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WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL

MEETING 14TH DECEMBER 1931

MINUTES

COUNTY HALL,
WEXFORD.

N.J. FRIZELLE,
SECRETARY.

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A meeting of Wexford County Council was held in County Council Chamber, County Hall, Wexford, on 14th December, 1931.

Present - Mr. M. Doyle (Chairman) presiding, also:

Messrs James Armstrong, John Brennan, Patrick Colfer, Thomas Cooney, Richard Corish, John Culleton, John Cummins, Timothy F. D'Arcy, James Gaul, Col.C.M. Gibbon, James Hall, 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, Assistant Secretary, County Surveyor, County Solicitor, Assistant Surveyors Treanor and O'Neill and Rates Inspector were also in attendance.

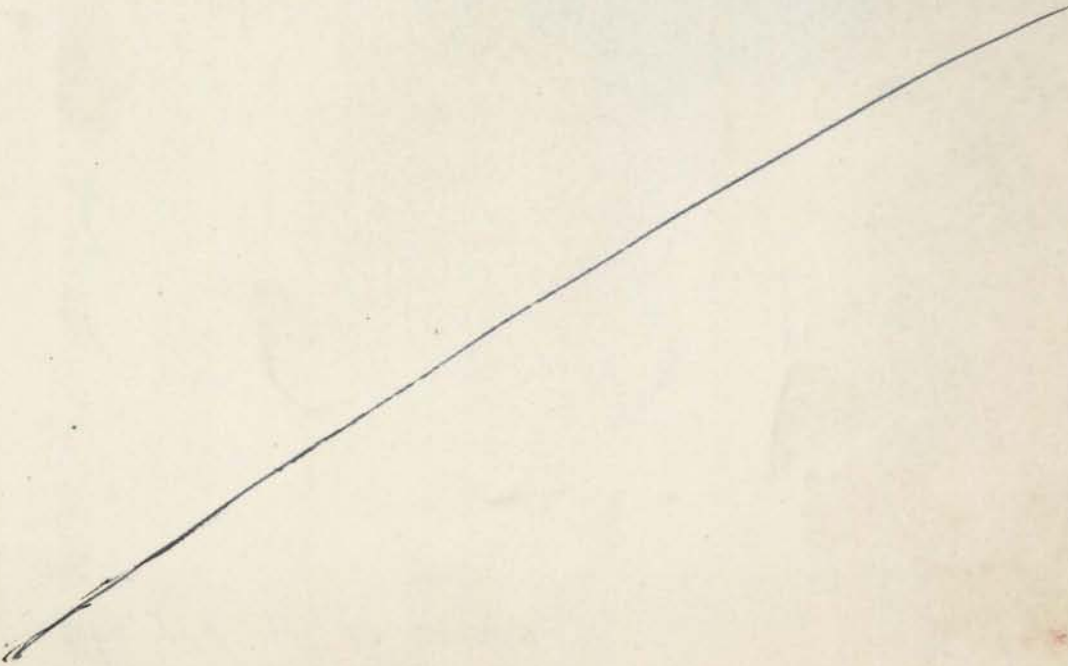
The Minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed.

PAYMENTS

Treasurer's Advice Note for £11,231: 5: 1d was examined and signed.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF COMMITTEES - FINANCE

The Minutes of Finance Committee in respect of meeting held on 19th November, 1931, were submitted as follows:-



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The fortnightly meeting of the Finance Committee was held in County Council Chamber, County Hall, Wexford, on 19th November, 1931.

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

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

Mr McCarthy was moved to the chair on the motion of Mr O'Byrne seconded by Mr Shannon.

The Minutes of last meeting were confirmed.

PAYMENTS

Treasurer's Advice Note for £3,415: 19: 1d was examined and signed.

