

WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL.

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MEETING - 25 TH AUGUST, 1930.

M I N U T E S.

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A meeting of Wexford County Council was held in County Council Offices, Wexford, on 25th August, 1930.

Present:- Mr M. Doyle, (Chairman) presiding : also, Messrs James Armstrong, John Brennan, James Clince, Patrick Colfer, Richard Corish, John Culleton, John Cummins, Timothy F. D'Arcy, James Gaul, Col C.M. Gibbon, James Hall, Patrick Hayes, Michael Jordan, William P. Keegan, Thomas Maylor, Thomas McCarthy, John Murphy, Sean O'Byrne, Miss Nellie O'Ryan, Col. R.P. Wemyss Quin, James Shannon, Myles Smyth and James E. Walsh.

The Secretary, County Surveyor, the following Assistant Surveyors:- John Kehoe, J.F. Birthistle, R.J. Ennis, and Patrick O'Neill and Mr Elgee, Solicitor, were also in attendance.

The Minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed.

Treasurer's Advice Note for £1196:12:11 was examined and signed.

COUNTY SURVEYOR'S REPORT.

The following report was presented by the County Surveyor:

"I have to report that the Local Government Department has refused to grant the sum of £341:0:0d. which was applied for in regard to providing for extra cement for carrying out work on Gorey-Courtown Road. The Department suggest some modifications in the Specification, and I purpose discussing these with the Contractor during the week.

I have had a number of communications from local people, and one also forwarded from the Local Government Department with reference to the closing of the Gorey-Courtown Road to traffic during the progress of the work. I have notified the Contractor in all these cases, and requested that he should make arrangements as far as possible to facilitate local traffic. I shall deal also with this matter during the week when I interview the Contractor.

The cement-bound macadam section of the Rosslare improvement work is now open to traffic, and the laying of the tarred stones on the other section is now in progress. The recent

very bad weather is to some extent delaying this work, but so far it is going on well.

The reconstruction of the Ballinaboola section of Wexford - New Ross Road is now in progress, and I have made arrangements to commence work shortly in laying cement-bound macadam on the Tomcoole section.

The Grant work on Ferns Streets has been delayed owing to the necessity of putting in a large number of reinforced concrete slabs to strengthen up the drains in the Town before laying macadam grout. The surfacing work will be commenced as soon as possible.

The continuance of the surfacing with tarred stones on the Camblin-New Ross Road is now in progress, and will shortly be completed. I have on the ground a large quantity of screenings from Ballybrennan Quarry for the surface dressing of the entire length, and this will be commenced on completion of the laying with tarred stones. •

I have received a letter from the Health Board disclaiming responsibility for the gulley traps in Duncannon. I am satisfied that this work should be carried out by the Health Board, as, no doubt, the drains carry sewage matter, and are accordingly properly called sewers, and become a sanitary matter.

Since your last meeting the Finance ^{Department} Committee has forwarded Pay Order covering requisition in connection with the reconstruction work at the Old Jail, and, accordingly, it was not necessary for Alderman Corish and myself to visit Dublin. Mr Elgee, County Solicitor, will report on this matter. I have received communication from the Department of Justice with reference to the arrangement of the new Courthouse at the Jail. I am informed that it is essential that prisoners should be brought direct from the cells to the dock without passing through the Court. This will entail the construction of a new staircase, as an extension to the side staircase off the passageway to communicate directly with the dock in the Court overhead.

I ask for authority to put this work in hands. As regards the arrangement of the Judge's chamber and Jury Room the agreement already come to with the Judge has been approved.

I have received communication from the Department of Lands and Fisheries in reply to my letter pointing out that the work on the sluice gates at Courtown Harbour should be put in hands at once if they are to be done this year. It is stated that the question of State contribution towards work has not yet been decided.

The protection work on the shore at Courtown is well advanced, and I believe will prevent any further danger to the bank.

I have again been in communication with Mr Mobbs, Surveyor, Lowescroft, in regard to his reporting on the Coast Erosion at Rosslare, and I have his reply which I shall submit to the meeting.

The Special Committee appointed by the County Council to meet the Library Committee with reference to accommodation for Library at the Old Jail premises has been summoned to meet on the 23rd instant, and I shall have particulars of their recommendations for the meeting on the 25th instant.

I have to report that there has been irregular dealings with payment of workmen in a Ganger's area adjoining Wexford. The matter is very serious, and I suggest that the matter be referred to the Finance Committee on the 28th instant. I have suspended the Ganger pending your decision, and have directed him to be in attendance at the meeting."

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr O'Byrne, seconded by Mr Hall:- "That the report of County ~~Surveyor~~ Surveyor be received and considered."

Gorey-Courtown Road: The following under date 21st August, 1930, (RG.32) was read from the Department of Local Government:-

"With further reference to your letter of 4th instant, I am directed by the Minister for Local Government and Public Health to

state that the sum of £4,195 originally proposed to be allowed towards the Wexford-Rosslare road scheme was increased to £6,000 in consideration of the Council providing £6,000 for the Gorey-Courtown road. In the circumstances, and in view of the fact that special grants amounting to about £9,000 have been earmarked for road work in the Urban Districts of County Wexford, the Minister cannot see his way to recommend a further Grant of £341 for work on the Gorey-Courtown Road."

The County Surveyor said that suggestions had been made to him as to varying the amount of cement in the mix, or to shorten the length of the reconstruction or as an alternative to take up the road and carry out the work by direct labour, but this of course was out of the question. He would see the Contractor this week and decide on what was best to be done.

It was decided that County Surveyor report result of his conference with the Contractor to next meeting of the Council.

The County Surveyor gave the names of Messrs Brickenden, Beech Lodge, Gorey; J. Hunt, Esmonde Street, Gorey, and Dennis Allen, T.D., Raheengurren, Gorey, as requiring to make daily use of the road, but it was necessary that all sections of the road should be closed as work proceeded. No doubt there would be a certain amount of inconvenience. Everybody in the district wanted the reconstruction of the road and this could not be done without temporary disability to some who resided on it. They had been able to arrange with the local people in similar circumstances when Rosslare Road was being done. He (County Surveyor) would see the Contractor during the week and arrange with him how best to meet the inconvenience of the local people.

Mr Keegan asked if it would not be possible to do certain sections of the road in half widths but the County Surveyor stated that the suggestion would not be feasible.

It was decided that the County Surveyor do what was possible to minimise the inconvenience caused to local people by the reconstruction of Gorey-Courtown Road.

Mr Keegan asked if the lower portion of the road could be

done first.

The County Surveyor said he had sent copies of the letters received from the local residents to the Contractor and asked the latter to meet him during the week.

On the suggestion of Mr Keegan it was decided that the County Surveyor notify the Councillors for Gorey Electoral area as to this consultation with the Contractor so that they could attend.

Mr O'Byrne - Portion of the road referred to will be closed only for a short time.

The Chairman said it was recognised that when a road was closed there would have to be a certain amount of inconvenience to the residents. This was so all over the County and he did not see why the Gorey people could not put up with the small amount of inconvenience to which they were put the same as anybody else.

Rosslare Work: Colonel Gibbon asked the County Surveyor to make a statement as regards Wexford-Rosslare Road for the information of the public. There was an idea amongst some people that the County Council gave a Contract to make a road of the same type as the Wexford-Enniscorthy Road and not having got a road such as that they appear to think the County Council lax in allowing the work which had been carried out. He wished the County Surveyor to explain that they had set up only a very small sum to obtain the best road they could for the money but that they were not out to expend a huge sum to get a concrete road.

