

WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL.

MEETING 9TH DECEMBER, 1930.

MINUTES.

FORTVIEW,
WEXFORD.

N.J.FRIZELLE
SECRETARY.

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A meeting of above County Council was held in County Council Chamber, Fortview, Wexford, on 9th December, 1930.

Present:- Mr M. Doyle, (Chairman) presiding: also:-
Messrs :- James Armstrong, John Brennan, Patrick Colfer, Richard Corish, John Culleton, John Cummins, Timothy F.D'Arcy, James Gaul, James Hall, William P. Keegan, Thomas McCarthy, John Murphy, Sean O'Byrne, Miss Nellie O'Ryan, James Shannon, and Myles Smyth.

Colonel Gibbon wrote that he could not attend the meeting owing to a business engagement.

The Secretary, Assistant Secretary, County Surveyor, County Solicitor and Rate Inspector were also in attendance.

The Minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed.

THE LATE VERY REV TOBIAS R.DEAN WALSH. P.P.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr Murphy seconded by Mr Cummins:- "That we express to our colleague, Mr James E.Walsh, our profound sympathy in the death of his uncle, Very Rev. Dean Walsh P.P. Freshford, Co. Kilkenny, a great Churchman and beloved priest. During his 55 years in the sacred Ministry he endeared himself to thousands and by his demise the diocese of Ossory has sustained a very great loss."

The resolution which was passed in silence was supported by the Chairman, the County Secretary and County Surveyor.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF FINANCE COMMITTEE.

The Minutes of Finance Committee in respect of meeting held on 20th November, 1930, were submitted as follows:-

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The fortnightly meeting of the Finance Committee of Wexford County Council was held in County Council Chamber, Fortview, Wexford, on 20th November 1930.

Present:- Messrs J.J. Culleton, James Hall, Thomas McCarthy, Sean O'Byrne, James Shannon and James E. Walsh.

The Secretary, Assistant Secretary, County Surveyor, Mr Elgee, Solicitor, and Rate Inspector were also in attendance.

The Chair was taken by Mr McCarthy on the motion of Mr Hall seconded by Mr Walsh.

The Minutes of last meeting were read and signed.

PAYMENTS.

Treasurers Advice note for £3965:9:5d. was examined and signed.

RATE COLLECTION.

The State of Rate Collection up to 20th November, 1930, was submitted as follows:-

		51. Percentage Collected.	
1. E.J. Murphy	51.	"	"
2. J. Quirke	50.	"	"
3. J. Curtis	50.	"	"
4. J.J. O'Reilly (ill)	49.5	"	"
5. J. Cummins	47.1	"	"
6. Sean Gannon	47.	"	"
7. T. Bolger	47.	"	"
8. Art Dunne	46.7	"	"
9. M. McCarthy	45.6	"	"
10. Patrick Nolan	45.4	"	"
11. J. Deegan	45.2	"	"
12. T. Rowe	44.5	"	"
13. M. Kelly	44.2	"	"
14. P.O'Byrne	44.1	"	"
15. P. Carty	43.4	"	"
16. W. Cummins	42.3	"	"
17. P. Doyle	42.	"	"

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18. W. Doyle	42.	Percentage Collected.
19. J.J. Sinnott	41.3	" "
20. Thomas Sutton	36.4	" "
21. T. Bolger for (No.12 District)	17.2	" "

The following under date 18th November, 1930, was read from the Rate Collectors:-

"Yours of the 11th inst., received with extract of letter received from L.G.D. stating that 50% Current Year's Warrant be lodged by end of present month - that he cannot agree to sanction payment of Poundage until this amount has been lodged, and, that he calls upon your Council to terminate the services of Collectors who did not lodge 40 % of collection before 31st ult. We beg to state that it is absolutely impossible to collect 50% of total year's Warrant before 30th November. We wish to point out that in this year's Warrant are included arrears of Rate on derelict farms from which no Rates or annuities have been received for a number of years. In some Collector's books there is as much as 10 % of year's Warrant carried forward on such farms. The Land Commission have failed to collect the annuities and in many cases have failed to find a purchaser for farms they have advertised for sale.

There are other farms which are not derelict but which are in the management of Auctioneers who apportion the proceeds of annual lettings, of grass and other lands, towards payment of rent and rates in accordance with the amount of cash realised.

There is a considerable amount of Rates due on farms of this kind, but our hands are tied as we must accept whatever is given us by the Auctioneers otherwise the lands would become vacant and no rent or rates could be derived from them. We are sure your Council will appreciate these facts and that the Order is absurd and impossible, unless, perhaps in some districts where Collectors are fortunate enough to have large and wealthy Ratepayers who may pay the 2nd moiety now. As

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regards the Order about our poundage we consider it most unjust and unfair to a body of men who have collected thousands of Pounds during the last six months, trying to do our work efficiently and honestly, obliged to depend on our credit for the necessities of life, having to attend fairs and markets wherever there is a chance of money to be received and also the large amount of correspondence we have to deal with. As we believe there is more than average of 90 % of the half year's Rate collected at this date we ask the Council to kindly insist on sanction of all poundage being paid at least up to the 31st October to every Collector in the County. As to the Collectors who had not 40 % on 31st ult., we wish to point out that in these districts which are some of the smallest in the County there is a considerable amount of arrears accumulated by the fact of farms being derelict for a number of years, some of which should be wiped off as there is no possible chance of getting it.

We claim to be in the position to judge the state of the collection generally and considering that this was the worst and the latest harvest that perhaps has ever been experienced in County Wexford, we state the collection is extremely good. Some members of your Council advise a "go easy" policy, others advise drastic measures against us but we are trying to keep the middle course and endeavouring to get in the rates without inflicting undue hardship wherever it can reasonably be avoided.

We would remind those who recommend extreme measures that it is not us who would be the victims but the general body of Ratepayers. If we adopt a policy of wholesale seizure for a certain moiety we might get 90 % within the proper time but would a Councillor suggest the same procedure would be successful the next half year. We are doing our best. It is no pleasure to us not to be able to collect the full amount of our Warrant within the proper time and draw our Poundage. We have as much interest in the proper administration and prosperity of our County as the Inspector but unfortunately the present

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economic conditions are hampering us in our work.

We take this opportunity of putting another matter before your Council - when Districts become vacant we suggest that instead of being advertised, they be divided up and added to the Districts of existing Collectors adjoining and especially those who have small Districts. There are a number of Collectors in the County whose salaries range from £75 to £100. This is not a living wage for a man supposed to be in an independent position and responsible for large sums of public money. We believe that some, if not all, the members of your Council are not conversant with these facts and we trust they will adopt the simple means suggested (and which the L.G.D. also recommends) to improve our position."

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr Hall seconded by Mr Walsh:- "That we approve of amalgamation of Rate Collectors' Districts in suitable instances and recommend its adoption by County Council as vacancies occur."

Rate Inspector submitted the following statement showing (1) the percentage of rates due on derelict farms and (2) on holdings in respect of which the rates are uncollectable at the present time. Rate Inspector stated he had satisfied himself that the amounts shown on the return as outstanding in the case of derelict farms or in respect of uncollectable items could not be attributed to neglect on the part of Collectors. From examination of return of Land Commission Defaulters he had ascertained that arrears for the same holdings were due for considerably longer periods for Annuities than for Rates. He considered it reasonable that the amounts of rates on derelict farms along with rates clearly uncollectable at the present time should be taken into account in determining the Collectors who had accounted for 50 % of Warrant and arrears to 30th November, in order to qualify for payment of Poundage.

Name of Collector	Amt of rates out-standing on Derelict Farms	Percent- age rep- resented by rates on Derelict Farms	Amt of other rates uncol- lect- able at present	Percent- age rep- resented by other uncollect- able rates	TOTAL	Total percent- age of rates on Derelict Farms and other un- collect- able Rates	Per- cent- age of recover- able rate in warrant	Per- cent age of rate lodged by each Collector to date of Meet- ing of 20/11/30	Percent age rep- resented by 50% of recover- able rate included in warrant	Percentage to be lodged by Collector to reach an amt equivalen to 50% of recoverable rate in warrant.
1. J. Quirke	£ 53	.8	£ 36	.6	£ 89	1.4	98.6	50	49.3	-
2. T. Sutton	679	8.5	220	2.7	899	11.2	88.8	36.4	44.4	8
3. P. Doyle	290	4.3	180	2.7	470	7	93	42	46.5	4.5
4. M. McCarthy	232	3.5	278	4.2	510	7.7	92.3	45.6	46.15	1.9
5. Patk. Nolan	74	.7	634	6.5	708	7.2	92.8	45.4	46.40	1.0
6. M. Kelly	238	5.5	291	6.7	529	12.2	87.8	44.2	43.90	-
7. J. Deegan	175	1.9	204	2.2	379	4.1	95.9	45.2	47.95	2.75
8. J. Cummins	360	5.4	237	3.6	597	9.0	91.0	47.1	45.50	-
9. P. O'Byrne	304	5.9	20	.3	324	6.2	93.8	44.1	46.90	2.80
10. Sean Gannon	126	2.7	114	2.6	240	5.3	94.7	47	47.35	.35
11. W. Cummins	510	8.4	256	4.2	766	12.6	87.4	42.3	43.70	1.40
12. T. Bolger (Donohoe)	200	3.9	250	4.8	450	8.7	91.3	17.2	45.65	28.45
13. J. J. O'Reilly	35	.5	99	1.5	134	2.0	98.0	49.5	49.00	-
14. T. Bolger	Nil	-	224	4.0	224	4.0	96.0	47	48.00	1.0
15. A. Dunne	245	2.8	70	.8	315	3.6	96.4	46.7	48.00	1.3
16. J. J. Sinnott	242	3.5	130	1.9	372	5.4	94.6	41.3	47.30	6.0
17. E. J. Murphy	225	3.8	Nil		225	3.8	96.2	51	48.10	-
18. T. Rowe	100	2.2	Nil		100	2.2	97.8	44.5	48.90	4.4
19. W. Doyle	188	5.5	Nil		188	5.5	94.5	42	47.25	5.25
20. J. Curtis	110	2.4	60	1.2	170	3.6	96.4	50	48.20	-
21. P. Carty	80	1.4	136	2.3	216	3.7	96.3	43	48.15	5.11
	4466	3.4	3439	2.6	7905	6.0		43.9		

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Rate Collector W. Cummins came before the meeting and submitted a list of derelict farms and temporary uncollectable items which amounted to 12.6 per cent of the year's warrant.

The circumstances of each case were considered by the Committee in detail.

Mr Cummins said he found it very difficult to get money, and when people were making an effort to pay he did not like to proceed against them. If he got until the Enniscorthy fair on 16th December he believed he would be able to lodge the 50 per cent necessary to qualify for payment of poundage.

Collector M. Kelly explained to the Committee the various items of derelict farms and temporary uncollectable which amounted to 12.2 per cent of his warrant. He thought he would be able to reach the specified 50 % for poundage by 16th December - fair day of Enniscorthy at which he expected to secure a fair amount of money.

Mr Sean Gannon who also came before the meeting believed he would reach the necessary 50 % by the end of November. The amount of derelict farms and irrecoverable items in his case was 5.3 per cent of his warrant.

The following under date 15th November was read from Rate Inspector:- "I beg to report that Thomas Sutton has not made any lodgment since 3rd November, 1930."

The Secretary said he had written on 17th inst. to Collector Sutton for an explanation and had received a reply in which Mr Sutton stated he met with an accident in the first of the previous week and could not get into town until Saturday 15th November when he was too late for the Bank. He had since lodged.

Collector Thomas Sutton who came before the meeting said that the amount on derelict farms and temporary uncollectable Rate was equal to 11 per cent of his year's warrant. It would be nearly February before he would be able to reach 50 per cent by actual lodgments.

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The Chairman pointed out even allowing for derelict farms and temporary irrecoverable items Mr. Sutton would not be as far advanced with his Collection as many other Collectors.

The Rate Inspector said if Mr. Sutton was an energetic Collector his district would not be as bad as it was .

The following resolution was then adopted on the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr. O'Byrne:- "That we point out to the Department of Local Government that Collector Sutton has been instructed to lodge £400 between the meeting of Finance Committee on 6th November and the meeting of this Committee on 4th December. Should he fail to comply with this direction the County Council are recommended to take drastic action against him."

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr. O'Byrne, seconded by Mr. Shannon:- "That as regards Collectors W.Cummins, M. Kelly and Sean Gannon we recommend L.G.D.should be requested when considering the state of the Rate Collection and payment of poundage thereon to take into account the percentage included in warrant of (a) derelict farms and (b) items' certified by Rate Inspector as not recoverable at the present time, and sanction payment to all Collectors, who, by the 30th November, 1930, lodge 50% of recoverable rate.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr. Hall, seconded by Mr. O'Byrne:- " That we call the attention of the Government to the number of derelict farms in this County and point out that considerable loss is entailed to the revenue of the County Council owing to non-payment of rates and Land Commission annuities on these holdings. We recommend the County Council to make urgent representations to the Government to formulate some scheme for the working of these farms."

The following, under date 17th November, 1930, was submitted from Mr. Elgee, County Solicitor, in reply to several points as

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to liability for payment of Rates:-

"I am in receipt of your letter of the 13th inst. and have looked further into the question of Poor Rates.

The Poor Rate is now assessed on the Occupier of the Holding by Sec. 52 of the Local Government Act 1898 (except in two cases where it is made on the immediate lessor) and the Rated Occupier at the date the Rate is made is the Party primarily liable to such Rate.

By Section 19 of the Poor Relief Act 1894 (12 & 13 Vic. Cap. 104) it is provided, that proceedings for the recovery of any Poor Rate from any person not primarily liable to pay same, cannot be taken unless within the period of two years next after the making of said Rate.

It has been held in the case of "The Guardians of Magherafelt Union -V- Cribbon", that the period of limitation for the recovery of Poor Rates in the case of a person primarily liable is twenty years, the liability being regarded as a specialty debt created by Statute

Accordingly the position as to the recovery of Rates appears to be:-

The Person primarily liable (i.e. the Rated Occupier at the time the Rate was struck) is liable for same for a period of 20 years from the date of striking the Rate. This applies even though such primary Occupier may, in the meantime, have sold the Rated property.

If the person primarily liable sells the Holding then the Purchaser is liable for arrears of Rate which may be due for two years back.

I do not think that the case of "Lally -V- Concannon" affects the question of the recovery of Rates as above set out, but merely decides that the Rate is a personal one and not a charge on the Lands. If this were not so, then once the person primarily liable sold the Lands he was clear of his responsibility for the Rate."