RATE COLLECTION

The State of Rate Collection up to date was submitted as follows:-

No.	Name of Collector.	Percentage of Warrant collected.
1.	J. Curtis	54.5
2.	E. J. Murphy	54.3
3.	J. Quirke (No.1)	52.2
4.	J.J.O'Reilly	51.7
5.	W. Doyle	50.4
6.	T. Rowe	50.0
7.	Art Dunne	48.1
8.	T. Bolger (No.14)	47.4
9.	Sean Gannon (No.10)	47.3
10.	P. Nolan	46.6
11.	M. McCarthy	46.4
12.	P. Carty	46.3
13.	J. Cummins	46.1

No.	Name of Collector.	Percentage of Warrant collected.
14.	J. Deegan	45.6
15.	S. Gannon (No.6)	45.5
16.	P. O'Byrne	45.3
17.	P. Doyle	44.8
18.	W. Cummins	42.5
19.	J.J. Sinnott	40.3
20.	J. Quirke (No. 2)	37.7
21.	T. Bolger (No.12)	36.1
Average for the County		45.4

The following letter under date 10th November, 1931, (G.85624/1931 Loch Garman Fa.) was read from the Department of Local Government:- "I am directed by the Minister for Local Government and Public Health to acknowledge receipt of Form 61 for the month of October and to point out the very backward state of the rate collection, only 42 % of the rates for the year having been collected, at the end of October. It devolves on the County Council to take effective steps to safeguard their financial position.

The Secretary stated that copy of this letter was issued to all Rate Collectors on 12th inst.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr Shannon seconded by Mr O'Byrne:- "That we call the attention of the Council to the fact that a resolution is on several minutes that all matters in connection with rate collection should be considered in committee. The public discussion of the state of the collection and kindred matters has been the means of hampering the collection and interfering with the collectors in the efficient discharge of their work."

"We request the representatives of the Press not to publish anything in relation to the rate collection unless

They are informed that the particular matter under consideration is not being considered in committee.

The Chairman said that on the whole he did not think the collection too bad. There was an improvement of 3 % over last year and the percentage of 45 per cent of warrant collected to date was to his mind fairly satisfactory.

It was stated that the principal hindrance to the collection was the collection of arrears which amounted to ^{9.16} 9.16 per cent of warrant in Enniscorthy district; 4.9 % in Gorey; 5 % in New Ross and 11.7 % in Wexford.

In connection with this matter letter under date 16th November, 1931, was read from Collector J.J. Sinnott (No. 16 District) pointing out that according to a report in the Press recommendations were made by the Finance Committee for payment of poundage fees when 40 % of total warrants had been lodged in certain Collectors' Districts. He would be thankful if the same concession was extended to him, as there were so much arrears and derelict farms in his area. It was not his fault that there were heavy arrears and so many derelict farms in his area and that Auctioneers were unable to let or sell the farms concerned. He submitted a list with amounts outstanding on some of the farms.

The list submitted covered items amounting to £570: 10:1d.

After a discussion as to arrears on derelict farms which it was stated represented something over £4,000 the following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr O'Byrne seconded by Mr Shannon:-

"That Rates Inspector be directed to compile a list of holdings in arrear for payment of rates with full details in respect of each item. That same be furnished to Mr Corish T.D. with a request to approach Mr Martin Roddy, Parliamentary Secretary, with a view to the Land Commission taking over as many of the holdings concerned as is possible

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and selling portion so that the payments of annuity and rates can be secured.

"That L. G. D. be informed that the attention of Rate Collectors has been called to their letter of 10th inst. (G. 85624 - 1931 Loch Garman Fa.). The Finance Committee desire to point out that the backward state of the collection is caused mainly by outstanding arrears including a substantial sum due on derelict farms."

In connection with discussion at meeting of County Council on 9th November, 1931, as to the manner in which Collector O'Reilly had dealt with Mr Hughes, Toberduff, Gorey, the Collector wrote that the statement that he had not been at Mr Hughes's place since February when the rate for March 1931 was paid was incorrect. He called to the residence of Mr Hughes on 22nd July when he served demand notes and also on 22nd September. He saw Mrs Hughes on both occasions informing her on the latter occasion that payment should be made by the 3rd October, 1931, at latest. As a payment was not made by that date Mr Hughes was served with a Six Days' Notice on 20th October, 1931, and as he had not paid or promised to pay the amount was handed to the Solicitors for collection. It was untrue to say that the Collector had refused to take a half year's rates in this case. Up to the time of writing no payment of rate or of any portion of it had been made to the Collector. If the latter had carried out the instructions of the Council he would have made a seizure under his warrant which would have been more costly and be calculated to injure Mr Hughes's credit. The following is an extract from Mr O'Reilly's letter:-