The County Surveyor said that the work at Rosslare Road could not be described as a concrete road. Engineers and others interested in this class of work gave it another name to distinguish it from a road such as that from Wexford to Enniscorthy and called it a cement bound macadam road. For the binding of this class of road they used cement instead of

mud, Undoubtedly with mud they obtained a smoother surface but this was only temporary. With a cement bound macadam road they avoided potholes though the surface may be somewhat rough. There was no doubt but the Wexford-Rosslare Road was rough in places but one reason of this was because it was to a certain extent experimental and they were only beginning this class of construction. As a matter of fact the first section done was really the worst, and this happened to be the piece in Rosslare. The cause of this was the very bad bottom. The work was not half the cost - per yard - of the Enniscorthy road and the whole idea was to get a road surface that would stand modern traffic for some years with a minimum cost of maintenance. The Local Government Department and all road Engineers had discovered that the bitumen road though very nice for motors became very slippery for horse traffic and owing to the number of horses used by farmers for transport it was essential that something should be done to make a road on which animals would not be constantly falling. Another matter was that the maintenance cost of the bitumen road was close on £100 per mile per annum, while it was calculated that the cement bound macadam road would cost very little for ten or fifteen years. If at the end of that time it became ravelled or rough an asphalt coat would give it another period of life. But it was not fair to compare Rosslare Road with the Wexford-Enniscorthy Road. They were two different classes of construction. In Meath the County Surveyor was varying the present method by using a small and finely graded material on the surface. He (County Surveyor) would try this on the Wexford New Ross Road. He considered it unfair of people to complain of the Rosslare Road which had replaced a thoroughfare which was practically impassable for motors. A person was - when going over the old road - almost "chucked out" of his motor car and it was impossible to cope with the potholes. Some people he understood were saying that the Rosslare road was wearing out motor tyres and horses shoes and that the

school children on account of the surface had to be provided with a new pair of boots every week. There had been no official complaints but it was a topic of general conversation.

The Chairman said that as this road did not cost half as much as the Enniscorthy road people could not expect to have as good a road as that to Enniscorthy for half the money. As regards the repair of the road from Wexford to Ashfield he thought the County Surveyor was putting on an extra light coat of stones.

The County Surveyor said the coating was about two inches.

The Chairman said in places the coat was not an inch and in other places the surface was left as it was .

The County Surveyor said they had carried out patch work on this section with tarred stones and what he was now doing was piling in the bits in between and he would come back on the others afterwards and touch them up.

The Chairman said that in his opinion what stones were being put out now would stand very little wear. The County Surveyor was not putting on a load of two inches on a whole lot of places. It might be said in a year or two when the road became bad that it was steamrolled, but it was very poor steamrolling that was done with only an inch of material. He (Chairman) considered it was a waste of money not to put on a heavier layer of stones, where there was such an enormous amount of bitumen being used. If more stones were put on they would have a much better job.

County Surveyor - I think you will find it will last for a very reasonable period.

The Chairman said the County Surveyor should direct his assistant to do something with the road from Jones' Cross to Taghat, the alternative route, before it went to the dogs. It was in a wretched condition at the moment. Gravel was being put in the potholes but if some better method of repair was not adopted the gravel might as well be thrown on the ditch.

The County Surveyor said they were using about ten gallons of tar to the cubic yard. The stones were first spread and the bitumen was sprayed in it afterwards. About one gallon of tar

covered four square yards.

The discussion then dropped.

Ferns Streets: Mr O'Byrne stated that, before the work at Ferns Streets was proceeded with, traps and sewers should be provided for the public fountains. There was no sewers to take away the water which seemed to be washing away the streets and doing considerable damage.

Mr Ennis, Assistant Surveyor, said there was a grating to every fountain except the one on the Bunclody road. They did not propose to carry out any work there at the moment.

Mr O'Byrne - There is no trap at the upper end of the town.

Mr Ennis - That is the one to which I refer.

New Ross-Camblin Road: The County Surveyor said that in his opinion, the County Board of Health were responsible for the gulley traps in Duncannon and the work could not be described in any way as a County job.

Mr Elgee stated that he wrote to the Secretary of the County Board of Health, and pointed out to him that, as sewage was carried by these drains the work was purely and simply a Board of Health job as they were responsible for all sanitary matters.

It was mentioned that the matter had been under consideration at the last meeting of the Board of Health and it was decided to adjourn further consideration until the statement made at the meeting of the Board of Health, relative to the maintenance of the traps at Duncannon was received.

Wexford Courthouse: Mr Elgee stated that he had reported to the Finance Committee at their meeting on the 14th August, 1930, that he had received Paying Order for £3297:16:1d. from the Department of Finance, being portion of the compensation claim. The Paying Order had been made out in the joint names of the County Council and Captain Redmond. He had forwarded draft to Captain Redmond's solicitors, and they had written to him, asking for a definite guarantee that the County Council would purchase Captain Redmond's interest in the old site on the ag-

reed terms. He (Mr Elgee) had replied that arrangements for loan were being negotiated with the Council's Treasurer, and that in the meantime, ground rent would be paid to Captain Redmond as usual.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Colonel Quin, seconded by Mr O'Byrne:- "That representations be again made to the Council's Treasurer (National Bank Ltd.) relative to the loan for extinguishing ground rents of Old Courthouse site and that it be pointed out to them the Council are unable to pay their Contractor unless they can give a guarantee to the owners of the ground at the Old site that the purchase money would be forthcoming."

With regard to the proposal to expend £50 on prisoners' dock etc., Miss O'Ryan disapproved of the proposal. She could not see why secret passages should be provided for prisoners in view of their unfortunate experience in the past.

Mr McCarthy contended that it would be a decided improvement to have such an arrangement as would prevent prisoners being hawked through the Court. This arrangement prevailed in every modern Courthouse.

The Chairman considered that sentiment should not enter into this matter at all. It was really a question of the extra cost. He was perfectly satisfied that at present every prisoner would get fair treatment but this was not a consideration which should influence the Council but the £50 which they were called on to spend. He could not see the great necessity there was for the change suggested.

Mr Keegan asked if the plans had not been approved by the Government already, and in that event he believed that if any changes were required the Government should foot the bill.

Colonel Quin held that it was entirely in the interests of prisoners that they should be kept as private as possible.

Chairman - You will exhibit them in the dock before everyone while you don't want to haul them through the Court. I don't see the great difference. If we have to do this I suppose we

must but I am certainly not in favour of agreeing without a very strong protest.

Colonel Gibbon pointed out that it would cost a great deal more money to make this alteration later. He believed they should provide this accommodation but the Government ought to pay for it.

Mr Corish said it was extremely probable that, when the plans were submitted to the Department of Finance, the Department of Justice was brought into consultation, and they should protest now against ~~any~~ changes when the work had proceeded so far.

The Chairman thought it was quite a forlorn hope to think that they would get money from the Government. He believed they would make the Council give them a Courthouse to every inch without an extra penny piece.

Colonel Quin pointed out that in almost every contract there was bound to be changes and alterations. In the County Hospital they had a series of applications for changes every year. They were accustomed to these matters now and the present application was not very terrible.

Mr Hall considered that, if they were to accept every recommendation made to them, they would not know where the changes might stop.

Mr Keegan proposed:- "That the County Council carry out the work at the Old Jail, relative to reconstruction of Courthouse, according to the plans and, if the Department of Justice want alterations, that they carry them out at their own expense."

Mr Hall seconded.

As an amendment Colonel Quin proposed and Mr McCarthy seconded :- "That the Council agree to the proposal of the County Surveyor relative to reconstruction of Courthouse, and request the Government to provide the necessary amount to cover such work."

A poll was taken on the amendment with the following result:

For the amendment - Colonel Gibbon, Colonel Quin, Messrs Culleton, Meyler and McCarthy - 5.

Against - Miss O'Ryan, Messrs Armstrong, Brennan, Cline, Colfer, Corish, Cummins, Gaul, Hall, Hayes, Keegan, Murphy, O'Byrne, Shannon and Smyth and the Chairman - 16.

Messrs Doran and Jordan were not present when poll was taken.

The Chairman declared the amendment lost.

A further amendment was proposed by Mr Corish as follows:-

"That we draw the attention of the Minister for Finance to the fact that we have received representations from the Minister for Justice to have alterations made as regards prisoners' dock and cells made in the new courthouse which will involve us in an amount of money for which we have not made provision."

"In view of the fact that we assume the Department of Justice were consulted with reference to the original plans, we are of opinion that, before proceeding with this work, we should receive a guarantee that the amount involved will be forthcoming from the Department concerned."

Mr O'Byrne seconded.