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With reference to a collective Bond for Rate Collectors correspondence was read from Messrs T.M. O'Callaghan & Son, Insurance Brokers, 2 St. Andrew Street, Dublin, as to issue of Collective Bond for the Rate Collectors in the name of the County Council at the rate of 10/- per cent. They had found this a much more satisfactory arrangement for a Council and its Collectors to have such a Bond especially as it does away with personal Sureties. They had also found that the most satisfactory arrangement for payment of premium by the Collectors is for the Council to pay the total amount and to deduct the amount payable by each Collector from his poundage.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr O'Byrne seconded by Mr Shannon:- "That our Secretary ascertain on receipt of further particulars from Messrs Callaghan if Rate Collectors are prepared to enter into a Collective Fidelity Guarantee Bond as suggested in the correspondence with Messrs T.M. O'Callaghan & Son, 2 St. Andrew Street, Dublin, provided the latter are able to place the Insurance with an approved Company at 10/- per cent and that collateral sureties be not required by said Company.

ROSSLARE FORESHORE.

In acknowledging the resolution of the County Council of 10th inst. pointing out that the Council considered it was the business of the State to exhibit posters of Prohibitory Order as to removal of material from Rosslare Strand, the Department of Industry & Commerce (Transport & Marine Branch) 14 St. Stephen's Green, Dublin, wrote (1447) that there seemed to be some misconception as to the purpose of the Order, which was "made for the protection of the shores or banks of the sea" ^{which expression} / connotes all property, public or private adjacent to the sea and liable to be affected by encroachment by the sea. The portion of the shore which belongs to the State is merely the foreshore i.e., the area between the lines of high and low water marks of ordinary mean tides. It is apparent that a Prohibitory Order would

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be unnecessary in as far as foreshore alone is concerned since no matter what changes occur, foreshore as defined above will always remain. But indiscriminate removal from the foreshore would, in the case of Rosslare Strand, assist the sea in its advance on the adjoining property which comprises inter alia a public road and other property belonging to the County Council and it was, with a view to minimising this danger to such property that the Order was made and not merely to protect the foreshore itself as stated in the resolution. The duty of publishing, exhibiting and enforcing these orders lay with the applicants. The Department would be glad to learn in due course that the posters have been exhibited, in the manner indicated.

It was decided to refer the matter to the meeting of County Council to be held on 24th November, 1930.

UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME.

Under date 7th November, 1930, the Registrar, University College, Dublin, wrote that the Academic Council recommended that Commerce should be included in the subjects for Examination for the award of University Scholarships.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr Hall seconded by Mr Walsh:- "That the County Council be recommended to include Commerce as a Subject for Examination under University Scholarship Scheme and ask Academic Council for a list of special subjects and the marks therefor to be included under the heading "Commerce".

In connection with enquiry as to why Miss Kickham a University Scholar was not residing in a recognised hostel her father, Mr P.J. Kickham, Abbey House, Enniscorthy, wrote under date 11th November, 1930, that the place at which his daughter was residing was on the approved College list of boarding houses, and was under the supervision and management of the owner Mrs Farrell, who was a friend of Miss Kickham. As the latter was on a special diet prescribed by her Doctor it was necessary for her to be free to use it instead of the General

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menu of a General Students' Hall. For this reason the weekly pension was not high and Miss Kickham was enabled to make better educational use of her Scholarship Grant. In the circumstances he asked the County Council to sanction Miss Kickham's residence at her present location.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr Hall seconded by Mr Shannon:- "That in view of the circumstances mentioned in letter of Mr P.J. Kickham we recommend the County Council not to insist upon Miss Kickham, University Scholarship Holder, living in a recognised Hostel."

ROAD WORKS' SCHEME.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr Hall seconded by Mr Shannon:- "That County Council be recommended to fix meeting of 22nd December for consideration of Provisional Road Works Scheme."

GANGER BOGGAN.

The County Surveyor stated that over six months ago the County Council had adopted a resolution that Ganger Boggan be placed on six month's probation at the end of which Assistant Surveyor for the District would report to the Finance Committee as to the manner in which Boggan's duties had been discharged in the meantime.

The following report under date 20th November, 1930, was read from Mr Birthistle,:- "I hereby certify that Ganger William Boggan has given every satisfaction in his work during the past six months."

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr O'Byrne seconded by Mr Hall:- "That in view of satisfactory report of Mr Birthistle, Assistant Surveyor, we recommend the County Council to reinstate William Boggan in his position of Road Ganger as from date of approval of County Council to this proposal."

INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL APPLICATION.

Under date 17th November, 1930, the Inspector of Prevention

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of Cruelty to Children, County Wexford, and District Branch, wrote that he would apply on 25th November, 1930, at New Ross Childrens' Court for the committal of Ml. Whelan aged 5 years to St. Michael's Industrial School, Cappoquin. The child was at present with his parents at Tottenham Green, Taghmon, and application would be made under Childrens' Act 1908 Sec. 58 (1) (B).

The matter was referred to Mr Elgee, County Solicitor.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr O'Byrne seconded by Mr Hall:- "That the Minutes of Finance Committee meeting of 20th November, 1930, be received and considered."

Rate Collection: As regards the proposal of payment of poundage to the Rate Collectors Miss O'Ryan said there was a good deal of reason in the statement made by the Rate Collectors. Some of the people had no money at the present time and could not get it anywhere. It was unreasonable for the Government Department to think the Collectors could get it.

The Chairman said that as regards the payment of poundage it should be impressed upon the Ministry it was the unanimous wish of the Council that the Department should fall in with their views in this matter.

Mr McCarthy referred to the question of derelict farms on which there was no stock and the occupiers of which had no credit as they were very heavily in debt. These people had no annuities or rates paid and could not set their land. As the arrears on these were coming forward year after year something should be done to deal with those people who would never be any better off than they were today. They could not sell their farms as there was no demand now for land. Something should be done in the matter. He then proposed the following resolution:- "That in connection with payment of poundage to Rate Collectors we urge upon the Minister for Local Government to give special attention to the claims of Collectors who have numbers of derelict farms in their district."

Mr Hall seconded the resolution which was adopted.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr O'Byrne seconded by Mr Hall:- "That the Minutes of Meeting of Finance Committee in respect of meeting held on 20th November, 1930, be and are hereby confirmed."

The Minutes of Finance Committee in respect of meeting held on 4th December, 1930, were submitted as follows:-

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The fortnightly meeting of the Finance Committee was held in County Council Chamber, Fortview, Wexford, on 4th December, 1930.

Present:- Messrs Sean O'Byrne, James Hall, James Shannon, T. McCarthy and James E. Walsh.

The Secretary, Assistant Secretary, County Surveyor, Rate Inspector and Mr. Elgee, Solicitor, were also in attendance.

Mr. MacCarthy was moved to the chair on the motion of Mr. O'Byrne, seconded by Mr. Hall.

The Minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed.

PAYMENTS

Treasurer's Advice Note for £6407: 15: 11d was examined and signed.

TRAVELLING EXPENSES OF CO.SURVEYOR

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr. O'Byrne, seconded by Mr. Hall:- "That refund of 12/6d for motor hire in connection with inspection of Rosslare Concrete Road by Inspector of Local Government Department be made to County Surveyor."

RATE COLLECTION

The state of the Rate Collection to date was submitted as follows:-

		<u>Percentage of Warrant Collected</u>
1.	E. J. Murphy	52
2.	J. Curtis	52
3.	J. J. O'Reilly	51.4
4.	Art Dunne	51.1
5.	J. Quirke	51
6.	Sean Gannon	50.2
7.	T. Bolger	50
8.	M. Kelly	50
9.	W. Doyle	50
10.	M. McCarthy	49
11.	J. Deegan	48.3
12.	T. Rowe	48
13.	P. Nolan	47.7
14.	Joseph Cummins	46.6
15.	P. Carty	46.2
16.	P. O'Byrne	46
17.	W. Cummins	45.5
18.	P. Doyle	45
19.	J. J. Sinnott	44.8
20.	Thomas Sutton	39.2
21.	T. Bolger (for No.12 District).	24.5

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The Rate Inspector reported that the following Collectors Messrs E. J. Murphy, J. J. Curtis, J. J. O'Reilly, Art Dunne, J. Quirke, Sean Gannon, T. Bolger, M. Kelly and W. Doyle, had qualified for poundage as approved by the recent order of the Local Government Department. He pointed out that when he took up office on 30th September, 1929, outstanding Rates amounted to £39886 whereas on 30th September, 1930, the amount was £28,695, showing an improvement of £11191. The mileage which he had covered since he took up duty was 7,300 miles. He asked the Finance Committee to consider the advisability of obtaining maps for each Electoral Division in the County to be available for the tracing of the different holdings. Those maps would require to show the various ratings and would help him to locate these without having to consult anyone.

It was decided, in connection with the supply of maps to ask the General Valuation Department if it would be possible for them to mark the various holdings on a County map and at what cost. The Finance Committee would be prepared to recommend the purchase of the maps if the marking of the holdings was done free or at very small expense.

RATE COLLECTOR SUTTON (NO. 2 DISTRICT)

The following report was submitted by the Rate Inspector under date 4th December, 1930:-

"I beg to state that I discovered the following irregularities in No.2 District:-

Messrs J. Breen & Sons, Castlebridge, paid (per cheque) to Thomas Sutton, Collector, £71: 19: 11d on 12th November, 1930.

Messrs M. J. O'Connor & Co., Solicitors paid (per cheque) T. Sutton on 29th November, 1930, £12: 8: 1d.

'When I checked the Collector on 29th November the receipts represented by these cheques still remained in the books.

'I took up the Collector's Books on 3rd December and asked him to make up his abstract. The receipts had then been taken out and he had lodged £120 to-day to clear the amount in his abstract.

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'Mr. James J. O'Connor, Solicitor, sent Thomas Sutton a cheque for £4: 2: 2d in payment of the second moiety rates for Martin Kehoe, Bricketstown, on the 31st October, 1930. The receipt still remains in the book and has not been checked or accounted for by the Collector. I have drawn the Collector's attention to this and he states he will lodge same if he received it. He is making inquiries.'

Sutton had not carried out the direction of the Finance Committee to lodge from 6th November, 1930, to 4th December, 1930, £400, the amount lodged being £347.

The following, under date 4th December, 1930, was read from Collector Sutton:-

"I beg to tender my resignation as Rate Collector for No.2 Collection District."

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr. O'Byrne, seconded by Mr. Shannon:- "That Rate Collector Thomas Sutton (No.2 District) be suspended from office and that consideration of his letter of resignation be deferred pending report of full examination of his books by Rate Inspector."

"We wish to again impress on Ratepayers that they should - under no circumstances - pay rates without obtaining official receipts and that in the event of failure to secure same they should communicate at once with the County Council Offices and call attention to the matter."

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

"That Collector J. Cummins (District No.11) be appointed temporary Collector for No.2 District to close existing warrant."

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PAYMENT OF POUNDAGE TO COLLECTORS.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr Shannon seconded by Mr Walsh:- "That as soon as each Rate Collector has lodged 50 per cent of his warrant he be paid his poundage on lodgments up to 31st October, 1930."

APPOINTMENT OF RATE INSPECTOR.

The following under date 24th November, 1930 (G.85463/1930 - Loch Garman) was read from Local Government Department:-

"Adverting to the Minute of the Wexford County Council regarding the position of the Rate Inspector, I am directed by the Minister for Local Government and Public Health to state that in his opinion the results during the past twelve months do not justify Mr O'Kennedy's appointment being made permanent at present. There has been no such noticeable improvement in the rate collection as might have been expected to ensue from the appointment of an inspector whose duties were carried out with energy and initiative. The Minister, however, consents to the continued employment of Mr O'Kennedy as Rate Inspector on probation for a further twelve months.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of the Chairman seconded by Mr Walsh:- "That we ask the Minister for Local Government to reconsider his decision refusing to approve of the permanent appointment of Mr O'Kennedy as Rate Inspector. We are perfectly satisfied this officer has discharged his duties in a thoroughly efficient manner and we point out that the resolution appointing him permanently was adopted by the unanimous vote of the Finance Committee and of the Council."

APPOINTMENT - TEMPORARY CLERICAL STAFF FOR
RATE BOOKS ETC.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr O'Byrne seconded by the Chairman:- "That our Secretary be empowered to employ the usual temporary clerical staff to prepare Rate Books and Collectors' Receipt and Demand Note

Books in respect of financial year 1931-32."

PUBLIC LIBRARIES ACT 1855.

The following under date 27th November, 1930, was read from the Town Clerk, Wexford:

"Referring to circular letter of Department of Local Government and Public Health of 22nd September last (No.37) indicating the steps to be taken to regularize the procedure regarding the future contribution of the Corporation towards the Public Library Service, I wish to say that as a first step the Public Libraries Act, of 1855, has recently been adopted in Wexford, and becomes operative on 1st January, 1931.

It now becomes necessary, as you are aware, to come to an agreement with the County Council as to the payments to be made by the Corporation towards the Scheme, subject, of course, to ratification by the Minister for Local Government and Public Health, and this being so, the Finance Committee of the latter Body are prepared to contribute under this head annually a sum equivalent to a rate of one halfpenny in the Pound on the Valuation of the Borough to be raised in the Poor Rate, and as a similar amount has been paid over every year since the inception of the Library Scheme, I am to ask if the County Council will be prepared to accept this amount in future years also ?

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr O'Byrne seconded by Mr Hall:- "That we recommend the County Council to enter into an agreement with the Wexford Corporation to accept a sum equivalent to a rate of one halfpenny in the £ on the valuation of Wexford Urban District for the facilities afforded the residents of said District by County Wexford Library Service established under the Public Libraries Act of 1855 and Local Government Act of 1925 and that the County Council be recommended to request the Minister for Local Government and Public Health to sanction this agreement."

PARENTAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO MAINTENANCE OF INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL CHILDREN.

The following under date 25th November, 1930 (246/30) was read from Department of Education:-

"In reply to your letter of the 17th instant submitting resolution adopted by the Wexford County Council, relative to contributions made by parents or guardians towards the maintenance of children in Industrial Schools, I am directed to state that under Section 75(7) of the Children Act, 1908, such contributions are paid into the Exchequer, except in cases in which the contributions exceed the Government Grant; in these latter cases the excess is paid to the Managers of the Schools. It will be observed, therefore, that the terms of the resolution passed by your Council are not in accordance with the statutory provisions governing parental contributions.

I have also to point out that whereas the responsibility for providing for the reception and maintenance of children committed to Industrial Schools is placed on the local Authorities by Section 74 of the Children Act, 1908, the proportion of the expenditure borne by the State in connection with such children is already considerably in excess of that borne by the Local Authorities, the normal weekly rates of capitation grant payable from the two sources being 7/6d and 5/- respectively. As the parental contributions seldom exceed 2/6 per week it will be observed that even where such contributions are paid the State still bears half the cost of the child's maintenance in the Industrial School."

