Kingsberry was adopted viz:-

That the external woodwork only, and the eave-shoots and down pipes of the houses be painted; that the house belonging to the Corporation in John's Gate be painted in like manner; that three contracts be made for doing the painting, as per a specification to be prepared, and that tenders be called for in the usual way,

James J. Kafford