A poll was taken with the following result:-

For the amendment - Colonel Gibbon, Colonel Quin, Messrs Armstrong, Cline, Colfer, Corish, Culleton, Gaul, Hayes, Mayler, McCarthy, O'Byrne and Shannon - 13.

Against - Miss O'Ryan, Messrs Brennan, Cummins, Hall, Keegan, Murphy, Smyth and the Chairman - 8.

Messrs Doran and Jordan were not present when poll was taken.

The Chairman declared the amendment carried and, on being put as the substantive motion, it was adopted nem con.

Courtown Harbour and Department of Fisheries: The County Surveyor stated that, as no decision had been arrived at by the Department of Fisheries, to make a grant, it would not now be possible to carry out the work this year.

Mr Keegan asked for how many years was the application before the Department of Fisheries in connection with grant for

this work.

The County Surveyor said that it was about two years ago when the first representations were made. At the interview he and Mr Corish had in Dublin about three months ago, he was led to believe that the Council could go ahead with the work and, if they made formal application for the grant, there was a certainty that it would be forthcoming.

The Chairman asked what alternative had they in view of the delay by the Department of Fisheries in dealing with the matter.

Mr Keegan said they should protest in the strongest possible manner against the treatment that had been meted out to the Council. He proposed the following resolution:-

"That this Council learns with considerable surprise that the application made by them for a grant for repair of sluice gates etc at Courtown Harbour had not been disposed of by the Minister for Fisheries after a very considerable period of time had elapsed since application was made by the Council. Very serious injury has been done to the fishing industry of the place by the delay of the Government Department. The sluice gates are at present ineffective, and, in consequence, it is with the greatest difficulty that fishing boats can put to sea even in very favourable weather. We are now informed that, owing to the action of the Department of Fisheries, the work cannot be proceeded with until next year. Even at this late hour we request the sanction of the Minister to the Council's application."

Mr O'Byrne, in seconding, pointed out that the Council had put up their portion of the expenditure immediately after consideration of the County Surveyor's report whereas the Minister for Fisheries had been now two years considering whether he intended making any contribution towards the cost of the work. It was certainly most unfair to the fishermen of the locality, whose livelihood depended upon their ability to utilise the harbour.

Miss O'Ryan said that the public knew that the Department of Fisheries never did anything in Co. Wexford.

Mr Culleton said that the Fisheries Department certainly had made a contribution towards the cost of the dredging at Kilmore.

Mr Hall said that two years ago Courtown Harbour was in a bad state and the Council were under the impression that the work would be carried out within a few months. They had no guarantee if and when the Department of Fisheries would finally deal with their application.

Chairman - The same with everything else in this County - St. Helen's and other places.

The resolution was then put and passed unanimously.

Coast Erosion at Rosslare : The County Surveyor explained that he had received the following letter from Mr S.W. Mobbs, Borough Surveyor, Town Hall, Lowestoft:-

"I beg to thank you for your letter of the 20th instant ~~re~~ above and for the information contained therein.

I should be pleased to advise your Council on the lines laid down in your letters of the 11th and 20th instant ~~for~~ the sum of Fifty Guineas plus first class fare and expenses.

This would include the necessary visit, inspection, report and attendance at Inquiry, together with sufficient information and particulars for the purpose of preparation of a scheme (which could presumably be prepared and carried out ~~by~~ yourself), and an opinion on same when prepared if you so desire."

In connection with this matter, the following letter, under date 7th August, 1930 (M.S. 1447) was read from the Department of Industry and Commerce:→

"With reference to your letter of the 1st instant containing a resolution adopted by the County Council on the 28th ultimo requesting this Department to hold a local public Inquiry with a view to making an Order prohibiting the removal of sand and gravel from Rosslare Strand, I am directed by the Minister for Industry and Commerce to say that the Department, though willing on the evidence before them to make the suggested Prohibitory Order, will be prepared, in deference to the wishes of the Council, to arrange

for the holding of an Inquiry as requested.

I am to add that it will not be possible to arrange for the Inquiry before next month. All expenses in connection with the Inquiry (advertising, provision of a suitable place for holding the Inquiry, shorthand writing and expenses of the Officers holding the Inquiry) must be borne by the County Council. Please let me know whether the Council will be prepared to pay these expenses."

The Secretary stated that the Finance Committee at their last meeting had recommended the County Council to pay the expenses of the proposed inquiry.

Colonel Gibbon said that they should welcome the inquiry. Mr Mobbs was accepted as the best authority on coast erosion in England and the problem which they had at Lowes~~croft~~ⁱⁿ was very much similar to that at Rosslare. The coast ~~at~~ Lowes~~croft~~ⁱⁿ had been made comparatively safe by the action that had been taken on the advice of Mr Mobbs.

The County Surveyor stated that Mr Mobbs had been recommended to him by the engineer of the Railway Company as he reported on the coast erosion at Greystones. There was no question that they were not going to spend, in wrestling with the problem, the same amount of money that was needed in Lowes~~croft~~ⁱⁿ viz., £130,000 but, of course, this amount had been necessary for the protection of a borough. The employment of Mr Mobbs and any report they received from him would not commit them to anything.

In reply to Mr Corish, the County Surveyor stated that engineers in Ireland, who might be capable of dealing with the problem, were unfortunately in official positions.

Colonel Gibbon pointed out that they were faced with the probability of an order being made prohibiting the removal of sand and gravel from the foreshore at Rosslare. If that order was issued it would cost the Council a capital sum of at least £6,000 owing to having to procure road material elsewhere. They were asked now to pay £50 to secure advice which might be of the greatest value to them. He strongly advised the Council in

the interests of the ratepayers, to follow the advice of the County Surveyor and employ Mr Mobbs. He then proposed the following resolution:- "That Mr S.W. Mobbs, Borough Surveyor, Lowes~~croft~~ be retained by the Council as engineer to examine the coastline at Rosslare and report thereon according to the terms of his letter to the County Surveyor under date 22nd August, 1930. That we further approve of the recommendation of the Finance Committee to be responsible for the necessary expenses of proposed local inquiry."

Mr McCarthy seconded.

Chairman - We had the opinion of the Engineer of the Tourist Association that the removal of the sand and gravel was not doing any harm and now there were members of that Association moving to have the practice stopped.

Mr O'Byrne - I suppose they have got all they wanted.

A poll was taken with the following result:-

For the resolution - Colonel Gibbon, Colonel Quin, Messrs Armstrong, Cline, Colfer, Corish, Culleton, Cummins, Hall, Jordan, Keegan, Mayler, McCarthy, O'Byrne and Shannon - 15.

Against - Miss O'Ryan, Messrs Brennan, D'Arcy, Gaul, Hayes, Murphy and Smyth - 7.

The Chairman, who declined to vote declared the resolution adopted.

Library Accommodation: The following report was submitted:-

Wexford County Council.

County Buildings.

Proposed accommodation for County Library Service.

The Joint Committee to consider the question of affording accommodation for County Library in the Old Jail, Wexford, met on 23rd August, 1930.

Present - Rev. J. Butler C.C. (Chairman of the Library Committee), presiding, Rev. Mr Talbot, Rev. Bro. Carew, Miss O'Ryan M.C.C., Senator Kathleen Browne, Col. Gibbon M.C.C., Sean O'Byrne, M.C.C., James Hall M.C.C., John J. Culleton M.C.C. William Thorpe, J.J. Kelly, Miss Connolly, Librarian, the Co.

Secretary, and Co. Surveyor.

A very exhaustive examination of the available accommodation was made by the Committee.

The County Surveyor said the most suitable accommodation would be provided by the two good rooms at the back of the Marshalsea prison, and, in addition the Library Committee could have the use of any of the several small adjoining rooms for storage purposes. The Council (if they wished to prevent this entire block from becoming a complete wreck) would have to spend at least £150 and in order to fit up the premises for Library purposes a further £400 would be necessary. This would provide a fine building.