Under date 20th November, 1930, the Secretary of the County Councils' General Council wrote that the resolution on the subject of the allocation of contributions from parents or guardians towards the maintenance of children in Industrial Schools was not received in time for inclusion on the Agenda for the General Council meeting of 25th November, 1930.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr O'Byrne seconded by Mr Hall:- "That we request the General

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Council of County Councils to press on the Government for an amendment of section 75(7) of Children Act 1908, by which parental contributions towards the maintenance of children in Industrial Schools will in future be paid over to the State and the Local Authorities in the proportion of the amounts contributed by each.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS - KITS FOR INSPECTORS. -----

The Secretary stated that in response to a questionnaire addressed to the County Councils in An Saorstát 19 Councils had replied and in each instance the Ex-officio Inspectors under Food and Drugs Acts had been supplied with kits. The approximate cost for each was £11:6:9d. and there were six Inspectors at work in the County - 1 in Wexford District: 2 in Gorey: 2 in Enniscorthy and 1 in New Ross District.

A discussion took place in the course of which it was mentioned that the appointment of two Inspectors in Enniscorthy district was not working quite satisfactorily and it was doubtful if this arrangement would continue.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr O'Byrne seconded by Mr Shannon:- "That we recommend the County Council to supply to the Ex-officio Inspectors under Food and Drugs Act five kits under Food and Drugs Acts which included one kit only for Enniscorthy District."

SCHOLARSHIPS IN SECONDARY AND VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS. -----

Under date 28th November, 1930, the Office of National Education wrote approving of the Scheme of Scholarships submitted by the County Council for 1931 with the exception of the following clause:- "Scholarships under this Scheme are not to apply to candidates holding pupils' teacherships or places in Preparatory Colleges." In this connection attention was called to the correspondence with the Council on this subject last year and it was stated that should any case arise under the clause in question it would be open to consideration by the Department.

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The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr McCarthy seconded by Mr Hall:- "That the Minutes of meeting of Finance Committee held on 4th December, 1930, as submitted to this meeting, be received and considered."

Rate Collector Sutton(No. 2 District): The following under date 5th December, 1930, was read from Mr Aidan Sutton, Tomlane, Oylegate, one of the sureties of Thomas Sutton:-

"I am very sorry this thing happened. I think the Finance Committee took him rather short. I would be better pleased if you give the collection to Mat Kelly or James Quirke."

The County Secretary said that Mr Daniel Dempsey, Craanrue, Edermine, the other surety of Mr Sutton, also objected to the proposed arrangement to close the collection.

In reply to the Chairman the Rate Inspector said the books of Mr Sutton had been examined and were all right. There was of course no guarantee that receipts had not been given for items which had been paid. A large number of rate notices had been issued but the exact position could not be known until all the Ratepayers whose receipts were still in the book had been called upon.

After further discussion the following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr Colfer seconded by Mr Corish:- "That the sureties of Collector Thomas Sutton be called upon to close the warrant in No. 2 District and that the recommendation of the Finance Committee appointing Mr Joseph Cummins, No. 8 District, be not approved."

University Scholarship Scheme: The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr Corish seconded by Mr O'Byrne:-

"That Commerce as for Leaving Certificate Examination with a total mark of 300 be included as a subject for award of University Scholarship ~~Syllabus~~."

Appointment of Rate Inspector: Mr Cummins proposed the adoption of the recommendation of the Finance Committee.

MR Colfer seconded.

The Chairman said that for the farmers this was the worst

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year within living memory and he thought that the Rate Inspector in view of the fact that the collection was over £11,000 better than last year had done remarkably well and had justified his permanent appointment.

Mr O'Byrne pointed out that when compared with the amount of rates outstanding the Land Commission annuities were greater in proportion although the Government had far more effective machinery for securing the payment of annuities than the Council had to secure the rates. And, as a matter of fact, Mr O'Kennedy had obtained payment of rates for holdings in respect of which the Land Commission had not been able to secure payment of annuities.

The resolution was adopted.

University Scholarship of Miss Kickham: The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr O'Byrne seconded by Mr D'Arcy:- "That Miss Kickham be requested to submit medical certificate that it would injure her general health if she were obliged to reside in a hostel."

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr O'Byrne seconded by Mr Colfer:- "That the Minutes of Finance Committee in respect of meeting held on 4th December, 1930, be and are hereby adopted except in so far as same have been altered or amended by resolution adopted at this meeting.

WEXFORD COURTHOUSE COMMITTEE.

The following report of Wexford County Courthouse Committee was submitted:-

"The Sub-Committee appointed by the Co. Council at their meeting on 24th November, 1930, to consider the provision of furniture for Co. Court premises, and Co. Council Offices; additional work necessary to complete the premises; proposed transfer of Machinery Yard from Enniscorthy to Wexford Etc., met at the old Jail on 29th November, 1930, when the following were present:-

Col. Gibbon (Vice Chairman of Co. Council), Messrs R. Corish,

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T.D., James Hall, Thomas Mayler, and James Shannon. The Secretary, and Co. Surveyor were also in attendance.

A detailed inspection of the premises including the Court and Council Offices was made.

The Sub-Committee will offer individual criticisms as to the Court room proper. In regard to the offices they were pleased with the plan of reconstruction, and the manner in which it had been carried out.

As to seating accommodation for Co. Council Chamber the Co. Surveyor considered that a suitable large table with chairs would be the best arrangement for the general body of the Councillors, the Chairman having a small raised table for himself and another table being provided for the Officers and official papers between the Chairman's seat and the general table.

Mr Corish urged that the arrangement found in the City Hall Dublin (modified to some extent) would be a better method. In the Metropolitan City Hall the members sat at benches with a desk attached in front, these being made in sections of three or five as approved.

The other members were in favour of the suggestion of Mr Corish provided it could be carried out for a reasonable figure. It was decided that the County Surveyor should obtain designs, and approximate cost for his own plan, and also that suggested by Mr Corish.

In regard to extra work the Co. Surveyor submitted the following:-

	£
(1) Amount over spent to date	80
(2) Repairs Glazing	15
(3) Finishing of Plumbing in Cells	45
(4) Distempering and painting Front Block	140
(5) Painting of Court	40
(6) Extras to wing-ground floor and lavatories (both wings)	20

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	£
(7) Repairs of roof gate lodge	10
(8) Granolithic floor, Entrance Corridor	50
(9) Outside painting old windows Etc.,	40
(10) Breaking Stone and making up parking station	50
(11) Planting outside enclosure and inside area	10
(12) Repair to Marshelsea Prison which is going through dilapidation	150
(13) Furniture	<u>100</u>
Total.	<u>£ 750</u>

After a long discussion the Sub-Committee agreed to recommend the following:-

No.(1) £80: (2) £15: (3) £45: (4) £140: (5) £40: (6) £20:
(7) £10: (10) £50: **(11)** £10: and No.(13) £100. Total £510.

They struck out the following items:- No.(8) Granolithic floor £50: No.(9) Outside painting old windows £40: Repairs to old Marshelsea Prison £150 :- Total - £240.

As regards No.(8) Mr Corish considered it would spoil the entire appearance of the building if the old flagging was not taken up and replaced by some modern flooring. The flagging which was at the very entrance to the premises stamped the place as a Jail for all time. He intimated he would reserve the right to raise this matter at Co. Council meeting on 9th December, 1930.

In reply to Col. Gibbon the Co. Surveyor said that the £300 allowed in estimate for certain repairs and painting had to be spent for painting, repairs to plastering etc., for instance all the main hall had to be replastered and one of the ceilings had fallen.

In connection with the proposed transfer of Machinery Yard from Enniscorthy it was pointed out that if the transfer was agreed to a roadway should be made across the plot in which were buried the ordinary criminals who had been executed since the place had been in existence as a Prison.

The meeting considered it all out of reason that this plot should in the circumstances be converted into a roadway

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The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr Shannon seconded by Mr Hall:-

"That the proposal to transfer Machinery Yard from Wexford to Enniscorthy be dropped."

It was decided to recommend the Council to shut off this plot by a wall from the old female prison and on the other side by a low wall into which a gate could be inserted to allow of the plot being kept clear of weeds.

In reply to a query the Co. Surveyor said the Council were paying a rent of £55 per annum and rates for Enniscorthy Yard. He admitted as regards repair of machinery he could not have as good facilities in Wexford as he had in Enniscorthy, but he felt bound in view of the rent etc., of Enniscorthy Machinery Yard - to bring forward a proposal to have the change considered though he did not recommend it.

It was decided that the Sub-Committee hold another meeting at 10.15 a.m. on Tuesday 9th December, 1930, to consider designs and approximate cost of seating accommodation in Co. Council Chamber and that the Co. Council meeting on same day be held at 11 o'clock a.m."

The second meeting of the Courthouse Committee was held in County Council Chamber, Fortview, Wexford, on 9th December, 1930, when there were present Mr M. Doyle, Chairman County Council, (presiding): Messrs R. Corish, James Hall and James Shannon.

The Secretary and County Surveyor were also in attendance.

In connection with the seating accommodation in County Council Chamber, the County Surveyor submitted plan of oval table. He pointed out that the amount of seating accommodation was controlled by the size of the Council room and, having considered various suggestions, he had come to the conclusion that an oval table and chairs would afford the maximum of comfortable seating accommodation. If the suggestion was approved he would prepare a specification and obtain quotations for next meeting of the Council.

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The suggestion of the County Surveyor as to provision of oval table for County Council Chamber was approved.

As regards chairs it was decided that the County Surveyor should obtain quotations from Irish firms manufacturing chairs, and that the chairs at present in use - all of odd patterns - be distributed among the new offices and the rooms for Solicitors and members of the Bar.

With reference to caretaking of new premises it was decided that a conference between Co. Registrar, Co. Secretary and Co. Surveyor be held, the latter to draw up a list of the duties to be performed, report as to Conference to be submitted to next meeting of the Council.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr Cummins seconded by Mr O'Byrne:- "That the Minutes of Wexford Co. Courthouse Committee in respect of meeting held on 29th November, 1930, and 9th December, 1930, be received and considered."

Mr Corish held that the painting of the premises should have been included in the original specification.

The County Surveyor said that the Quantity Surveyor only included the painting of any new work. It was covered by the item of £300 which had to go in other work that could not possibly have been foreseen at the time the specification and Bill of Quantities were prepared.

Mr Corish said the procedure was very irregular and he raised it now to prevent a repetition in the future.

The County Surveyor said that the reconstruction of an old building presented unforeseen difficulties and the Council would recognise the many which confronted the conversion of an old Jail into a Court and up-to-date offices. He was making some further alterations in the Court to meet the wishes of the Judge.

Mr Corish said that the entire appearance of the place was spoiled by the old uneven and unsightly flags at the entrance. For the sake of the small saving which would be effected viz., £50 he thought some modern flooring should be laid down and he proposed a resolution to this effect.

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The Chairman referred to the existing financial stringency and said this work could be done at any time.

Mr O'Byrne seconded the resolution of Mr Corish.

After further discussion a poll was taken with the following result:-

For the resolution - Messrs Armstrong, Colfer, Corish, Cummins, Gaul, Keegan, McCarthy, O'Byrne and Shannon - 9.

Against - Messrs Brennan, Culleton, D'Arcy, Hall, Murphy, O'Ryan, Smyth and the Chairman - 8.

The Chairman declared the resolution adopted.

The following resolution was then adopted on the motion of Mr Corish seconded by Mr O'Byrne:- "That the Minutes of Co. Wexford Courthouse Committee in respect of meetings held on 29th November, 1930, and 9th December, 1930, be and are hereby confirmed, except in so far as same have been altered or amended by resolution adopted at this day's meeting."

CONFERENCE WITH T.D.'s

Mr Cummins moved the following resolution of which he had given previous notice:- "That the five T.D.'s of the County be invited to attend a meeting of the Council for the purpose of discussing the economic condition of agriculture and taking such steps as may be agreed to in order to improve the present very unsatisfactory position."

In moving his motion Mr Cummins referred to the deplorable economic position of the country. He had been speaking recently to many business men who told him that there was no possible chance of getting money from the farmers as they had none to give while court proceedings would only accentuate the depression and ruin the credit of people who would be only too willing to pay provided they were able. The Ministers were saying that the Country was prosperous while in their own County here £20,000 had been taken from Government Grants to make good the non-payment of Land Commission Annuities. He believed that if a Conference with the T.D.'s could be arranged for, a plan would be

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forth coming which would relieve the present pressure on agriculture. He also held that some consideration should be given to the development of the fishing industry which was absolutely neglected at the moment. There was a mine of wealth in the sea waiting for organised effort on the part of the fishermen and it was the business of County Councils to take all steps possible to develop this industry. They could instruct their T.D.'s to put before the Dail the grievances of the unfortunate fishermen and endeavour to secure some measure by which their livelihood would be assured. He had great hopes that if the conference was successful other Counties similarly circumstanced would follow the example of Wexford, and by union and organisation, pull the Country out of the present morass. As regards the real development of the Country the Dail at the moment seemed to him to be nothing but a glorified debating society.

Mr Keegan contended that four of the T.D.'s in the County, Dr. Ryan, Messrs Allen, Corish and Jordan, were more or less inclined to spoon feed the farmers and he did not see how they could go any further than they had done. At the same time he believed an exchange of views between the T.D.'s and the Council would be of great benefit. There was nothing before the Dail lately but the farmer, though no one paid very much heed to the promises made to relieve his position. The towns, however, could not be entirely neglected and he believed that the passing of the Town Tenants Bill was of great importance to an extremely large section of the rate paying community, who on the score of rates received no Government subsidy as the farmers did in the shape of the agricultural Grant.

Mr McCarthy feared, as so many different parties and opinions were represented in the Council, no practical result would be the outcome of the proposed conference. Suppose the County Council unanimously asked the T.D.'s to take a particular course. If this did not fall in with the policy of the party to which they belonged it was impossible to expect the T.D.'s to side with the

Council as against their political party. It was universally recognised that agriculture was passing through a very trying period and everyone desired the turn in the tide and hoped for prosperity for the farmer but he (Mr McCarthy) did not think anything practical could possibly come out of the proposed conference.

Miss O'Ryan, in seconding, considered it would be a better plan to have a Committee of the Council consult with the T.D.'s rather than discuss matters in public. She was very sorry to say that at present it appeared as if they would much rather score against one another on a finicky point than sit down with those who differed from them to adopt a plan which would commend itself to all. The prices of agricultural products and livestock were dropping alarmingly every other day. They could see that today the price of pigs had fallen so low that it would not pay the farmer to keep them. She believed if they were in earnest and could drop their party associations for the time being they would succeed in stemming the present tide of depression. They should endeavour to get more work and more production in the Country. They should raise the standard of living and allow no foreign competition until ^{all} the home products had been disposed of.

Mr Murphy said he ventured to bet if the County Council be asked to produce a policy, agreement to it would not be secured.

After further discussion Mr Cummins added the following to his resolution:- "That the County Council meet the T.D.'s in committee and that in addition to the depression in agriculture the necessity for the passing of the Town Tenants Bill be also considered. That when the Conference has agreed upon a policy the T.D.'s be requested to take concerted action on same."

Miss O'Ryan seconded.