Colonel Gibbon said that the success of a library depended upon its position and their present library had to meet the needs not only of the town of Wexford but of the rural portion of the County. From the point of view of the town of Wexford at least the Jail site at present could not be regarded as very suitable. They should wait a bit and see if the use of the place as a Court and County Offices would wear away the old name of "Jail" when the proposal might be worth discussing. Their juvenile library was a very important portion of their library activities at present and he feared that a change from the present site to the Jail would not be at all desirable. The most they could save would be about £20 and this might be obtained at considerable injury to the library. It would be, he held, a great mistake to change. Another great advantage of the present site was that the Librarians lived on the premises.

Mr O'Byrne was in favour of adjourning the matter for a year and until they had the experience of the working of the Court and County Offices.

The County Surveyor said it had been suggested the Board of Health should have offices at the Jail and to accommodate them it might be found advisable at some future time to develop the right wing, of the main building in the same manner as the left wing was being developed at present, and the needs of the

Library could then be dealt with in an adequate and satisfactory fashion.

Mr O'Byrne proposed and Rev. Mr Talbot seconded the following resolution:- "That the question of providing accommodation for the County Library at Old Jail be adjourned for twelve months."

The site, Mr O'Byrne said, could be made very suitable for the Library but the present was not an opportune time to deal with the matter.

The County Surveyor mentioned that with reference to the suggestion that it might be possible to obtain from the Carnegie Trustees a grant for the erection of a suitable library building. If a substantial grant was forthcoming it might be better from the point of view of the County Council - to give them the Old Courthouse site.

In the course of further discussion it was pointed out that the reason why the Library Committee asked for consideration of the proposal at the present time was that it might have been found feasible to make terms with the Contractor - who was renovating the left wing - for the fitting up of any portion which would be allocated for a library.

The resolution of Mr O'Byrne was then put and passed unanimously.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Miss O'Ryan seconded By Mr Clince:-

"That the report of Joint Committee re Library premises be received and approved."

Ganger McEvoy: On the suggestion of Mr Elgee, it was decided that this matter be considered in Committee.

Mr Birthistle, Assistant Surveyor, for the district, reported that he was informed on 13th August, 1930, that Ganger McEvoy had not returned to the Office the receipt form for workmens' wages for fortnight ended 26th July. McEvoy was written to forthwith for this sheet. He attended in County Surveyor's Office next day and stated he had not received the let-

ter. He was then directed to have the receipt form lodged in the office before five o'clock that evening which he did. It was then noticed that many signatures were in his own handwriting. The following morning he (Mr Birthistle) questioned certain of the men and found that for the period ended 26th July, he had signed the receipt form but yet withheld the wages of the following :-

James Gaynor, 8/11; John Lacey, 3/11; James Doyle, 3/11; The same evening he (Mr Birthistle) questioned McEvoy about the whole matter, who first denied and then admitted the irregularities. McEvoy was suspended the following day. On instructions from County Surveyor Mr Birthistle investigated all payments for fortnight ended 26th July, and also for the period ended 9th August, 1930. As a result he found that the following men had not received their wages for the latter period:- William Hayes, 13/11; James McEvoy, 13/11; John Sweeney, £1:13:10. The receipt form was not signed in these cases. He also found that Samuel Simmonds, who worked for the four weeks ended 9th August, 1930, did not receive his money until 18th August, and was then short of 11/8.

The County Surveyor stated there was no question that the signatures on the receipt forms were not those of the workmen. The men, so far as he knew, had not received the amounts due to them up to the morning of the meeting. There were other cases but the men had been paid.

Colonel Quin - Does McEvoy admit having signed the names to the sheet ?

County Surveyor - Yes. He admits it.

Colonel Gibbon proposed :- "That instructions be issued for informations to be sworn against Michael McEvoy for embezzlement of the wages of workmen."

Colonel Quin seconded.

Mr Cummins said that, as McEvoy was in attendance he should be heard.

Miss O'Ryan while making no defence for McEvoy's conduct said that he was one of the hardest working men in the employment of the Council.

Colonel Gibbon pointed out that the Councillors were not judges to try any case but they could submit it to the proper court and, on that account, he was against hearing McEvoy.

Mr Corish said that if McEvoy paid the money the Council should dispense with his services but he could not see what advantage it would be to drag him into Court.

Colonel Gibbon stated that there was a resolution on the records of the Council that any person guilty of fraud should be prosecuted.

Mr Birthistle ~~said~~ that personally he did not want to press the case against this man but whatever the Council ordered would be carried out.

Mr Keegan inquired what was ^{to be} gained by dragging McEvoy into Court.

On the proposal of Mr Murphy, seconded by Mr Hayes, it was decided to hear the statements of two of the workmen whom McEvoy had not paid.

James Doyle stated he was paid only last Saturday for the fortnight ended 19th July. The signature to the sheet produced was not in his handwriting. He did not make any inquiry from anybody about the amount of money which McEvoy had retained because he allowed that the first time he happened on McEvoy he would be paid.

Martin Wickham stated he had been paid that day week and reported the matter to Mr Birthistle.

Mr Birthistle mentioned that Wickham was a fortnight behind time. Wickham and a man named Kelly of Taghmon were paid by McEvoy before inquiries were instituted. The payments were belated.

Michael McEvoy was then allowed to come before the Council. He admitted putting names to the pay sheets and said he had some beer and "went astray". Four of the men had still to be paid. The sum involved was about £3 altogether.

Mr Birthistle mentioned that the wages due to McEvoy would be sufficient to pay any outstanding amounts and leave something

for McEvoy himself.

McEvoy further stated that he was employed by the Council since 1914 and acted as Ganger since 1916. He attributed his present position to having taken too much drink but he was not drinking now. His wife died about twelve months ago and he had one girl, 14 years old, depending upon him. He had only started this game for the two last payments. He begged the Council to give him a chance.

Miss O'Ryan proposed and Mr Shannon seconded:-

"That Michael McEvoy, when he has paid the amounts due to workmen be no longer retained in the services of the Council as ganger but employed as an ordinary workman."

Colonel Quin pointed out that, in view of the resolution on the books, that employees guilty of fraud should be prosecuted, Miss O'Ryan's proposal was not in order until this resolution was rescinded. He was absolutely sick of condoning crime. If a man paid back the money he defrauded, he was allowed off scot-free but the money was not paid until he was found out.

The Chairman said that, if the resolution on the books compelled people to be prosecuted, all the discussion was useless until such resolution was rescinded.

Colonel Gibbon pointed out that 99 out of every 100 men who embezzled, took the money for horse racing or drink. If Miss O'Ryan's proposal was agreed to, their men would say that even if found out, they would not be prosecuted. That certainly was not a right way to handle the employees of a public body. It would lower the whole standard of morality and would do injustice to other workers.

After further consideration, Colonel Gibbon proposed and Colonel Quin seconded:- "That Ganger Michael McEvoy be prosecuted for defrauding workmen of the Council of their wages."

Mr O'Byrne proposed: "That Ganger Michael McEvoy be suspended and that further action be referred to next meeting of the County Council in order to allow of the production of resolution referred to by Colonel Gibbon as compelling proceedings to be

taken in all cases of fraud."

Mr Keegan seconded.

A poll was taken on Mr O'Byrne's proposal with the following result:

For - Miss O'Ryan, Messrs Armstrong, Brennan, Clince, Corish, Culleton, Cummins, D'Arcy, Gaul, Hall, Hayes, Jordan, Keegan, Mayler, O'Byrne, Shannon, Smyth and the Chairman - 18.

Against - Colonel Gibbon - 1.

Colonel Quin declined to vote. The other members of the Council were not in attendance when poll was taken.

The Chairman declared Mr O'Byrne's motion carried, and stated that Miss O'Ryan's proposal could be discussed at next meeting of the Council.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr O'Byrne seconded by Mr Hall:- "That report of County Surveyor, as submitted to this meeting be confirmed except in so far as suggestions in same have been altered or amended by this meeting."

COMPLAINT AS TO CONDITION OF ROAD.

Under date 25th August, 1930, Mr M.W. Watts, Clobemon Hall, Ballycarney, wrote as to the condition of the road alongside his property. Nothing had been done by the way of clearing and cleaning the sides of the road, nettles and weeds being massed almost to the height of the wall.

Referred to County Surveyor.

COMPLAINT RE POLLUTION OF WELL.

Under date 22nd August, 1930, Messrs M.J. O'Connor & Co., Gorey, wrote on behalf of Patrick Kenny, Rossminogue, that the Council's workmen laid down piping on the road at Rossminogue for the purpose of draining a stagnant pool of surface and other waters on the roadside there. This water was brought through adjoining lands and entered into and polluted a well from which their client got his supply of water for household purposes. Unless steps were taken to divert the course of the water etc.,

so as to prevent further pollution of the well their client would take such steps as he might be advised without further notice.

Referred to County Surveyor.

GENERAL MATTERS RE ROADS.

Mr Keegan mentioned that it was quite impossible for horses to travel over the portion of the Gorey-Arklow road near Tinnock at the moment. On the last Fair morning of Arklow a man with a car load of sheep had his cart overturned and the shafts broken owing to the slippery condition of the road.

The County Surveyor stated he would see what he could do but of course, it was very difficult to prepare a bitumen road for ordinary horse traffic.

Colonel Quin mentioned that he had been informed that the contractor for the Gorey-Courtown Road was only using twelve pounds of gelignite at Gorey Hill Quarry at a time, and that quantity shook 400 tons of rock. He (Colonel Quin) believed the Council were using 200 lbs. of gelignite at a time, causing much injury to adjoining property. If the contractors could obtain good results with 12 lbs. of gelignite he did not see why the County Council should use more.

The County Surveyor pointed out that smaller blasts very often threw stones ~~far~~ further than larger blasts. The contractor in question may have made special arrangements as to blasts. The Council should remember that the Surveyor's staff were obliged to bring the stuff from Wexford with a guard and they could not be going there from day to day on account of the expense.

Mr Keegan said that grass was growing at the lower portion of Gorey streets for want of attention.

It was decided that the matter be referred to the County Surveyor.

Mr Gaul stated that he had been approached by a man named George Roche, Sinnottstown, Drinagh, who had been working on the Rosslare road and claimed that he had been unjustly dismissed, at a moment's notice by the Ganger, although he had given sat-

isfaction in his work.

The Chairman said this man had also called upon him and had been informed that the complaint should be in writing and furnished to the County Council offices before it could be entertained.

Mr Gaul mentioned that the man had given him his complaint in writing but unfortunately ^{he} had forgotten to bring it with him.

In the circumstances it was decided to discuss the matter.

Mr Birthistle, Assistant Surveyor, said Roche was employed as night watchman and was dismissed by his instructions as he had not the tar boilers ready in the mornings notwithstanding several complaints. As a matter of fact Roche had been employed at the instance of Ganger Boggan and immediately there was a change of workers, a very considerable improvement was noticed as regards the preparation of the tar for each day.

Mr Keegan pointed out that the Council had passed a resolution that gangers should have nothing to do with the employment or sacking of men. In this case Mr Birthistle's action ignored the Council.

Colonel Quin pointed out that the man was got rid of on Mr Birthistle's order and he did not see how in any way the direction of the Council as regards employment or dismissal of men had been contravened.

The Chairman said that according to Roche's own story he had been victimised in order to make room for a man named Murphy and that, on the morning of his dismissal, he had the tanks at the proper thermometer height. With regard to the statement that they were not ready for hauling to the road in time, Roche had informed him he met the man who was to cart them away with his horse at half past eight or quarter to nine o'clock on the morning he was dismissed.

Mr O'Byrne said the discussion proved the wisdom of the Council in deciding that complaints should be lodged in writing and an opportunity given to the official concerned to make a written reply before the matter was to come before the County

Council.

Mr Birthistle, Assistant Surveyor, pointed out that the man, Murphy, referred to by the Chairman had been employed on the Rosslare road from the start, so the statement that Roche was dismissed to make room for Murphy Could not be true.

Colonel Quin proposed and Mr Hall seconded:-

"That no action be taken relative to complaint of George Roche and that the Council now proceed to deal with the next business."

Passed.

On the suggestion of Mr Keegan the County Surveyor was instructed to report to next meeting of the Council as to the flooding of the road at Clough Village, Gorey.

Miss O'Ryan suggested that something should be done in Taghmon to keep water from flowing out of water tables on to the roadway. Rubbish was choking the traps, and they were not cleaned out. They should be seen to, as their condition meant damage to County Council property.

Mr Gaul said he thought what was wrong in Taghmon was that no man was assigned to attend to the matter.

Mr Corish - There should be someone in a place like Taghmon.

Miss O'Ryan suggested that the County Surveyor should get one of the resident roadmen to attend to the matter.

Mr Corish said he thought a man should be employed in Taghmon on a couple of days a week.

The Chairman said there was no Urban Council or Corporation in Taghmon, and he did not see how they could treat the place any different to any other rural district. He agreed with Miss O'Ryan's suggestion. If there were a couple of resident road workers he did not see why they should not be told off to do the work occasionally.

The matter was referred to the County Surveyor.

Mr Murphy said there was a man named Walsh residing at St. Kearns Saltmills who had a farm of about 60 or 70 acres adjoining the village of Saltmills. He had a right of way across the

strand and there was no other transport road open to him. It seems that road Contractors were taking away so much gravel from the foreshore that this man was unable to bring a vehicle over the roadway. If the road contractors left a little less than they were taking at present there would be no probability of Walsh being marooned.

It was decided that the County Surveyor and Mr Kehoe, Assistant Surveyor, examine the foreshore at the point referred to by Mr Murphy and report to next meeting.

APPOINTMENT OF CARETAKER . NEW ROSS BRIDGE.

The only applicant for the position of caretaker of New Ross Bridge was Thomas Lee, Quay, New Ross, who was recommended by Mr J.R. Hearne, Chilcomb House, New Ross, and Mr Nicholas Murphy, Jex-County Councillor, Kilmokea, Campile.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr Cummins, seconded by Mr Corish:-

"That Thomas Lee, Quay, New Ross, be appointed caretaker of New Ross Bridge at a salary of £40 per annum, appointment to be governed by the conditions of advertisement and duties of caretaker as already approved by the Council, to be subject to the approval of the Kilkenny County Council, and Department of Local Government and Public Health, and to Mr Lee making declaration under Section 71 of the Local Government Act, 1925."

SPECIAL SUB-COMMITTEE - ROAD MAINTENANCE.

Report of above, which was adjourned on several occasions was again submitted for consideration.

Mr Culleton moved:-

"That the report of Special Sub-Committee re Road Maintenance be now dealt with."

Mr Mayler seconded.

As an amendment Colonel Quin proposed:-

"That report of Special Sub-Committee re Road Maintenance be adjourned for twelve months."

Mr Gaul seconded.

A vote was taken on the amendment with the following result:-

For - Miss O'Ryan, Colonel Quin, Messrs Armstrong, Brennan, Cline, Colfer, Corish, Cummins, D'Arcy, Gaul, Hall, Hayes, McCarthy, O'Byrne and Shannon - 15.

Against - Colonel Gibbon, Messrs Culleton, Jordan, Keegan, Mayler, Murphy, Smyth, and the Chairman - 8.

The Chairman declared the amendment carried and on being put as the substantive motion it was adopted without dissent.

WEXFORD-FERRYCARRIG ROAD.

The following under date 13th August, 1930, was read from the County Surveyor:-

"As directed by the Council I wrote to Messrs Hull stating that the Council, without prejudice, would be prepared to waive any claim they might have under the Penalty Clause if Messrs Hull would agree to pay a lump sum of £400 to meet the excessive cost of repair to the bye-road due to their delay in completing the Contract. Messrs Hull have replied, also without prejudice, that they would be prepared to agree to a sum of £100 as against the aforesaid injury caused to the bye-road. I shall be glad if you will bring this before the Finance Committee on the 14th instant."

The Finance Committee had considered this letter and recommended the Council not to accept the proposal of Mr Hull.

On the motion of Mr O'Byrne seconded by Mr Cline, the recommendation of the Finance Committee was approved.

TEMPORARY CLOSING OF ROADS.