The Chairman was of opinion that the five T.D.'s had as good a grasp of the state of the Country as anyone, and there was nothing the County Council could tell them in this respect of which they were not aware. The farmers were exploited by every political party for the last few months but nothing had

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been done for them and to his mind it was the farmers alone who could retrieve the situation. While numbers of other industries benefited, even the towns benefited, the farmers were put off with nothing but promises. When they asked for de-rating they were given a Committee to examine the subject but the report had not yet been produced. Nothing would serve the Country so well as de-rating and yet the Government did not press the Committee for its report, and acquiesced in the delay. If the T.D.'s in the Dail had been in earnest there would be no necessity for the De-rating Committee and it was up to the farmers at the next election to do something for themselves and pitch all the political farmers.

Mr Keegan pointed out that all some tenants like himself got from the Government was an increase in their rent of 73 %. In the 80's if landlords took the same steps they would have been shot.

The Chairman said nothing had been done for agriculture during the past three or four years.

Miss O'Ryan - Whose fault was that ?

Chairman - The farmers themselves, and I am sorry to say it.

Mr Murphy - I am afraid when we come here everyone will stick to his own opinion and the whole thing will end in a bottle of smoke.

Mr Gaul then proposed that the County Council hold the Conference with the T. D.'s in public.

Mr D'Arcy seconded.

A poll was taken with the following result:-

For Mr Gaul's amendment:- Messrs Armstrong, Colfer, D'Arcy, Gaul, Keegan, Shannon - 6.

Against - Messrs Brennan, Culleton, Cummins, McCarthy, Murphy, O'Byrne, O'Ryan and Smyth - 8.

The following did not vote:- Messrs Corish, Hall, and the Chairman - 3.

The Chairman declared the amendment lost.

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The resolution of Mr Cummins to provide for the holding of the conference in committee was then put and passed nem con.

It was then decided on the motion of Mr Hall, seconded by Mr D'Arcy, that the Conference be held on Thursday, 8th January 1931 at 10.30 a.m.

COLEMAN GRITTER.

In connection with the proposal of the County Council to make a trial of above gritter with a view to purchase, a letter under date 28th November, 1930, (RM/32) was read from the Department of Local Government (Roads). The communication pointed out that the plant could not be purchased in the way suggested. Advertisements should be issued asking for tenders and the selection made should be submitted with particulars of all tenders received for the Minister's sanction, to the purchase.

The County Surveyor mentioned that the County Council had decided not to make a trial of the gritter in question but he was arranging for a trial with manure distributors for the 10th inst. If any of these were found suitable for gritting the County Council would submit particulars to the Ministry and ask for sanction, to any proposal for purchase which recommended itself to them.

ROAD GRANTS.

Under date 22nd November, 1930, The Department of Local Government (Roads) wrote (R/SGF/32), pointing out that the roads to which the County Council referred at their meeting on 27th October as requiring special attention would receive consideration when the share of County Wexford Improvement Grant for 1931-32 had been determined, but as regards this the Department would not be in a position to take any steps until they were made aware of proposals of the County Council as regards road reconstruction and maintenance.

It was decided to point out to the Department that *the* provisional Road Works Scheme of the County would be considered at meeting to be held on 22nd December, 1930.

Under date 22nd November, 1930, and 2nd December, 1930,

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letters were received from the Department forwarding the following Road Grants:- Wexford Rosslare Road - £299 (final payment); T7 - £600 (final payment); and £3025 Main Road Maintenance.

ARTIFICIAL HAND FOR ROAD GANGER.

Under date 6th December, 1930, Secretary, County Board of Health, wrote that on the 17th November, 1930, application had been received from James Broaders, Sparrowsland, Bree, a former Road Ganger, for artificial hand. The Hospital's Committee agreed to supply the artificial limb, as they understood he was industrious, and had a very good record as a Ganger. The mechanical hand would be costly, and it was decided to request the County Council to reinstate Broaders in his position as Ganger so that he would be in a position to make contribution, towards cost of the hand.

The County Surveyor said he had spoken to Broaders in the matter. He did not know if he would be actually suitable to be taken on again as ganger, and there was a question as to the amount of manual work he would be able to perform, with the artificial hand. He had been certified by the Civic Guard Authorities as authorised to hold a certain amount of gelignite which he would have to use in quarries and of course there were certain forms which he would have to fill up. Though probably with a little practice this work could be carried out with the left hand.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr Gaul seconded by Mr Shannon:- "That James Broaders, Sparrowsland, Bree, be re-employed on probation as Road Ganger."

WEXFORD COURTHOUSE AND THE DEPARTMENT
of FINANCE.

Mr Elgee, Solicitor, submitted letter from the Department of Finance, under date 8th December, 1930, (404/296), acknowledging receipt of the letter of Mr Elgee of the 29th November and the enclosure, asking for payment of instalment

under the award of compensation made in respect of the destruction of Wexford Courthouse. The question of authorising this payment was under consideration and a further communication would be addressed to Mr Elgee as soon as possible.

+ The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr O'Byrne seconded by the Chairman :- "That with reference to letter from Department of Finance to Mr Elgee, under date 8th December, 1930, (404/296), we desire to point out that the Contractor for reconstruction of Wexford Courthouse is pressing the Council for payment on foot of his Contract, and that certificates of the County Surveyor recommending payment of a large sum were received some time back."

FLOODING AT KILLAGOLEY.

• It was decided that the following letter from Messrs O'Flaherty & Son, Solicitors, under date 6th December, 1930, relative to the flooding of Miss Forrestal's premises, be discussed in Committee:-

"We are in receipt of your letter of the 27th ult., The water which causes the flooding does, we admit, come from a stream running through our client's lands but prior to the making of the concrete road there were adequate arrangements there to prevent the flooding of the road and the flooding of our client's premises. These arrangements the County Council interfered with and the present flooding is due to the new works which were constructed and to the inadequate provision made to carry off the water. We have inspected the place and we do not think the lowering of the present spillway and the raising of the walls of the Trap at the side of the public road will remedy matters unless a sufficient catchway is constructed inside the spillway and the water piped so as to discharge into the sewer.

Our client has no objection to the Council's Employees to go in on the lands and carry out whatever alterations they propose to remedy the existing state of affairs but this is without prejudice to any claim she already has for damage caused by the flood-

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ing or which she may have in the event of it afterwards turning out that the new works are inadequate."

The County Surveyor mentioned that in his opinion the suggested piping would have no effect on the flooding.

It was then decided to inform Messrs O'Flaherty & Son that, if Miss Forrestal is prepared to withdraw her threat of proceedings against the Council, the County Surveyor will carry out the work which he proposed at last meeting of the County Council and which he believes will obviate the flooding.

PRINTING OF RATE BOOKS.

Two tenders were received for the printing of Rate Books for Financial Year 1931-32.

Wexford People at £15:17:6d.

Wexford Free Press at £35:0:0d.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr Cummins seconded by Mr Shannon:- "That the tender of Wexford People Newspaper at £15:17:6d. for the printing etc of Rate Books for Financial Year 1931-32 be accepted."

GREENVILLE LANE ENNISCORTHY.

Mr Patrick O'Neill, Greenville, wrote, calling attention to the shocking state of the above lane which he mentioned was a subject for serious comment from respectable townspeople who use it as a walk of recreation, not to speak of the old and infirm who were living on the lane and had to traverse it daily.

Mr McCarthy said that the lane was a short distance outside Enniscorthy and ended in a cul-de-sac. There were a number of people living on it but he did not see what the Council could do in the matter.

The County Surveyor said it was not a connecting link.

It was decided on the proposal of the Chairman to adjourn the matter to next meeting.

STREAM AT CLONATTIN ROAD, GOREY.

Under date 27th November, 1930, a numerously signed

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memorial was received from the residents of Clonattin Road Gorey, protesting against what they stated was the suggestion of Mr Dunbar, Clerk of Works in charge of sewerage scheme, to close in the stream at Clonattin Road. The inhabitants found it very convenient. The same suggestion was made two years ago when the medical officer of the district said it was most unjust to the inhabitants to close in the stream as it was most healthy and beneficial. They therefore asked that the suggestion of the Clerk of Works should not be carried out.

Mr Keegan proposed that the question of the stream at Clonattin Road, Gorey, be left in the hands of the County Board of Health who were well acquainted with the situation.

Mr D'Arcy seconded. Passed.

The Secretary stated on receipt of memorial copy had been transmitted to the Board of Health for their information.

FARMERS' PROTECTION ASSOCIATION.

The following resolutions were received from the Emergency Committee of the Farmers' Protection Association, 3 St. Stephen's Green, Dublin, :-

1. "That while we abate in no measure our demand for the instant operation of a proper national economic policy devised in aid of agriculture on the principles of Arthur Griffith's, we now demand (to meet the urgent necessities of prevailing conditions) such lessening of the burthen of overhead charges on the farmer as will be afforded by derating of all agricultural land and an immediate moratorium in respect of rents, annuities, &c., so that the present intolerable system of Court proceedings and seizures for agricultural rents, annuities and rates, which is compelling farmers to sell their live stock and crops at ruinous prices be brought to an immediate cessation."
2. "That we reiterate our objection to the proposed Permanent Tariff Commission, composed of Civil Servants, who will thereby be put in the position of dictating national economic policy. We are, however, prepared to submit the economic policy out-

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lined by Arthur Griffith for relief of agriculture to a conference composed of equal numbers of the Farmers' Protection Association and of members of the Dail selected by the Government."

3. "That this meeting of the Emergency Committee desires to impress on farmers, workers, traders and all others associated with agricultural interests in Co. Dublin and throughout the Free State that Mr Cosgrave -- the President of the Executive Council responsible to the people -- has failed to give any definite scheme of relief, in view of the serious depression in all classes of agriculture which has gravely affected the resources of the people and made it practically impossible to meet their obligations for rates, rents, &c., as well as curtailing their livelihood. The fact that there has been no practical response to the demands put forward by this Association cannot be regarded otherwise than as extremely disappointing and we call on the people in this emergency to express their outspoken disapproval and condemnation of the absence of any definite and immediately workable scheme from responsible authority to relieve the necessities of the situation."

4. "That while the promise of the President of the Executive Council to give direct relief to the farmer has been accepted by the Government he has taken no steps to define his scheme nor has he taken any action as yet to stop the intolerable system of Court proceedings and seizures for rents and rates which is compelling farmers to sell at ruinous prices. We demand an immediate suspension of these oppressive proceedings."

5. "That we request the County Councils to defer the framing of their Rates Estimates for 1931/32 until the Government's scheme for de-rating has been produced."

Miss O'Ryan proposed that the resolutions from Emergency Committee be referred to the conference with the T.D.'s to be held on 8th January, 1931.

Mr Hall seconded. Passed.

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DUNDALK URBAN COUNCIL.

The following resolution from Dundalk Urban Council was, on the motion of Miss O'Ryan, seconded by Mr Hall, referred to the forthcoming conference with the T.D.'s:-

"That having regard to the serious economic position in which the tillage farmers of Ireland now find themselves through no fault of their own, and which is bound to become worse day by day, we, the Urban District Council of Dundalk call on the T.D.'s representing all sections in the country to meet at the earliest opportunity in order to evolve a workable scheme calculated to save them from further loss and possibly financial ruin. We recommend that a national granary - one of the strongest planks in the early Sinn Fein movement - be established with a view:-

- (1) To ensure sufficient supplies for the country in case of war or other emergency.
- (2) To ensure for our own main industry a fair and reasonable return in future."

PROPOSED PURCHASE OF LABOURERS' COTTAGES.

On the motion of Miss O'Ryan, seconded by Mr D'Arcy, the following resolution from Limerick County Council was referred to the County Board of Health for attention:-

"That this Constituency Council of the Limerick Branch of the Irish Labour Party, calls upon the Limerick County Council, to urge upon the Government the pressing need for legislation to expedite the purchase of the Labourers' Cottages by the tenants, and with this object in view, we demand the holding of a Departmental Inquiry as a necessary prelude, and at which representation should be afforded to the various interests concerned."

WOMEN'S PRISONERS DEFENCE LEAGUE.

The following resolution from above was read:-

"That we congratulate and thank the County Councils who

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passed the Resolution demanding the release of the Political Prisoners, and we believe that to their patriotic and humane action is due the unconditional release of Aidan Sweeney and Patrick McGuinness from Mountjoy Jail on the 28th November."

CENSORSHIP OF EVIL LITERATURE AND CINEMAS.

The following resolutions were received from the Hon. Secretary of the League of the Kingship of Christ, and were adopted on the motion of Mr Murphy seconded by Mr Hall:-

(1) "Since it is clear that the circulation of foreign literature of a degrading character is a danger to our Irish culture and Christian standards, and since the existing laws are inadequate in face of the magnitude of the evil and the abnormal situation of which it is a feature, this general meeting is of opinion that a fundamental change in censorship law is required. Hence it demands that no foreign publication shall be allowed into this country, for circulation, until it has been examined by a competent official authority and reported to contain nothing offensive to the traditional standards of the people."

(2) "Since it is manifest that Irish Catholic culture and Christian morals are in peril from the activities of cinemas showing principally films of unchristian origin and degrading tendencies, this ^{general} meeting is of opinion that drastic measures are required to cope with the evil, and that a new and far more exacting system of censorship needs to be established. It demands, therefore, that in the future no film shall be released for display, nor any film advertisement be exhibited which is out of harmony with the moral sense and Christian standards of the people."

RELIEF GRANTS.

Mr Corish mentioned that at the last meeting of the County Council a proposal was adopted that application should be made to the Government to endeavour to secure some of the

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Relief Grants which were then before the Dail. The amount of the Grant £300,000 had now been passed. Some of the T.D.'s had a consultation with the Minister for Local Government, and when he was asked for what works the money would be authorised so far as could be gathered from his statement he was not anxious that it should be spent on road work, if that could possibly be avoided. He suggested that enquiries should be instituted to ascertain the districts in which the greatest need prevailed owing to unemployment. He (Mr Corish) suggested that they ascertain from the Home Assistance Officers the areas in which the greatest distress prevails, and on receipt of this information the County Surveyor should prepare some schemes at once and send them to the Ministry. Everybody was looking for a slice of the amount voted and it was dangerous to delay. Oylegate, for instance, had been badly hit through failure of the fishing industry and in places like Taghmon footpaths were badly needed. Afforestation and matters of that description could also be carried out in suitable centres. The Minister would be prepared to approve of expenditure on such works as these.

Miss O'Ryan said if everything was done as well as the roads they would be well off.

In reply to the Chairman Mr Corish mentioned that it was not necessary that the money should be spent before the end of the financial year.

The Chairman said drainage was very important and though of course, this was not the time of the year to carry it out, there were a number of unemployed people who wanted relief at the moment.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr Corish seconded by Mr O'Byrne:- "That our Secretary ascertain from the Home Assistance Officers of the County Board of Health particulars as to the districts in this County which are suffering most through unemployment. On receipt of this information the County Surveyor should prepare schemes for these areas, and

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forward them to the Ministry as soon as possible."