Under date 12th August, 1930 (LR/107/1) letter was read from the Department of Local Government and Public Health (Roads) forwarding order of the Minister dated 8th August, 1930, authorising the Council to close to public traffic the under-mentioned roads:-

Road No. T 12 (20) Wexford to New Ross between Knockeen (turn to Taghmon) and Tomcoole Cross from the date of the Order

up to and including the 1st day of December, 1930.

Road No.L 31(44) from Gorey to Courtown between the turn near the Cemetery in Gorey and turn in Riverchapel at Ballin-tray from the 1st day of September, 1930 to the 1st day of January, 1931, inclusive.

ROAD GRANT.

Under date 23rd August, 1930, (RGm/32) the Department of Local Government and Public Health (Roads) wrote that payment of £3623 in respect of allocation of £10,156, Road Maintenance Grant, 1930-31, was made to the Council's Treasurer on 22nd August, 1930.

CAHORE DRAINAGE DISTRICT.

Under date 19th August, 1930, (14666/30) the following letter was read from the Office of Public Works:-

"We beg to inform you that we have nothing to add to our letter of the 26th August, 1929, regarding the carrying out of drainage works in the above named District inasmuch as no petition has yet been furnished to us for a new scheme under the Arterial Drainage Act, 1925."

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr O'Byrne, seconded by Mr Smyth:-

"That we call the attention of the Office of Public Works to the fact that their letter is no reply to the resolution of the County Council adopted at their meeting on 29th July, 1929."

SCHOLARSHIPS IN SECONDARY AND VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS.

Under date 19th August, 1930, the Office of National Education wrote (F22944) forwarding tabular statement showing result of recent examination for above Scholarships and requesting that the names of the candidates who were awarded scholarships with the names of the schools in which scholarships would be taken would be forwarded to them.

On the motion of Mr Murphy, seconded by Mr Corish, the

following resolution was adopted:-

"That in conformity with the recommendation of the Office of National Education, Secondary Scholarships be awarded to the following:-

James M. Druhan, Lady's Island, total marks, 677; Margaret M. O'Neill, Bushville, Tagoat, total marks, 670; Daniel P. Butler, Lambstown, Killurin, total marks, 600; Richard R. O'Donnell, Duncannon Fort, total marks, 585; Kathleen F. Donnelly, Hilltown, Ballymitt, total marks, 519; Mary C. Daly, Coolerin, Campile, total marks, 518.

Under date 2nd August, 1930, the Office of National Education wrote that it had been decided to alter the date for Preparatory College Examinations to the week immediately following Easter and it was considered desirable that a similar alteration should be made in the date for the holding of the County Council Examination. The desirability of arranging to have this change carried out was suggested. This revised arrangement would entail alteration of the date for the receipt by the Council of applications to sit for this examination to the 15th February and the date for the receipt in the National Education Office of the names etc of candidates to the 1st March.

It was decided to refer this letter to the Scholarship Committee of the Council.

On the motion of Mr O'Byrne, seconded by the Chairman, it was decided that a meeting of the Scholarship Committee be held on Saturday 6th September, 1930, at 10.30 a.m. in County Council Offices.

UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr O'Byrne, seconded by the Chairman:-

"That, in view of the fact that the University term will soon open we empower the Finance Committee to make awards of University Scholarships for 1931 strictly in order of merit."

ANALYST'S REPORT.

Report of Miss Ryan, County Analyst, for the Quarter ended 30th June, 1930, was submitted, showing that the following analyses had been carried out;-

Foods, 98; Drugs, 46; Water, 1; Total, 145.

Number adulterated:- New Milks, 2; Drugs, 1; 1 Water condemned.

GRAIN GROWERS ASSOCIATION.

Messrs J.J. Bergin, Hon, General Secretary of the Irish Grain Growers' Association and Mr P.P. Doyle, a member of the Association, came before the meeting to advocate the adoption of the following resolutions of the Co, Kildare Committee of Agriculture:-

(1) "That we call on the Government to prohibit the entry of foreign grown oats into the Free State as from 1st October, 1930, as the present policy is killing tillage, increasing unemployment and driving people off the land.

(2) "That we protest against the policy of hand-to-mouth buying of Irish barley and Irish malt by Messrs Guinness during the last three years, which policy has now left them, when their trade has increased, dependent on supplies of foreign barley.

(3) "We call on the Government to impose a stiff tariff on all foreign malting barley and malt as the only effective way of inducing Messrs Guinness to do their duty to the nation."

Mr Bergin mentioned that other Councils had adopted the resolutions, in some cases with addenda, and, continuing said they were perfectly satisfied that something would have to be done in connection with agriculture. The statistics collected by a State department to June, last, showed a very alarming state of affairs. They showed that within the twelve months since 1st June, 1929, their cattle population had decreased by 104,000 head. By cattle he did not mean horses, sheep or pigs. A fall of 104,000 was a very serious item in one year. There was a fall of 6,000 in the number of milch cows, 5,000 in the number of cattle over two years old, 21,000 in the number between one year and two years, and 72,000 in the number under one year old. Some people put the alarming fall down to abortion. He agreed that thirty or forty per cent might be due to abortion, but sixty or seventy per cent was due to the fact of the country being so pressed with rent and rates and taxes. He held that tillage

should come first on all their agricultural schemes, and any government or any minister that failed to take cognisance of that fact was bound to find in due course that they would be let down. They were now nine years in control of their own affairs and they were not as well off as they were before the war. That was the best test of the statesmanship in control of the country today. He did not want to touch any aspect of the matter that might be deemed to have any political tinge but they could not help some times, when they saw a fact, making a reference. Wexford was the premier county in Ireland in every respect. He did not say that because he was before the Wexford County Council. He said it as the result of an analysis of agricultural statistics which he made no later than on the previous night. He found that Wexford was the only county that made any pretence of holding the same position as it held in 1911. There was very little reduction in livestock in the County, and he thought there was less reduction in the population than in any other county. That was why he said Wexford was the premier county. There was however, no reason why it should not be fifty per cent better, and he agreed that it would have been had the country before it an agricultural policy with even a grain of sense in it. They should insist on the country producing its own grain and insist on the country holding the £11,000,000 sent out for the agricultural produce of other countries. They could never hope to see agriculture prospering so long as they continued year after year to allow such a huge sum to leave the country for products that they themselves could produce. There was no use in asking a man to go home and produce another acre of oats barley, or keep another cow or sow, for the reason that he could not sell the produce he already had, or at least he could not get a remunerative market. Germany had been wise enough to see the value of agriculture to the nation, and had placed a tariff on Indian corn and meal, and was paying a bounty to people who exported grain. Mr Bergin also referred to improvements in Italy as affecting agriculture, remarking

that as the result of methods introduced by Mussolini, Italy was not alone self-supporting as regards corn, but was able to export some. Proceeding, Mr Bergin said that with regard to the question of wheat, undoubtedly wheat should be allowed in without any restrictions whatsoever until such time as they were in a position to produce their own wheat. Their flour milling industry was, unfortunately, not in a very happy position. Imports of flour had increased and that showed that the industry was not in a healthy condition. He looked on the milling industry as a very valuable asset to agriculture, as if they had it in a sound condition they might say that every mill was a market for their produce and a source of feeding stuffs. He appealed to them to pass the resolutions unanimously, and if they did so it would be a gesture that they were in agreement with the policy of conserving the home market for the home producer.

Mr Doyle (deputationist) said that Mr Bergin had brought under the notice of the meeting that Wexford was in a stronger position than any other county with regard to agriculture. That was true. Mr Bergin, however, forgot to mention that even with regard to cereals Co. Wexford continued to hold first place in Ireland in comparison with the amount produced in 1911. In Co. Wexford they still produced little less grain than in 1911, and that showed that they were holding their own better than any other county in Ireland. He supposed that twenty out of the twentysix counties were deriving something of a living as the result of the small subsidy of £250,000 granted for beet growing. The number of men women and children employed as the result of that subsidy was enormous. When they considered what that small subsidy had done they should ask themselves what would be the result if they were to produce sufficient grain to make up for the amount of Indian meal they imported every year. He thought their imports of Indian meal amounted to something like £4,000,000. Then supposing they were to do the same with regard to bacon and wheat, they could retain in the country something

£11,000,000 a year. He appealed to the Council to adopt the resolutions, and to bring forcibly under the notice of the Government the immense importance of immediately granting that aid to agriculture.