Michael Doyle

WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL.

SPECIAL MEETING - 22ND DECEMBER 1930.

MINUTES.

FORTVIEW,
WEXFORD.

N.J.FRIZELLE
SECRETARY.

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A Special meeting of Wexford County Council for the purpose of considering the Provisional Road Works Scheme for financial year 1931 - 32 was held in County Council Chamber, Wexford, on 22nd December, 1930.

Present :- Mr M. Doyle (Chairman) presiding, also: Messrs James Armstrong, John Brennan, James Clince, Patrick Colfer, Thomas Cooney, Richard Corish, John Culleton, John Cummins, Timothy F. D'Arcy, John Doran, ~~Michael Doyle~~, 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, M.M.Roche, James Shannon, Myles Smyth and James E.Walsh.

The Secretary, County Surveyor, Mr Elgee County Solicitor and six Assistant Surveyors were also in attendance.

The Minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed.

PAYMENTS.

Treasurer's Advice Note for £15208:7:11d. was examined and signed.

PROVISIONAL ROAD WORKS SCHEME.

In connection with the above the Secretary said the County Surveyor's proposals for expenditure under Road Works Scheme for 1931-32 (£73395) as compared with amount allowed by Council for last year (£55099) shows an increase of £18296, or approximately an increase of 1/- in the £. £7669 of the increase is on Main Roads and £10627 is on County Roads. (Included in £55099 allowed last year was £2000 for Rosslare Road). The County Surveyor's Estimate for next year (£73395) as compared with his original estimate last year (£78732) shows a reduction of £5337, £2189 being for Main Roads and £3148 for County Roads -- (reduction 3¹/₂ in £). The amount allowed last year £55099 represented a reduction of approximately 30% on the County Surveyor's Estimate (£78732) last year. The £55099 allowed by the County Council last year was made up as

follows:-

£28465 Main Roads
£26634 County Roads.

representing a rate for Main Roads of $1/5\frac{1}{4}d$ and for County Roads $1/6d$. Total $2/11\frac{1}{4}d$. Included in the $2/11\frac{1}{4}d$ is £2000 for Ross-lare Road ($1\frac{1}{4}d$ in the £). The following were the rates in the £ on the proposals submitted by the County Surveyor:-

Main Roads. Repair and Maintenance (£32162) 19.563d. Improvement (£2972) 1.808d; Contingencies £1000. .608d. Total. £36134 or a Rate of 21.979d.

County Roads. Repair and Maintenance (£34298) 23.174d: Improvement (£1963) 1.333d : Contingencies (£1000) .676: Total. (£37261) or a Rate of 25.183d. Total Rate for all roads 47.152d. in £. Increase over last year Main 4.66d: County 7.31d : Total 11.97d.

Maintenance Grant. The Maintenance Grant last year was £10064. The Council will understand that this Grant varies in accordance with the allocation passed by the County Council for Main Road Maintenance, the basis on which it is paid being 40 % of the Council's expenditure on the Maintenance of Main Roads.

Urbans. The following statement shows the County Surveyor's Estimate for Maintenance of Main Roads in Urban Districts and the allocation therefor finally agreed to last year:-

	<u>Estimate</u>	<u>Allocation</u>	<u>Reduction</u>
Enniscorthy	510	341	169
New Ross	320	304	16
Wexford	612	409	203
	<u>£1442</u>	<u>£1054</u>	<u>388</u>

Next Year's Proposals for Urban Districts are as follows with allocation passed for last year:-

	<u>County Council's allocation last year.</u>	<u>Co. Surveyor's Estimate Next Year.</u>	<u>Increase</u>
Enniscorthy	341	510	169
New Ross	304	510	206
Wexford	409	800	391
	<u>1054</u>	<u>1820</u>	<u>766</u>

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In connection with the scheme the County Surveyor submitted the following:-

"The special business of this Meeting being the consideration of the Road Works Scheme for the financial year 1931-32, I think it advisable to go fully into the Estimate prepared by me. I have carefully considered every item, and have discussed with the Assistant Surveyors the possible requirements of the various roads. During the past few years there has been an excessive reduction in the money allowed on the County Roads generally, and now we have arrived at a stage that unless more money be granted for these roads they will rapidly get into a very bad condition. The money allowed on the Main Roads though also, in my opinion, far below what is necessary, has been at a better rate than on the County Roads, but in dealing with these you should take into consideration that 40% of the cost is a Government Grant. It seems curious that in view of the large expenditure on work on the Main Roads that the maintenance cost should be kept high: this is due to the fact that surface dressed roads must be frequently re-dressed, otherwise the improvement work will be rendered useless in a very few years. The Local Government Department make it a condition of the 40% Grant to the Main Road Maintenance, that all improved roads should be fully maintained, and that necessary surface dressing should be carried out, by us. Items for dressing this year are much the same as last year, cover in all about 36 miles, and the figure amounts to £8,130. This sum I consider must stand if you are to qualify for the Grant. As regards other maintenance on the main roads I have considered the essentials for keeping them up to a reasonable standard only. The figures set out for County Roads - in regard to third class roads - are much the same as I submitted last year, and in this connection I must point out that the money allowed showed a considerable reduction. The Contract roads both third and fourth class, of course must be maintained at Contract figures.

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I have asked the Surveyors of other Counties for Statistics, which, of course, only deal with the current year's expenditure, and have obtained replies from 14 Counties. Also I have tabulated statistics of all the Counties in the Free State, which shows that, Wexford, one of the wealthiest counties, is lowest in the scale of expenditure: being at the bottom of the list with County Leitrim. Wexford is very nearly at the top of the list for road mileage, but is low down in valuation per mile of road. A point of great importance is also that the registration of mechanically propelled vehicles in Wexford is greater than in most other Counties. Road locomotives in Wexford are more numerous than in any County, which indicates, to my mind, that the proportion of tillage is greater, with consequent heavy road traffic. I am fully aware of the great difficulty at the present time in obtaining rates, but I must point out that a drastic cut/^{now}is not an economical method of dealing with roads."

The County Surveyor said there was one item they would have to provide for in addition to those on Road Works Scheme viz., £500 for the rebuilding of Bridge at Ballygarvan near Gusserane which had been swept away by floods within the past fortnight. This bridge would have to be rebuilt in the coming year. It would be a great inconvenience to a number of people not being able to use this road for ordinary traffic but the best he could do would be to provide a rough footbridge made up of large trees. The fact that the bridge was down would mean a big round for many people and for a good deal of lorry traffic. Any temporary structure to accommodate lorry traffic was out of the question.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr Cummins seconded by Mr Murphy:- "That a sum of £500 be included in Provisional Road Works Scheme to cover cost of rebuilding of Ballygarvan (Gusserane) Road Bridge.

In reply to a query the County Surveyor said the amount

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in the Contingency Funds at present were:- Main £319;
County £36. This was all that was available to carry on
until 31st March next.

Colonel Gibbon moved that the total amount to be spent on road repair and improvement for next financial year be limited to £40,000 exclusive of any Government Grants which might be received. Also that if his proposal be adopted that the Provisional Road Works Scheme be again referred to the County Surveyor to submit to next meeting of the County Council, details as to how the £40,000 was to be allocated over the different roads. The Council should remember that Road expenditure was the only item in which any reduction of any appreciable sum could be made. They were bound to relieve the poor and provide for the mentally afflicted, and most of the balance of their budget was made up of fixed items with which they could not interfere. Since 1925 to 1930 the prices of agricultural produce had fallen by 15 per cent while the cost of living had gone down only 8 per cent. The farmer was therefore in a distinctly worse position than in 1925, and it was absolutely essential he should get some relief. This year the approximate demand of the County Surveyor was for £74,000 while he was given for current/financial year £56,000. Before, however, sanctioning any Scheme they should look into the general road policy and make certain they were on right lines. The County Surveyor had told them they were not spending so much per mile of road as other counties and that in proportion to the valuation they had a lower rate - But the reason of this was because the ratepayers could not afford the money. He (Col. Gibbon) questioned the wisdom of the policy by which certain main trunk roads had been put into a first class condition for through traffic while parallel to them they had an existing means of transport - the railway. The Wexford County Council had asked the Government to limit the weight of lorries to

four tons "all in". If this had been agreed to local transport would have been reduced to its legitimate figure and the railways would be in a position to carry large amounts of heavy traffic long distances and giving correspondingly low rates. He admitted it was necessary to have a through road from Bunclody - which was a long distance from a railway station - up through the country. This was a legitimate case in which road transport should be developed. The County Surveyor had stated there were three miles of a bad bit between Scarawalsh and Ballyvarney which should be put into good condition, but he (Col. Gibbon) did not think this section bad. Then the road from Rosslare to Wexford over which so many visitors passed needed improvement. These two cases required greater attention but the other main trunk roads were in a fair condition and would bear comparison with the other roads in the Free State except perhaps those in the neighbourhood of Dublin. He considered that the Government should not put pressure by bribes of grants from the Road Fund on ratepayers to spend on roads more than they could afford. It appeared that the County Wexford was putting into this fund more money than the majority of other Counties and were entitled to a fair share of that money. The fund realised by taxation of motors should be drawn upon for any improvement of main or trunk roads and it was quite wrong to put such expenditure on to the ratepayers who he had shown were unable to meet it. He noticed in the Roads Work Scheme a sum of £8130 or 14/4d. per perch had been set down for tar spraying alone and that this work was costing £90 per mile. Motor traffic could not expect these wonder roads all through the country when a very considerable amount of present lorry traffic could go by rail. Such a policy could not be justified. There was an outcry from farmers against the tarred road surface. It is so slippery their horses could not travel on it. Providing these and making the farmer hang on to their maintenance in perpetuity is too much to expect. The County Surveyor had

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promised the County Council six years or so ago that there would be a reduction in road expenditure but this did not materialise.

County Surveyor - At that time no one could have foreseen the development of heavy lorry traffic.

Colonel Gibbon said that taking into account the large sums which had been spent in Enniscorthy district one would expect expenditure for the year would show a big decrease, but according to the County Surveyor the road expenditure in Enniscorthy District should be 93 per cent more than in Gorey: 50 per cent more than in New Ross and 62 per cent more than in Wexford District. The expenditure in Enniscorthy district was going up instead of down. Putting up £40,000 was the very most the County Council should sanction to be drawn from the ratepayers. He then proposed the following:- "That a sum of £40,000 be agreed to by this meeting to meet all expenditure for proposals in Provisional Road Works Scheme as submitted by County Surveyor for financial year 1931-32. That if this motion be adopted the Scheme be referred back to the County Surveyor to allocate this amount to the various roads and that details of this allocation be submitted to next meeting of the Council.

Mr Culleton seconded.

Secretary - I think the first thing you should do is to go through the special works, and then decide what is to be allowed and disallowed for the main roads and the county roads.

Chairman - What do the special works amount to ?

Secretary - To 3.1 pence in the £. The special works on main roads are equivalent to 1.808 pence, and for the county roads 1.333 pence; total 3.141 pence in the £.

Chairman - What way do we stand about our chance of grants?

Secretary - We do not know that. The maintenance grants are 40 % of whatever we agree to spend on main roads.

Mr Cooney said that Colonel Gibbon took a terrible interest in the farmers coming to the elections, but if he went through

the country he would find that the money allowed for the roads was not enough. He (Mr Cooney) was getting letters from time to time from farmers in New Ross district complaining about the state of the roads. He had some of these letters in his pocket, and how were they going to keep the roads in repair if the estimate was to be cut down ? The farmers in New Ross district were crying out all the time, and said that the roads in their district were in a scandalous condition. He always thought that New Ross district never got its share of the money struck for the maintenance of roads. They found out now that it was to be less than last year, and 50 per cent less than what was spent in Enniscorthy. That was not fair. Ross district was one of the worst in the County, so far as road repairs were concerned, and he could not see why the expenditure there should be 50 per cent less than Enniscorthy.

County Surveyor - You have got to take into account that the area of Enniscorthy district is two-fifths of the county. It is a very big area.

Chairman - Is the district of Enniscorthy twice as big as New Ross or Gorey ?

County Surveyor - Not twice as much but is two-fifths of the County.

Mr Shannon - Enniscorthy is a more centralised area. More traffic passes through Enniscorthy in one day than in any other district in the county. I listened to Colonel Gibbon very attentively, and I wonder if he has the sympathy of the farmers or ratepayers today. I cannot see where he is consistent, for it is only a short time ago when he had an opportunity of doing something for the farmers, he did not interfere. To-day he stands up and says the road rate must be cut down. Of course he is probably in a position to do that, but sooner or later it will have to be put on again. I say it is not economical. Now he has first class roads made to suit his motor, and is it

fair distribution of money to have the expenditure cut down on by-roads which are being used by motorists carrying on their business, as well as others ? If the expenditure on these roads is to be cut down you will have no roads there this time twelve months. It is not a fair distribution, and the people using them have got to pay rates and taxes. Let them cut down the rate and they would hear more about it later on.

Mr O'Byrne thought they should take the improvement ~~of~~ works separately from the other items.

Mr Roche said whatever rate was struck he would like if the County Surveyor saw the county roads at the present time. The trunk roads which were not used by the ratepayers of the county at all were kept in very good condition, but the roads used by the farmers were apparently neglected, and he asked the County Surveyor if he could contradict it. Referring to the Kilmore road, which he travelled on, he thought it was on the minutes where Mr Barry said ten months ago that this road was in good condition.

County Surveyor - It is not in good condition now.

Mr Roche - Do you say it was in good condition that time ?

County Surveyor - It was in good condition that time, but not now.

Mr Roche - The road at the present time is impossible to pass over. In the south of the county there are miles of roads in that condition, and there is very heavy traffic - agricultural traffic - on small roads that receive no attention. It is absolutely wrong altogether to let these roads get into that condition, and I propose that whatever rate is struck the bulk of it be applied to such roads and leave the main roads alone.

The County Surveyor said he agreed that the Kilmore road was in a bad condition at present, and part of it, he said, would have to be reconstructed. To carry out Colonel Gibbon's suggestion he would like to see a Committee appointed with re-

gard to the allocation of the expenditure, as it was impossible for him to forecast a sum, in the circumstances, without being unsatisfactory to everybody. There was no doubt about that, and he thought if they had a Committee, representing the four corners of the county, they could do the best they could. As he said before, the by-roads were in a far worse state than the main roads, because they had improvement works carried out on the main roads. The price on the by-roads was only £13 per mile, while it was £84 per mile on the main roads. It might be said that was a very high price for the main roads, but in view of the heavy traffic, and if the work was not done they could not maintain these roads for £140 per mile. By the improvements that were carried out they got them done for a lesser amount in maintenance, and had better roads to maintain. He would like to point out that in Carlow the maintenance, per mile on main roads, was £86; county roads, £17; average, £33. Cavan, main roads, £71; county roads, £14; average £31. Kilkenny, £126 on main roads; £21 for county roads, average, £43. Leix, £188 on main roads; £21 on by-roads; average, £57. Leitrim, main roads, £60; county roads, £14; average, £25. Louth, main roads, £94; county roads, £19; average £41. Mayo, main roads, £64; county roads, £15; average £27. Monaghan, main roads, £79; county roads, £15; average £27. South Tipperary, main roads, £70; county roads, £22; average, £44. Waterford, main roads, £148; county roads, £20; average, £48. Wexford, continued Mr Barry, is the lowest of the whole with £84 for main roads, £13 for county, an average of £25. The maintenance cost of their main roads, per mile, was higher than South Tipperary, a good deal less than Waterford, lower than Roscommon, Offaly, a little over Mayo, lower than South Leix and Kilkenny, the same as Kildare, higher than Galway, and little more than Cavan. There was one interesting thing, and in a way more important than anything, and that was the valuation of the County per mile of road. In that respect Wexford, compared

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with counties of its kind, was fairly low. The valuation per mile of road, in Carlow, was £268; Cavan, £191; Clare, £147; Cork, £175; Donegal, £87; Dublin, £1217; Galway, £190; Kerry, £137; Kildare, £297; Kilkeny, £236; Laoghais, £215; Leitrim, £123; Limerick, £250; Longford, £201; Louth, £384; Mayo, £132; Meath, £337; Monaghan, £188; Offaly, £252; Roscommon, £222; Sligo, £197; Tipperary N. £214; Tipperary S. £281; Waterford, £200; Westmeath, £320; Wexford, £200; Wicklow, £258.

Mr Keegan said they were going to vote a lot of money on roads, and as the premier body of the county, he thought they had more to consider than roads. He understood they were promised by the County Surveyor six or seven years ago that if they laid out a certain amount then on the roads they would have their roads a whole lot cheaper afterwards. They found that was not so. The same thing applied to the County Health Board, and the different institutions when they were told they would save, through the amalgamation of unions, £6,000 or £7,000 in two years. He had not the figures Colonel Gibbon had but he had the figures of commonsense and found so far as a reduction was concerned, the rates had increased, although there was more money coming in from the motor people. It cost the Council a good deal of money, and he could not see any saving. He thought their poor people were never in a worse position than at the moment and that they were coming to a time when he believed, they would have to open their purse strings more, and unless something unforeseen happened, he did not see anything else for it. He agreed that the by-roads were sadly neglected and knew some to have the grass growing across them. He asked them, in connection with the matter, to reserve something for the poor to carry them over the bad times.

Colonel Quin said he was afraid, so far as the Health Board was concerned, the expenses would go up and not down.

Mr Hall - Why not spend some of the money the same as Mr Roche suggests? We are spending practically £90 per mile on

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on the tar-spraying of main roads which, so far as I can see, is driving the traffic off the roads.

The Chairman said that tar-spraying was only making motorways out of the roads, involved a big sum of money and rendered the roads practically useless to the ratepayers of the county. There was no use in having polished surfaces on which horses could not travel and which were only for the accommodation of the lorry and the motor. Every day these roads were costing something to try and prevent people from slipping on them and they saw where they had to get a manure distributor to put sand on main roads. In his opinion they were useless except for motor traffic alone. They had a road from Rosslare to Wexford of which portion of it was tar-sprayed and the surface was in a very polished condition and uncomfortable to travel on. He saw another portion of it and everybody could travel on it and to-day, they had to apply sand on the tarred surface to prevent people from slipping on the other portion. That was the stretch between Kerlogue and Wexford.

Mr Hall - Tar-spraying, as well, gives very little employment because the money goes out of the country.

Mr Hayes referred to the Duncannon line as an important road from the agricultural point of view and said whatever estimate they might adopt, attention should be paid to it.

Chairman - I think we ought to stick to the amount of the estimate. There is no use bringing up individual roads.

Miss O'Ryan - You have a proposal for the reduction of the estimate and last year there was a reduction also.

Chairman - There was an increase of the year before.

Miss O'Ryan expressed the view ~~of~~ the County Surveyor's estimate was cut to a figure lower than the amount of money spent last year, there was nothing to keep the roads of the county in the condition they wished them to be. They could not have it both ways, for they must spend money or have bad roads. She agreed that the county rates were not in a position they liked to see them in. She thought some of the money, particularly, that

on contract roads, might be better spent. The stones were not put out in time, and if they were, they might wear in together better. Referring to the tar-spraying, Miss O'Ryan said that the County Council adopted tarred roads as the best and they had a lot of criticism since about it. She thought they should get someone to go into the matter with the County Surveyor and decide whether they should continue them or not. Unless these roads were tarred each year they were going to become full of pot-holes, and if they were not to be treated with tar some other means would have to be adopted. It was said that the system resulted in sending money out of the country. It was unfortunate, in connection with the cement contracts, which should not be going out of it, if things were done right above (hear,hear). They had a big problem, and how, she asked, were they going to maintain their tarred roads if they were not going to put something else on them besides tar. They were not in a position to increase their rates, and all agreed with that. Reference was made to the different institutions, but why, asked Miss O'Ryan, are our institutions costing more ? Our answer is on account of the deplorable state of the country, with the result that you have more poor people going into them and more poor people wanting relief. It is not on account of bad management, but it is because of the state we are in which is becoming worse every day. In conclusion, she suggested a Committee to consult with the County Surveyor with regard to roads.

Colonel Quin - Every year we have the same thing. The County Surveyor asks very much more than he can expect to get. It is only human nature, and he knows he doesn't expect to get £70,000. We are told we are fools that we don't give it, but we are hearing that every year. I think £40,000 is quite enough for this year.

Mr Hall - You had a road inspection committee one time, and they did a good deal of work. I think you ought to appoint

a new committee.

Colonel Quin - Is the cement road cheaper than the tarred road ?

The County Surveyor replied that the cement road for heavy traffic was going to be the cheaper proposition. It costs very little more to start with, but he believed its maintenance afterwards would be very little, and even, after ten years, if it did break up in some instances, they would be in no worse position than with the tar-macadam road.

Mr Murphy asked if there was any difference in the policy of constructing tar-macadam roads. They heard of some roads on which horses could not walk, but there was no complaint concerning the road, that was done in New Ross district, through Camblin. He never heard of any horse slipping on it, and asked how it was they heard complaints of horses slipping on the other tarred roads in the county.

Chairman - I think there is too much tar in them.

Mr Murphy - The Camblin road is a good job, and it has cost nothing, in sand, to keep the horses from slipping.

Chairman - Neither does the road from Rosslare to Kerlogue.

Mr Murphy - But from Kerlogue into Wexford ?

Chairman - That is slippery.

County Surveyor - The bitumen on the Camblin road is the same as the Enniscorthy - New Ross Road, on which there is, undoubtedly very heavy traffic. The high speed of a number of motor cars is, undoubtedly responsible for the polished roads, and you don't have the same number of high speed motors travelling the Camblin road. Another thing is that there is a number of dangerous corners on the Camblin road, which necessitates slow driving.

Mr Doran - How is it that there is no complaint concerning the road from Ballybrennan to Ballymackessy, which is tarred, and when you come on to the Ballymackessy bridge you could not stand on the road.

Mr Barry - Because there is a good deal more of fast motor traffic.

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Mr Doran - It appears to me there is more tar used on the Ballymackessy road.

Mr D'Arcy - That is the trouble.

County Surveyor - No, it is principally a question of the motor traffic.

Mr Corish said knowing as they did the lean period farmers were passing through, he quite admitted it was not an easy matter to make a case for more expenditure. At the same time he wondered if it was wise on their part to support the proposal put forward by Colonel Gibbon. It was a very indiscriminate proposal - a proposal that was not of the nature they expected Colonel Gibbon to make in view of the fact that he, above all members in the room, continuously advocated from the end of one financial year to the other, the expenditure of more money on the roads not the by-roads - but the main roads. He held that the proposal was ultra vires as it was the business of the Council under Local Government regulations to consider the amount which should be allocated for each road. Colonel Gibbon had asked what was their road policy. It appeared to him (Mr Corish) that they never had a road policy, and he thought the proposal put forward by Miss O'Ryan deserved consideration. He suggested that they adjourn the consideration of the estimate for a month, and a Committee be appointed which, in the meantime, should go around and see what was the position so far as the roads were concerned. So far as high rates went was there any instance on record, he asked, where rates were admitted to be reasonable. He always heard the rates were too high, and that was going on as long as he could remember. It was certainly a hardship on farmers to make roads for motor people, who did not directly pay rates into the county. The Committee, he suggested, could closely examine the amount for the roads, and the questions raised, and report to the next meeting. He thought concrete grouting should be recommended as much as possible on link roads. He suggested that the county council instead of striking a high rate on

link roads, should consider the possibility of borrowing the money. The rate of interest was not much, and it would pay them better to do that instead of meeting the expenditure out of ordinary revenue. If the resolution as proposed by Colonel Gibbon, was carried out, they would have no road policy, and if the estimate was reduced to the figure he proposed, he would like them to realise the reaction it would have on the finances of the County Board of Health. He felt certain that reaction was going to be considerable, and the expenditure on the county Board of Health increased in due proportion. If they took £16,000 off the road estimate and threw so many men on the labour market it was possible they and their dependants would have to be considered by the Board of Health, so that they would be taking the money out of one pocket and putting it into the other. They were all expecting something to be done as far as de-rating was concerned, and partial de-rating would have to come of necessity to the relief of the farmers during the coming Spring. If they adopted a low estimate and their roads were neglected, they were not going to get as much relief as other counties, where they were striking a rate on the same level as last year. In the circumstances he thought they should be very careful and strike the same rate as last year, which was £55,000. He agreed with a great deal that was said about bad roads. They were neglected, but he did not say it was the fault of the County Surveyor or of the officials. They did not get the money they asked for. He asked the Council not to cut down the amounts allocated to urban areas, and went on to refer to the neglect of footpaths where the estimates were cut down. He proposed a resolution to have these matters taken into consideration, and that a Committee go into the whole question of road work, and not cut down the Surveyor's estimate indiscriminately.

The Chairman opposed the idea of adjourning the estimate and appointing a Committee to go around to inspect the roads

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when they had a big staff of officials to do that work. He did not favour asking people to come out every day to make inspections, and wondered if they thought they had nothing at all to do at home.

The County Surveyor said if he was to distribute the money over the roads, as suggested, it might not meet with the satisfaction of everybody. He would ask them to allocate the amounts as between the main roads and the county roads. If he took the responsibility of cutting the prices considerably on the main roads they might lose their grant on them, and he did not think it fair to lose that money and ask him to be responsible for the loss.

Mr Cummins - What amount of money have you on hands at present ?

County Surveyor - The greater portion of allocated expenditure for all roads is expended at the present time.

Mr Cummins in seconding Mr Corish's amendment said it was unfair that the ratepayers should be responsible for the upkeep of roads they could not use.

Colonel Gibbon said that all the comments more or less agreed with what he had said. Mr Corish, he said, made one or two remarks to which he would like to reply. He spoke about borrowing money to make cement roads. He (Col. Gibbon) always approved of the experiment to make cement roads, and believed it to be the solution of the problem. He did not, however, agree with Mr Corish's suggestion to borrow the money and pay it back out of the rates. They knew improved roads were wanted on account of motor traffic, and he thought it was but fair and right, and their duty to the ratepayers, to see that the money required for making such roads came from the motor fund, and not out of general rates. The meeting similarly agreed with him that a great amount of money was put into the motor roads out of the pockets and to the detriment of the ratepayers, in the neglect of the by-roads, instead of it

by
 being borne ~~out~~ the motor fund. He would call the attention of their two T.D.'s present to that matter so as to see that they got their share out of the fund. He mentioned £40,000 as the approximate amount he thought they would be justified in striking, and he thought the suggestion to adjourn the matter and get a committee in the meantime to go around and inspect the roads was not going to assist them. The members of the Council represented the whole county, and in their respective districts had local knowledge of the requirements, and they met there to see that each district received its proper recognition. The County Surveyor had asked for a committee to go into the matter with him, but they wanted the County Surveyor to put forward a recommendation, having regard to his technical knowledge of each case, and if they did not approve of it, they could then get a committee to go into the matter with him and try to adjust the differences between the interests involved. For that reason he would ask them to fix the total amount that day, and afterwards see how it could be allocated. Miss O'Ryan spoke about the money going out of the country for tar, and that they should reconsider the position with regard to tarred roads. He quite agreed with her, but he understood some of the tar came from the local gas works. He was asking them to avoid incurring fresh expenditure on these roads, and make no new tarred roads. The motors should pay for themselves in the upkeep of the main and link roads, and the Council should confine themselves to the by-roads. They should not commit themselves to the terrible heavy expenditure on the other roads.

Mr Corish - Does not Col. Gibbon consider it wise to strike a rate in accordance with the requirements of the county and get that proportion of relief to come afterwards from the Government? Is it right, this year, to get the relief in proportion to a small estimate?

Colonel Gibbon - As far as I can see the farmer is not

going to benefit as regards that. We are going to get a reduction, but the position of the ratepayer will remain the same. On the other hand, if we cut down the estimate to a reasonable amount I don't see how, in an agricultural community like this, where a good deal of tillage is carried on, that we should not get our proper share of relief as people in other counties, who have their land in grass.

Mr Corish - Everybody admits that it will require as much money as last year to keep the roads. They are very bad to-day and nobody knows what kind of weather you will have from now until the 31st of March - they may deteriorate rapidly.

The Chairman in closing the discussion said if they were to have de-rating in the immediate future it might be calculated on the basis of their road and other rate. That might be, but they were not in a position to put up the rates this year. He believed himself they were not going to have the relief they were talking about immediately - they may have it later on. Were they justified in increasing the rate on the ratepayers just now, even at the risk that they were not sure of getting de-rating. There were all sorts of relief promised, but nothing practical had been done. The action of the Government, the Chairman continued, was not very nice towards the country in the state it was in, to say that they adjourned for ten weeks, while, he believed, they could have issued their report from the De-rating Commission and let the people know what they were going to do. There was no justification for ten weeks' holidays, after assembling after four months' holidays before. He did not say anything to the individual T.D.'s, but it seemed ridiculous for the Government to adjourn without one expression of opinion to indicate what kind of relief farmers were going to get.

Mr Jordan - It is not the fault of the Government that you have not the report. The real reason is that the Chairman of the De-rating Commission was ill for the last six weeks and they did not like to issue the report without him.

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Miss O'Ryan - That is no excuse at all.

Chairman - There is a good deal of haggling going on over the report of the Commission. I take Mr Jordan's word as correct, but I cannot see why an important thing like this with the country in such a crisis - and nobody can gainsay but there is a crisis with many of the ratepayers practically down and out - that there should be haggling over it for such a long time. I am taking Mr Jordan's explanation as correct.