Mr Corish - May I ask Mr Bergin did they receive any communication at all from Messrs Guinness when they sent that resolution?

Mr Bergin - No.

Mr Cummins said he wished to thank Messrs Bergin and Doyle, and to tell them for the past two years he was tired of getting up at meetings of the Co. Committee of Agriculture and of the Co. Council to try to get some similar resolution passed. He would like to know from the deputationists what they were to do. Resolutions seemed to take no effect on the men in power, Mr Bergin had praised Co. Wexford, and he (Mr Cummins) was glad he did. It was the model county, but if so he wondered what state other counties must be in, because Wexford Co. Council were at present in the position that they could not get the rates - he did not know the amount outstanding. He showed the Co. Council a remedy two or three years ago. The deputationists had not talked about the annuities at all. He suggested that they should put up a no annuity manifesto like the no rent manifesto that was put up forty years ago. They had representatives to go and support those in power, but the people should organise, and if representatives did not do what they wanted they should be put out. The power was in the people's hands to make matters right, but they were slaves today, as they were slaves all the time. If the people organise he would put up the no annuity manifesto, and that will save us.

Colonel Quin asked why it was that offals in this country cost an enormous amount more than in England. Why was it that they had to pay twenty or thirty per cent more for bran and pollard than in England? And the minute they got the tariffs referred to bran and pollard would be twenty or thirty per cent more. They could not have it both ways. With regard to Mr Bergin's reference to Italy, it was not a prosperous nation. Every nation

was hard-up since the war. They in Ireland could not hope to compete with tropical countries with regard to wheat, as tropical countries could produce it at quarter the cost of producing it in Ireland, and the reason that foreign barley was brought in was that it was better for malting. It was very easy to say that everything in this country was better than anywhere else, but Messrs Guinness were going to buy the best stuff at the best possible price.

Chairman - Your argument is against the adoption of the resolution ?

Colonel Quin - Yes ; I think it will only lead to more profiteering.

Mr Culleton said that the policy of the Minister of Agriculture had been criticised, but one portion of his policy - with reference to beet growing - had been upheld. He (Mr Culleton) thought it would also be seen that they were holding their own in the markets with butter and eggs, and he thought that that was a credit to Mr Hogan. He thought they should give appreciation where it was due.

Colonel Quin said he wished to express agreement with Mr Culleton's appreciation of Mr Hogan.

Miss O'Ryan said it was easy to keep level with butter and eggs if they had a lower price. They were told that Irish eggs were not wanted. There was a subsidy for beet growing, but in her opinion it was altogether misapplied. It should be applied to growers and not to share holders who, in her opinion, had reaped scandalous profits. There was no reason why they should not grow their own stuff, and have a tariff against foreign-grown grain.

Mr Hayes said that if Irish barley was inferior it was a wonder that Messrs Guinness got any Irish barley at all. With regard to the question of feeding oats to cattle, a lot of people had not any cattle.

Mr Murphy said he thought it was too much to expect that

one man or one party would get over the difficulty affecting agriculture in a short time. The worst thing about tariffs was that they cut both ways. The whole of the country would have to pull its weight to a certain extent and approach the question from the point of view of safeguarding. They would have to agree that the Irish farmers were the worst business men in the world, and unless they got them a little better he did not think they were going to relieve agriculture for a very long time.

Colonel Gibbon said he thought they would have to be very careful on the question. If they cut off maize altogether it might be all right in Wexford, but they would harm the whole of the West of Ireland, where they could not grow barley, and where maize was as essential as it was to Denmark, and until they got cheaper transport facilities it would be hopeless to talk of transporting barley to the West. Personally, if there were to be tariffs he would like to see the total prohibition of oats, of which they had an exportable surplus already. Similarly with regard to bacon he thought importation should be stopped. If they were to say they were going to put a stop to things coming in they might have retaliation. The very last thing was a prohibition in England of Empire produce, because they would be included as a dominion, and they might find that they would be prejudiced with other people. The proposition he would put forward as a first step to protection was - and he had put it forward on various occasions before - that they should call on their Government to utilise its position as a Dominion Government and put pressure on the British Government to prohibit the import^{-ation}/of foreign produce into England. If they could protect the English farmer they would be protecting themselves as well.

Mr Corish said he disapproved of the policy of safeguarding, and the less that Ireland had to say to it the better. He thought they should examine the question from their own point of view, and that everyone would agree that farmers all over the country were feeling the pinch very badly. He did not profess to be a farmers' representative, but he did not want to close his eyes to

the fact that the farmers were suffering very keenly. It had been mentioned that tariffs were two-edged tools, but he thought that that statement in itself required examination. They might be a double-edged tool - they might add a certain amount to the price of the finished article - but at the same time they should remember that the production of an article in this country would put into circulation a certain amount of money that was going out of the country at present for the foreign article, and that would put the people in a better position to pay the increased price. Col. Gibbon had mentioned that the people in the West of Ireland were depending on maize, and he stated that in the event of a tariff those people would suffer because of the fact that transport charges were high, but if the people had sufficient strength to bring pressure on the Government to have tariffs imposed, he did not see why they should not be in a position to see that transport charges were regulated in such a way that the people in the West would get all they needed. It was a matter that required a certain amount of consideration, and they should consider the desperate transport charges that were being levied at present in the country to the detriment of agriculture. Safeguarding might be for the betterment of England - England was at present in a terrific hole - but if the representatives of the Free State were to agree to safeguarding, in his opinion they were not going to have proper development. It would be, he thought, a very dangerous situation for Irish representatives even to think of discussing that matter with English representatives. Ireland had been harassed by England, and every time an industry was started in this country they had a syndicate coming over and buying it, and then closing it up, as in the case of the Drinagh Cement Works.

He was in a position to state that he was now negotiating with the owners of the Drinagh Cement Works on behalf of an American Company, but the price they were asking for the works was criminal. It went to show that England had always been trying to hinder the development of industries in this country. It would be the greatest possible danger to think about entering into any

safeguarding arrangement with the British Empire. The country should start at the beginning to develop its own resources. He heartily agreed with Mr Bergin that there should be a tariff on foreign-grown barley. Guinness advertised his stout all over the world as made in Ireland from Irish barley, but they knew that the contrary was the fact. He could get as good results from Irish barley as from any other barley. Ireland was bigger than Guinness's, and they should think of the country as a whole, and not be discussing any particular individuals. He was not in favour of the application of wholesale tariffs. He did not believe in putting a tariff on a thing that was not being produced, or could not be produced, in the country, but he held that if there was an industry in the country capable of producing a thing equally, or nearly, as good as ^{was} manufactured on "the other side", there should be a stiff tariff imposed in the interests of the industry, and he did not think that any Irishman worthy of the name should object to that. The country was only in its infancy, and only now had power to develop itself as it would have liked to develop three hundred years ago. He had a sort of notion that if Col Quin was on "the other side" he would find him in favour of safeguarding. They should consider the question as Irishmen, no matter what their politics or their creed, and he believed that by ^{so} doing ~~as~~, and by trying to understand the unfortunate position of the country, was the way, they were going to solve the problem. Mr Hogan had done certain good things, but he believed that Mr Hogan could do a lot more, and he believed that pressure should be brought to bear on him with a view to having him do a lot more. If possible he believed they should go further than passing a resolution, and that representatives from every county in the State should go before the Government and press on them to try and save the principal industry of the country.

Colonel Quin said he thought Mr Corish should not try to shove things down other people's throats. He (Col. Quin) was an

Irishman, and was as proud of it as any other one present.

Mr D'Arcy - I would like to ask the advocates of Free Trade a question . Col. Gibbon is closely identified with the sugar factory, and I would like to ask him is sugar free or protected. If not protected I would like to ask him what would happen the little factory in Carlow.