Miss O'Ryan - Personally, Mr Jordan's statement is all right in explanation, but the Irish people would not take it as an excuse that a sick man was going to come between the farmers and the de-rating report.

A poll was taken on Mr Corish's amendment to adjourn the estimate and appoint a committee to report on the roads with the following result :-

For - Messrs Armstrong, Colfer, Corish, Cline, Cooney, Cummins, Gaul, Hayes, Keegan, McCarthy, O'Byrne, Shannon, and Miss O'Ryan - 13.

Against - Col. Quin, Col. Gibbon, Messrs Brennan, Colloton, D'Arcy, Doran, Hall, Jordan, Meyler, Murphy, Roche, Smyth, Walsh, and the Chairman - 14.

The amendment was declared lost.

The next proposition was that of Mr Shannon, seconded by Mr Gaul, that the figures of Road estimate be the same as last year.

Mr Shannon said there were a certain number of unemployed and if they did not get road work they would have to be relieved out of the rates.

Mr Keegan proposed that the Council divide the difference between £40,000 and last year's expenditure of £55,000. That would make this year's estimate, £47,000.

Mr Keegan's proposition was not seconded, and he left the meeting for some time.

Mr Shannon's proposition was then put to the meeting and the voting was :

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For - Messrs Armstrong, Clince, Colfer, Cooney, Corish, Cummins, Gaul, Hayes, McCarthy, O'Byrne, Shannon and Miss O'Ryan (12).

Against - Messrs Brennan, Culleton, Doran, D'Arcy, Hall, Jordan, Meyler, Murphy, Roche, Smith, Walsh, Col. Quin, Col. Gibbon and the Chairman (14).

The amendment was declared lost.

Mr O'Byrne proposed that the new works be taken separately before the general scheme relative to roads be considered.

The Chairman said that the £40,000 would cover some of them. There was no proposition to strike out any of the new works.

The County Surveyor said some of them would have to be cut out. If he had to work on the £40,000 estimate everything except repairs and bridges would have to go out. Every work that was absolutely new would have to go out, although a number of them were important.

The Chairman said that it was not contemplated in Col. Gibbon's proposition that all the new works were to go out. They were to have a share of the £40,000.

Mr Shannon seconded Mr O'Byrne, and the voting on the proposition was as follows:-

For - Messrs Armstrong, Clince, Colfer, Cooney, Corish, Cummins, Gaul, Hayes, McCarthy, O'Byrne, Shannon and Miss O'Ryan - 12.

Against - Messrs Brennan, Culleton, D'Arcy, Doran, Gibbon, Hall, Jordan, Meyler, Murphy, Quin, Roche, Smyth, Walsh and the Chairman - 14.

Mr Keegan did not vote.

The Chairman declared the amendment lost.

The Chairman said he would put Col. Gibbon's proposition.

Mr Gaul asked if the Taghmon new work would be done.

Mr Cooney protested that the painting of the New Ross Bridge should be included.

The Secretary said that if the Council passed the £40,000

estimate, any member could then propose the exclusion or re-instatement of any separate work. There was only one thing he would like to point out - that was that the Council must be perfectly satisfied that by passing the £40,000 estimate they were absolutely confining themselves to that figure.

A poll was taken on Col. Gibbon's proposal with the following result:-

For - Messrs Brennan, Colloton, D'Arcy, Doran, Hall, Jordan, Meyler, Murphy, Roche, Smyth, Walsh, Col. Quin, Col. Gibbon and the Chairman - 14.

Against - Messrs Armstrong, Cline, Colfer, Cooney, Corish, Cummins, Gaul, Hayes, McCarthy, O'Byrne, Shannon, and Miss O'Ryan - 12.

Mr Keegan did not vote.

The County Surveyor asked the Council to make a direction as regards the money to be spent on main roads repairs and county roads repairs, and main roads improvement and county roads improvement.

The Chairman said he thought the County Surveyor was in the best position to allocate the money.

Colonel Gibbon said that the County Surveyor could make a preliminary allocation and the Council could look into it afterwards.

The allocation was left to the County Surveyor, for submission to next meeting of County Council for consideration of road and works.

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COUNTY SURVEYOR'S REPORT.

The following report was submitted by the County Surveyor:-

"On the 19th instant I attended at the Local Government Department, Dublin, and was accompanied by Mr. Jordan, T.D. with reference to obtaining some allocation from the funds set aside for the relief of Unemployment. It seems that ordinary road work will be unlikely to get any high Assignment. I am to submit, in writing, details of suggested works, and as much information as possible regarding unemployment in the Areas, and I am told that each work will be fully considered.

I beg to apply for allocation from the Contingencies Fund of £40 to the Gorey-Ballycanew Road No.27, and £30 to the Ross-Wexford, Road No.21. In both these cases the funds are exhausted and the roads require immediate attention.

I have now obtained some particulars from the Insurance Company with reference to the cover for explosives, during transport, in the County, and suggest that the matter be referred to the Solicitor to deal with in consultation with me.

On several occasions the Council had under consideration the damage caused to Road No. 27 at Carriganeagh, by flooding. The owner of the Mill Dam at this place undertook to alter the spillway, and so work the sluices as to prevent flooding, but this has not been done, and on several occasions the road has been injured. I consider it will be necessary to put the matter in the Solicitor's hands for proceedings.

Last year a proposal for making road in Ballyeden, better known as "Copper Lane" was approved, subject to the local people carrying out widening of roadway and other necessary work, before we put the job in hands. I now report that the local people have done their part, and ask for authority to proceed with the Council's part of the work.

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I have a letter from the Rector in Castlebridge complaining of the periodic flooding of Road No. 641, adjoining Ardoolm Rectory. I have myself, on several occasions, inspected this place, and agree with the Rector's suggestions that a path to allow of foot passengers passing over should be provided.

I have an application from Mr. Michael Finn, Gorey for permission to erect a petrol pump. Apparently from the sketch submitted the tank is to be under the roadway.

Mr. John Joyce, Butlerstown, calls attention to the erosion taking place at Carne, and suggests that some of the Relief Grant be applied for work there.

Mr. Treanor informs me that the Contractor for Road No. 84 (William Byrne, Annagh, Inch) has proved a Defaulter, and I ask for authority to take necessary proceedings".

Relief Grants.

The following extract from Minutes of Finance Committee in respect of meeting held on 18th December, 1930 was submitted:-

"In connection with the Government Relief Grant of £300,000 the County Surveyor submitted the following for consideration:-

- (1) Road D^{iv}ersion at Ferrycarrig- £800.
 - (2) Surfacing Duncannon Line in water bound macadam which would give employment to the men who break stones on the Mountain of Forth £2000.
 - (3) Extension of Camblin Road from Slaught Cross above Quarry towards Ballykelly about 2½ miles £1600.
 - (4) First section of the road from Enniscorthy to Kiltalea £1000.
 - (5) Short section of Road from Ferns to Bunclody £500.
 - (6) Back Streets in Gorey from Bates by Railway station in to Main Street £1000.
 - (7) Dangerous corners particularly those in Killanne and Rathnure Districts £500.
 - (8) Road from Wexford to Gorey particularly sections from Wexford to Castlebridge and Ballycanew to Gorey £500.
- TOTAL. £7900.

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It was decided that these proposals be submitted to the Co. Council meeting on 22nd December, 1930 for their approval

The County Surveyor mentioned that in the mean-time he had arranged with Mr. Jordan T.D. to have an interview with a responsible Official of the Department in charge of Approval of Schemes for Unemployment, and he would be in a position to inform the Council at their meeting on 22nd instant of what transpired at this interview".

Col. Gibbon said that the Council should focus attention on works that would be remunerative later such as Harbour Works or Drainage. These would give a great deal of employment and would be creating money afterwards, and would ensure the employment of more men in the future. Putting a Relief Grant into roads was putting it in to luxuries.

The Co. Surveyor said that apparently the difficulty was that the main roads should be done out of the Road Fund Grant and could not be brought in to the Relief Grant to any extent. In an interview he had with the Superintendent of Home Assistance, ^{he} ~~was~~ did not get much assistance as to unemployment as the particulars dealt with Urban areas. Very few applications for home help were received from the Rural Districts, and the Labour Exchange stated that when a man ceased to draw benefit he did not register as being unemployed.

Mr. Corish said that owing to three poor successive fishing seasons Oylegate district had a great deal of Unemployment

The Co. Surveyor said he understood that the Forestry Department were going to deal with Oylegate.

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The County Surveyor said that as a result of his interview he thought the County Council would obtain a very small allocation. The Health Board had already put up a sewerage scheme for Bunclody with an estimated cost of £2,000 and it was also proposed to have some work in Taghmon. There was the sewerage scheme for Rosslare which was an important work though he could not say if the Government would entertain it as a relief job.

Mr Corish said there was a road between Ballynaslaney and Pouldarrig which was a "bog" and for which a proposal could be put up. He had a list of 80 unemployed men in Oylegate district.

Mr Cummins said that around the South coast of the County in which he was interested 200 fishermen were out of employment.

The County Surveyor said it was apparent from the interview he had in Dublin that unless it could be shown that unemployment prevailed in the districts for which schemes had been put up there was very little hope of getting any money.

Mr Shannon proposed the following resolution:-

"That Councillors be requested to furnish the County Surveyor with a list of the unemployed and also a brief statement of what relief works they considered necessary in the various districts."

Mr Colfer seconded, and the motion was adopted nem con.

The Chairman proposed the following which was seconded by Mr Hall:- "That we approve of the recommendations of Finance Committee as to works to be put forward for relief grants."

Colonel Gibbon proposed the following which, however, was not seconded:- "That we dissent from the recommendation of the Finance Committee as to road diversion work at Ferrycarrig." He contended that straightening the road onto Ferrycarrig Bridge would be an inducement to speeding and it would also spoil the scenic beauty of the place.

Mr Gaul said something should be done to have the road from Drinagh to Rosslare finished and he proposed that the Council should put forward a proposal to obtain portion of the relief

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grant to carry out this work.

Mr O'Byrne seconded.

The Chairman pointed out that until some arrangement could be entered into with the Railway Company as regards the construction of a bridge at Drinagh this road could never be used by the public and he did not see what they could do at the moment.

Mr Gaul said that it would be a considerable advantage if the making of the road was finished. The question of the bridge could come on later. He would bring up the matter again.

The resolution confirming the recommendations of the Finance Committee was then put and passed.

CONTINGENCY FUND.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr Gaul seconded by Mr O'Byrne:- "That a sum of £40 be taken from Contingency Fund for repair of Road No. 27 (Gorey to Ballycanew) and a sum of £30 from said fund for repair of road 21 (New Ross to Wexford).

INSURANCE IN CONNECTION WITH EXPLOSIVES.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr O'Byrne seconded by Mr Hall:- "That the correspondence of Co. Surveyor and Insurance Companies relative to insurance of employees in connection with carriage of explosives be referred to Mr Elgee, County Solicitor, for his advice."

FLOODING OF ROAD AT CARRIGANEAGH.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr O'Byrne seconded by Mr Hall:- "That William Cousins, Ballycale, Gorey, be proceeded against unless he carries out the necessary work at the sluices of his mill to obviate the flooding of road No. 27 at Carriganeagh.

COPPER LANE.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of

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Mr O'Byrne seconded by Mr Shannon:- "That the necessary work be carried out at Copper Lane as the local residents have carried out their agreement with the County Council^{as} to repair.

FLOODING OF ROAD 641 AT CASTLEBRIDGE.

Mr Corish said he had referred on several occasions to the flooding of this place.

The County Surveyor said the flooding now reported occurred on a by-road.

Mr Corish - I understand the road I referred to is now worse than ever.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr O'Byrne seconded by the Chairman :- "That a sum not exceeding £20 be set aside to repair Road No. 641 in order to prevent flooding."

PETROL PUMP AT GOREY.

It was decided to inform Mr Finn that he must make application for licence for petrol pump on specified form.

COAST EROSION AT CARNE.

The County Surveyor said he did not think in view of the law they should undertake any work to remedy coast erosion.

It was decided that the County Surveyor submit a further report on the matter.

DEFAULTING ROAD CONTRACTOR.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr O'Byrne seconded by Mr Hall:- "That proceedings be instituted against William Byrne Annagh, Inch, for neglect in carrying out his contract on road No. 84.

The following resolution was then adopted on the motion of Mr Hall seconded by Mr McCarthy:- "That the Report of County Surveyor to this meeting be and is hereby adopted."

NEXT MEETING COUNTY COUNCIL AND FINANCE COMMITTEE.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr

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O'Byrne seconded by Mr Hall:- "That next meeting of Finance Committee be held on 31st December, Wednesday, as ordinary day of meeting falls on 1st January a holyday of obligation.

That the meeting of County Council fixed for 12th prox. be dropped and business for same be transacted at meeting of 8th prox. prior to consultation with the T.D.'s of the County fixed for that day.

ROAD GRANT.

Under date 13th December, 1930, the Department of Local Government (Roads) wrote (R.G.131) forwarding Pay Order for £320 portion of special grant of £400 for the concreting of King Street Lower, Wexford.

COLLECTOR SUTTON.

The following extract from Minutes of Finance Committee Meeting of 18th December, 1930, were submitted and confirmed on the motion of Mr Hall seconded by Mr O'Byrne:-

"In connection with the suspension of Collector Sutton (no. 2 District) the following under date 16th December, 1930, (G. 92268/1930. Loch Garman) was read from the Department of Local Government:-

" ' I am directed by the Minister for Local Government and Public Health to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 11th instant, and to state that he notes the suspension of Collector Sutton, and in the circumstances disclosed now formally terminates his services.

It is presumed that the books have been taken up ~~now~~ and carefully checked and that adequate enquiries are being made from Ratepayers represented as in arrear. It is also presumed that the Insurance Company have been notified.

If the inquiries show that any monies paid to the Ex-Collector have not been accounted for you as Chief Executive Officer of the Council should without delay make the necessary informations to secure his apprehension. ' "

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I am to request a fully explanatory report as soon as possible."

"The Secretary stated that Sutton's books had been taken up and a large number of Rate notices issued throughout the District."

"Regarding the closing of the Collection the following under date December 16th to Mr Elgee was read from Mr A. Sutton, one of the personal sureties of Collector Sutton." :-

"If I have anything to say about the collecting of the rate outstanding I would give the job to Mr J. Quirke, but I think that T. Sutton should be kept on to finish the job. He tells me he collected between 3 and 4 thousand pounds. If he did he cannot be much behind some of the other collectors and perhaps he might get it in quicker than a new hand."

"Mr Daniel Dempsey, Craanrue, Edermine, the second personal surety of Mr Sutton, came before the meeting and produced the following letter from Mr A. Sutton under date 17th December, 1930." :-

"I would be fully satisfied for Mr Dan Dempsey to collect the outstanding rate if T. Sutton is not available."