Col Gibbon - I regret I can't answer.

Mr Bergin said he agreed with Mr Cummins that something more than passing a pious resolution was necessary. One thing that they could do had occurred to him. They had a number of T.D's in the county, and he suggested that they should get them together and ask them straight what were they prepared to do, having regard to the present position of agriculture. If they suggested to the T.D.'s that they should get Dail Eireann summoned immediately to give effect to the resolution they should do it. Col. Quin had asked him a very pertinent question as to why offals were cheaper in England. They were cheaper because the Irish people were bringing in the flour and leaving the offals behind. They were dear in Ireland because they were scarce. Col. Quin said Italy was not prosperous, but he wished they could swap some of their prosperity with her. With regard to calves, 40,000/^{calves} had left the country in six months. Why did they not keep them ? The reason was that they were in such a hurry to make butter to send over to John Bull that they had nothing left for the calves. They were trying to produce the best calves, but were just giving presents of them to people in England. Apparently there was no economist at the head of the scale. If there were those things would not happen. With reference to barley, he suggested that everyone knew that Guinness built up his reputation on Irish barley. Someone had asked why they should not feed with oats and produce fat cattle. Would they be surprised to learn that although oats was cheap for the last twelve months, their import of oats for the first six months

of 1930 was considerably higher than for the first six months of 1929? For the first six months of 1929 they imported 62,532 cwts., and for the first six months of 1930 they imported 72,323 cwts. The figure for seed would make them blush. For the first six months of 1929 it was 155,120 cwts., and for the first six months of 1930 it was 172,947 cwts. The majority of people who were responsible for the importation of oats for seed shut their eyes altogether to the work being done by the Department of Agriculture. The one branch of the Department of which they could speak highly was the plant breeding division, and that division, he was sure, was producing adequate quantities of seed oats for every kind of soil, but oats was being brought in and it was entirely unnecessary that it should be. Mr Culleton had referred to the Minister of Agriculture and said they should give merit where merit was due. He referred to what Mr Hogan did for the sugar industry, but was he aware that Mr Hogan said more than once to his private friends that if he had the money squandered on the sugar industry he would do a great deal of more good for agriculture.

Mr Culleton - We have no evidence of that.

Mr Bergin - That's my answer to you, anyway.

Mr Culleton - I won't take that.

Continuing, Mr Bergin said that they did not care what Government they had, provided they had a sound economic policy, and particularly a sound agricultural policy.

Mr Culleton - I think if the farmers minded their business instead of studying statistics they might get on much better.

Mr Bergin remarked that Mr Culleton might as well say that it would be as well for the County Council to stay at home. It had been said that a tariff was a two-edged sword, but the hilt was in their hands, and they should use it to advantage.

The Chairman said that, as a member of the Grain Growers' Association he was in favour of the first resolution, which re-

ferred to the stoppage of foreign oats coming in. When they got such a free trader as Colonel Gibbon in favour of that also, there was some turn in the wheel. With regard to the reference to Messrs Guinness and Co.'s hand to mouth buying, he did not ~~reckon~~ reckon that they were very great friends of the farmer. They had made huge fortunes for the last half century, and what had they made them out of but the sweat of farmers throughout the Free State? They had made them by exorbitant profits. They did not want to interfere with Messrs Guinness in the conducting of their business - they looked ^{upon} ~~on~~ the firm as a great asset to Ireland, but still they believed that in their generosity they should do a little better for the producer. A great many people thought that by talking of Guinness and Co., they were going to run them out, but they need not be a bit afraid of that - they would not run from where they were making such big dividends. With regard to a tariff on foreign barley, the market for barley was, they might say, in the hands of one firm - the Guinness firm - and they might utilise the position to give even a lesser price. They did not want to stop the importation of maize altogether - the Grain Growers' Association never attempted to do that. What they wanted was to have a certain percentage of barley blended with maize, so that they might establish a market for barley that might make Messrs Guinness sit up. If they could get that mixture sanctioned they would have an alternative market to some extent, and they would be in a better position to fight Messrs Guinness. They would have an outlet for a good deal of their barley and then a tariff might do some good, but until they got that he did not see the least good in a tariff. He was not so convinced ^{about} ~~at~~ all that Mr Bergin said about wheat growing. He was afraid their climatic conditions were not going to get them very far in that direction. How could people on the County Wexford sow winter wheat for the past two or three years? And he did not look upon spring wheat as of great milling value compared with winter wheat. He did not

think that Irish wheat would ever keep back the £11,000,000 that Mr Bergin talked about. Their climatic conditions were not suitable for it. To develop the home market was quite all right, but their products were a great deal too much for their present home market, and if they had not the cross-channel trade they would go bankrupt in one half year.

Mr Jordan said he found himself in absolute agreement with the Chairman. The question of a tariff on barley had received consideration from a number of sensible men, and what it really meant was to protect a market for one man. They had practically only one buyer. If Guinness was compelled to pay more for foreign barley, was he going to pay the Irish farmer more? If he (Mr Jordan) could see that a tariff was going to increase the price for the home grower, he would jump at it. He did not agree that there was any necessity to import any oats into the country, and neither did he agree that the dumping of German oats had had the effect it was supposed to have on the Irish market. The total importation of German oats for the past eighteen months was 16,840 cwts., while the approximate yield of oats in the country was 13,000,000 cwts. Did anyone think that the importation of 16,840 cwts of oats into a country that produced 13,000,000 cwts. had any effect on the market. He did not think it had. Mr Bergin made a very interesting case, but, unfortunately, he spoiled his whole case when he said Co. Wexford was outstanding. In his (Mr Jordan's) opinion Wexford was outstanding because it was adopting the sound policy - and the policy advocated by the Minister for Agriculture - of feeding their own produce to their own stock, and driving the stock to market on the hoof. Everyone agreed that it no longer paid to grow for sale. There was to his mind, only one solution, and that was to stop the importation of all foreign meat, and let the farmer feed what he grew to his own stock and have a home market for it.

Miss O'Ryan said there was a couple of points in the Chairman's and Mr Bergin's statements that she could not agree with. There was a far larger industry in this country than Guinness's.

and that was the Irish farmer's feeding of stock. Barley produced even at the present price could be economic feeding, and would keep out foreign feeding stuffs.

Mr Corish - With regard to the statement that the protection of barley would only protect one person, wouldn't it protect the whole growing industry ?

The first of the resolutions submitted by the Grain Growers' Association was as follows:

"That we call upon the Government to prohibit the entry of foreign-grown oats into the Free State as from the 1st October, 1930, as the present policy is killing tillage, increasing unemployment and driving people off the land.," proposed by Mr O'Byrne seconded by Mr D'Arcy and adopted, Colonel Quin dissenting.

The second resolution: "That we protest against the policy of hand-to-mouth buying of Irish barley and Irish malt by Messrs Guinness during the last three years, which policy has now left them, when their trade has increased, dependent on supplies of foreign barley.," was adopted on the motion of Mr O'Byrne, seconded by Mr Keegan, Colonel Quin dissenting.

The third resolution: "That we call on the Government to impose a stiff tariff on all foreign malting barley and malt as the only effective way of inducing Messrs Guinness to do their duty to the nation.," was proposed by Mr O'Byrne and seconded by Mr Cummins.

The resolution was submitted to a poll with the following result:

For - Messrs Armstrong, Brennan, Cline, Colfer, Corish, Cummins, D'Arcy, Hall, Hayes, Keegan, O'Byrne, O'Ryan, Shannon and Smyth - 14.

Against - Messrs Culleton, Gibbon, Jordan, Meyler, Murphy, and Quin - 6.

The Chairman and Mr Gaul declined to vote, and Mr McCarthy was not present when poll was taken.

The remainder of the business was, owing to the lateness of the hour, adjourned to next meeting. *M. Doyle*

CERTIFICATE OF SECRETARY.

I certify the foregoing to be a correct record
of the Minutes of Proceedings of Wexford County Council in
respect of Meeting held on 25th August, 1930.

(Signed) W. J. Furlong

Secretary Wexford County Council.

Dated this 30th day of August, 1930.