Mr Dempsey stated he wished personally to close the warrant in the district as he feared he might be "held" by the action of any deputy Collector who might be appointed and who might not carry out the work. He was prepared to "stand" for Sutton's work but not for that of any other Collector. He would be satisfied if Collector Quirke were appointed to close the collection provided he (Mr Dempsey) would not be responsible for the manner in which Quirke carried out the work."

"After further discussion the following resolution was adopted" :-

"That Collector J. Quirke (No. 1 District) be appointed to close warrant in No. 2 District provided his sureties are satisfied to be responsible for the manner in which the work was carried out."

"Mr Dempsey said that in the circumstances he would agree

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to the appointment of Quirke as deputy."

ROAD - 166.

The following numerously signed memorial was read:-

"We call your attention to Contract No. 166 leading from Carnew to Ferns to widen 10 perches known as "Bailey's Pinch" on the Ballycadden end and have four corners taken off the Bolinrush end which work is urgently needed owing to heavy haulage during certain parts of the year.

"We have taken off two corners and are working at the third, so we think the County Council should take off the other four."

Mr R.J. Ennis, Assistant Surveyor, reported that this was a fourth class road getting only the traffic of those living on it. From his inspection on 8th November, 1930, he made out five corners in all - two at Ballycadden end and one mid-way in the lane and two at the Bolinrush end. One of the latter had been partly done but of course some further work might have been carried out since the inspection. The sum of £30 included in the Road Works Scheme would not cover the total cost of the work as a large quantity of material would have to be removed. The £30 was intended as a contribution only and possibly the best arrangement would be for some representative of the local people to take a contract for the job, at the amount allowed.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr Armstrong seconded by Mr Hall:- "That we approve of work at Ballycadden lane as included in Provisional Road Works Scheme being carried out at a cost to the Council not exceeding £30 subject to the local people concerned carrying out their portion of the work to the satisfaction of the County Surveyor."

FOOTPATHS IN BUNCLODY.

Mr Armstrong said that there had been a proposal to lay down footpaths in Bunclody the money to be borrowed. He

thought (judging by the amount of money which was allocated that day for roads) that this proposal would not be adopted and it might be put up for a relief grant.

The Chairman pointed out that a sewerage scheme for Bunclody for a relief grant was before the Government but the addition of the footpaths would not improve its chances of acceptance.

The matter dropped.

WARNING SIGNS AT TAGHMON SCHOOLS.

Under date 12th December 1930 Rev. T. Scallan P.P. wrote calling attention to the grave danger of accidents to school children of Taghmon schools from road traffic and suggested that danger signs should be erected at the approaches to the schools, which would obviate to some extent the risk of accidents.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr O'Byrne seconded by Mr Hall:- "That the County Surveyor be instructed to have the necessary warning signs erected in the neighbourhood of Taghmon schools."

GREENVILLE LANE, ENNISCORTHY.

With reference to application considered at last County Council meeting from Mr Patrick O'Neill, Greenville, Enniscorthy, asking the County Council to improve this lane, Mr McCarthy said if the people living there could get some road metalling they would spread it and do all other work themselves.

Mr Gaul proposed the following resolution which was seconded by Mr Shannon:- "That the County Council provide the necessary road material for repair of Greenville lane."

Mr Elgee, Solicitor, said that the Council had no power to give this material; neither were they empowered to sell.

The matter dropped.

BALLYGILLANE ROAD.

The following under date 19th December 1930 was read from

Mr J.C. Cahill Ard-na-Mara, Rosslare Harbour:-

"I have yours of the 2nd inst. and am obliged for what is being done with regard to the road at Ballygillane. The consensus of opinion here is that when the road was raised at the point in question the surface was covered with some soft material which accounts for the mud now. Recently some stones were put on the road but not in sufficient quantities to be of much use. To be sure there is an improvement but much more could be done. From information I have received during the week the thing has now assumed rather a serious aspect. At the point where the road was raised there is a small strip of concrete just bordering on the pond and, to avoid the mud on the road, pedestrians, including schoolchildren, use this strip of concrete as a sort of footpath. The result of this is that a small child, going to school, slipped off the concrete and fell into the pond, luckily without any disastrous consequences.

Would it be possible to widen this strip of concrete to about a yard so as to make it comparatively safe, that is, provided you do not intend to sheet the road any further? I think the latter course however should be adopted, as a good strong surface on the road would make it impervious to floods and would obviate the trouble and expense of compulsory drainage by adjacent landowners.

With renewed thanks for your assistance in this matter."

The County Surveyor said he did not think widening the concrete strip would have much effect. Everyone who knew children would realise they would walk on the concrete though the place was dangerous. He would put a further supply of stone on the road and see what effect it would have.

The meeting approved of the proposal of the County Surveyor.

GLYNN LANE.

The following under date 19th December 1930 was read from

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Mr Patrick Roche, Effernogue, Ferns:-

"With reference to the petition sent to you some time ago by ratepayers and residents using the lane here, known as the "Glynn Lane" asking the County Council to do something to put it in a passable condition. I shall be very glad if you can now have something done in the matter.

It is in a frightful condition at present so bad that it is almost impossible to walk or car on it and is a great hardship to all of us using it.

If your Council would be good enough even to grant the metalling for it we could get it carted and spread and we would only ask what would put it in a reasonable condition which would be about twentyfive yards of stones.

I shall be much obliged if you will bring the matter before the County Council for their immediate attention."

Chairman - As this ~~is~~ not a connecting link between two roads we cannot touch it at all especially as our funds are so low.

SCOLLAGH GULLETT.

Under date 9th December 1930 Mr Keogh, Secretary, Carlow County Council, wrote that the Carlow County Council requested that a sufficient gullet be built at Mr Neville's, Scollagh, as the Carlow main road L 30 had been seriously damaged twice within the past few weeks and many times seriously within the past few years by the overflow from the present insufficient and dilapidated gullet."

The County Surveyor stated he had already provided for a great improvement at this place in the current Road Works Scheme.

Colonel Gibbon proposed and Mr Brennan seconded the following resolution which was adopted nem con :- "That we inform the Carlow County Council that the County Surveyor has been instructed to provide a sufficient gullet which will prevent flooding at Mr Neville's, Scollagh."

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OVERDRAFT ACCOMMODATION.

The following recommendation of the Finance Committee at meeting of 18th December 1930 was approved on the motion of Mr Hall seconded by Mr O'Byrne:- "That Department of Local Government be asked to sanction continuance of overdraft accommodation as from 1st January 1931 to the 31st March 1931 with the Treasurer of the County Council at a sum not to exceed £36,000."

ROSSLARE HARBOUR DREDGING.

The following under date 16th December 1930 was read from Wexford Harbour Commissioners:-

"Your letter of 4th inst enclosing copy letter of Mr Patterson Engineer, also letter from Mr S.W. Mobbs, as to dredging in the neighbourhood of Rosslare Strand was discussed at to-day's meeting of the Harbour Board when I was directed to inform you that the Harbour Commissioners are totally against the material dredged at Rosslare Harbour being dumped in the South Bay as same might be detrimental to the navigable channel at the entrance to Wexford Harbour."

Colonel Gibbon - We can reply that their objection is noted but that this is a matter out of the control of the Council.

ADVERTISING CONTRACT FOR 1931-32.

The following recommendation from Finance Committee meeting of 18th December 1930 re above was confirmed on the motion of Col. Gibbon seconded by Mr Murphy:-

"That the Wexford "People", "Free Press" and "Echo" newspapers be offered a sum of £110 for the advertising of the County Council and County Committee of Agriculture for year 1st January 1931 to 31st December 1931, and that in the event of County Council elections being held in 1931 a further sum of £25 be offered to cover election advertising."

"That as regards the advertising of the County Wexford Education Vocational/Committee we recommend that this Committee enter into a separate advertising contract with the local newspapers",

FURNISHING OF NEW COUNTY COUNCIL CHAMBER.

The following recommendation of Finance Committee from meeting held on 18th December 1930 was confirmed on the motion of Mr Murphy seconded by Mr Hall:-

"In connection with oval table for new County Council Chamber at the Old Jail, the County Surveyor submitted two tenders:- Wexford Timber Co. at £46:3:6d. and McCormack & Hegarty, Quay, Wexford, at £46:10:0d.

The meeting considered both tenders too high and suggested that the County Surveyor should be empowered to purchase two second hand tables which could be utilised in conjunction with present tables in existing County Council Chamber."

In regard to chairs the cheapest tender which the County Surveyor had received was for 26/6 each.

The meeting also considered this price too high and suggested that the most suitable of the present chairs be utilised and that any further ^{necessary} chairs/be purchased second hand."

MANAGEMENT OF INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS.

The following from Br. P.O. Ryan, Artane Industrial School, under date 15th December, 1930, to the Chairman was read for the meeting by directions of Mr Doyle:-

"Kindly permit me ^{to} send you a reply in connection with the statements made by Mr Cooney at the recent meeting of your Council. I regret very much that circumstances prevented me sending it earlier.

At a Meeting of the Managers of our Industrial Schools held recently at Messrs. Clery's, O'Connell Street, I was deputed to either pay you a personal ^{visit} or write expressing the feelings of the Meeting regarding the very serious and grossly offensive charges brought against the Industrial and Reform-

atory Schools by Mr Cooney one of the Labour Members of your Council.

I have also been asked by the Meeting to tender our best thanks to the many friends in the Council who so promptly and honourably defended the schools, especially you, Mr. Chairman, and Miss Ryan.

As the discussion was fully reported, not only in your local, but also in all the Dublin papers as well as in some of the country papers and probably too in some of the English ones, the slander has been very widely broadcast and consequently the reputation of the schools in question must have suffered very considerably.

The Independent, Irish Times and Evening Mail of the 17th Novr. containing a report of your Meeting, must have given a great shock, not only to the Managers of the Schools, but also to the numerous friends and admirers of the great and charitable work so successfully done by those schools for a very deserving class of children, most of whom have been deprived by death, of the bread winner of the family and for whom these schools were established in this country over sixty years ago. Numerous Religious have taken on themselves the onus of educating these children, imparting to them a Religious, literary, physical and technical training and thus fitting them to make an honourable livelihood, for themselves on reaching their sixteenth year.

The Managers of our Industrial and Reformatory Schools do not object to criticism when such is fair, just and reasonable, but I think that no sensible, right-minded man, having any idea of the good work done by those schools could possibly agree with what our Meeting considered the slanderous statement made by Mr Cooney, viz.,:

"These schools are really factories for making criminals" thereby branding some hundreds of Priests, Nuns and Brothers (no others are in charge of our Industrial and Reformatory

schools) as devoting their lives to the "making of criminals". It is simply a monstrous charge. Perhaps the most charitable construction to put on such an outrageous statement, coming from the lips of a Catholic gentleman is to say that it was uttered without much reflection in the heat and excitement of the moment and perhaps to be regretted in cooler moments. However, it was very gratifying to find that there was not a single voice raised in sympathy with the person who made the appalling charge. On the contrary some of the members tactfully and firmly showed great displeasure with Mr Cooney's statement, which had the effect of making him withdraw the charge against the Industrial Schools saying that he never intended to include them. The Managers of our Schools were pleased with this withdrawal. I accept it on the part of the Managers of the Industrial Schools, and shall not analyse the statements with the view of showing in consistencies; but they are equally unjust in regard to Reformatory Schools, where every effort is made by the zealous authorities in charge to turn their pupils into good, self-reliant, self-supporting citizens.

The whole trend of educated public opinion is strongly opposed to labelling the juvenile offender - often the victim of circumstances beyond his control - as a criminal. However, it goes without saying that Reformatory Schools were never established for the reformation of "angels" as Mr. Cooney would have us understand. It requires little effort to show the success of Industrial School work. I have received reports showing that during the past five years 56 children from Wexford were discharged from the two principal Boys' Industrial Schools. Of these 52 are satisfactory and 4 unknown. 147 Wexford girls were discharged from the two principal Girls' Schools. Of these 144 are satisfactory.

As to children being sent to Industrial Schools for flimsy reasons - this is a matter to be dealt with solely by the Dis-

strict justices and County Councils.

I shall not enter into the relative merits of the Industrial Schools and the Boarded-out Systems. Save in exceptional cases, the superiority of the former is firmly established except in the minds of those wholly ignorant of the work done in them. Managers from some of the English Industrial Schools that have visited our Schools, expressed amazement that we did so much for such a small capitation.

In conclusion, I would appeal to Mr Cooney and to any who may share his views, to reflect on the injustice of attacking from their vantage point of public position, communities which have no legal redress - communities whose members (in their retirement) spend their lives in the interest of Religion and Country, at least, as effectively as those whose endeavour seems to be to capture popular support in public assemblies even at the expense of truth and justice.

Apologising for the length of my letter and with renewed thanks to you, Mr Chairman, and to Miss Ryan and the other Members of your Council who so kindly defended the attack on our Schools."

Mr Cooney said he brought up this question solely to find out what was the cost to the county in connection with industrial schools. He never for a moment meant what was read into it. It was very easy, he said, for some people to pick holes. He did say that children had been committed to Reformatory Schools for very flimsy reasons and he always thought it better that children should not be taken away from parental control and deprived of the home influences and associations of their brothers and sisters. It would be better for them and everybody. He never intended to include industrial schools in his remarks, and he thought the Press report would bear him out in that. As to his point, he thought anyone reading the newspapers about Borstal systems

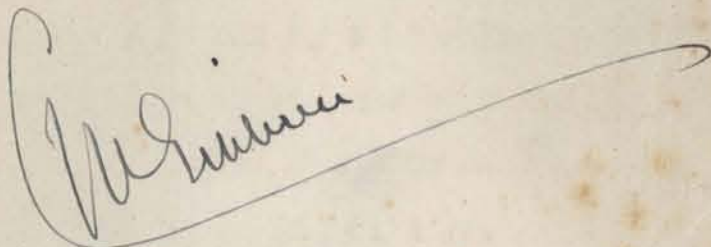
and Reformatories would see instances of people coming out of such institutions committing crime and being put in prison. He thought in such cases they might, if left at home with their brothers and sisters, have become better citizens. Mr Cooney again denied that he referred to industrial schools in connection with the matter, and said he raised the question to ascertain the cost to the county for these institutions which, he found, was £4,000 per year.

Mr O'Byrne - I don't think there is any question at all about industrial schools and crime. It is only children without parents or guardians are sent to industrial schools, and they are not sent there for crime of any kind. I know children to go to industrial schools and ~~then~~ were a credit to the community when they came out.

Col. Quin - I think Mr Cooney did not mean to attack industrial schools, but he made a great mistake when he meant Reformatories and said Industrial schools. I have a lively recollection of him saying that they were only a factory for criminals. I don't think he meant that. The people in charge of industrial schools are noble people who have given the whole of their lives to this good work.

Miss O'Ryan proposed that the Council should reply by way of explanation that the County Council did not intend to reflect upon the Industrial schools in any way.

Mr Shannon seconded the resolution which was adopted.



26 January 1931