"On behalf of myself and the Collectors generally I must protest against the statement that Collectors are worse than landlords. It may be a popular thing to make these statements about officials and have a dig at Collectors who are doing their best to carry out the instructions of the Local

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Government Department and County Council to the best of their ability with as little hardship as possible to ratepayers but it is hardly fair and every decent minded man in the County knows it is not fair . I have paid rates for people myself last May and the previous May in order not to put them to trouble and I have not received payment of some of them yet. It is the same people whose rates are outstanding year after year and they were not by any means the worst off, in the collection areas. I could quote people who are in much more difficult circumstances, cases in which women have been left with helpless young families on small farms and who nearly always pay within the time or make an honest effort to do so. These people deserve sympathy but there is no one to take up the cudgels for them because they try to pay their way and don't grumble. They haven't time. These statements made at meetings and not founded on facts make it more difficult for collectors to do their work. I have collected rates in most of three collection areas in Gorey district and I believe there is not a ratepayer who made an honest effort to pay could say I have treated him harshly."

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

"The Finance Committee accept the statement of Collector O'Reilly relative to complaint made on behalf of Mr Hughes, Toberduff, Gorey, as a satisfactory explanation of his action in the circumstances."

In connection with complaint of James Middleton, Camolin Park, to the Chairman as to the action of Collector Bolger, the latter ~~wrote~~ ^{said} that in December last he had to collect the previous September rate through his Solicitors. The following March rate was paid at the house of Mr Middleton in April. When payment was being made Mr Middleton and his sisters were most offensive to the Collector and very personal in their remarks to him. The Collector called

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twice this year for the September rate, the last occasion being 8th October, 1931. He then saw Miss Middleton who said she did not know where her brother was. The Collector told her the rates should be paid by 15th October, 1931, but there was no response or excuse. On the 20th October, 1931, a Six Days' Notice was sent to Mr Middleton whom he had not seen. Since he became Collector the names of the ^{same} people could be found in arrears in his books. These were holding up payment of his poundage. The Collector gave these items to his Solicitors this year for collection as most of those concerned seemed indifferent about when they pay. He wished to point out that his district (No.14) had the least arrears of any in the county.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr Shannon seconded by Mr O'Byrne:- "The Finance Committee are of opinion that the explanation offered by Collector Bolger as regards collection of rates from James Middleton, Camolin Park, is satisfactory."

GOREY COURTHOUSE

Under date 12th November, 1931, Mr. M. Hughes, Clonsilla, Gorey, Hon. Secretary Ploughing Match Committee, wrote applying on behalf of his Committee for use of Gorey Courthouse for annual dance to be brought off during the Christmas holidays. They would give the usual guarantee to leave the Courthouse as they got it.

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

"That County Council be recommended to grant use of Gorey Courthouse to Gorey Ploughing Match Committee for annual dance provided this will not interfere with any classes carried out in the building under Co. Wexford Vocational Education Committee and that the Committee of Ploughing Match be responsible for the building, fittings etc while in their possession."

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PUBLIC WORKS ALLOCATIONS

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr O'Byrne seconded by Mr Shamon:- "That as requisitioned by County Surveyor the following allocations for repairs be recommended to County Council for adoption:-

Edermine Bridge, £20; Courtown Harbour, £250; Poulduff Harbour, £10; Duncannon Harbour, £10; Arthurstown Harbour, £10; County Courthouses, £50; County Buildings, £50; and Weights and Measures Office, County Hall, Wexford, £2:5:0d

ADVERTISING CONTRACT

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Letters were read from "Free Press" Wexford and "Echo" newspapers agreeing to accept the offer of the County Council of £110 for the insertion of the advertisements of the County Council and Co. Committee of Agriculture for one year as from 1st January, 1932.

UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME

The following under date 8th November, 1931, was read from Miss Mary Kavanagh, Mary Immaculate Training College, Limerick:-

"I received your letter informing me of the Council's decision to award me the vacant University Scholarship. I am at present undergoing a course of training for a National Teacher. I would be very glad if the Scholarship could be reserved for two years - until I have completed said Course. I could then make use of it to obtain my degree. Hoping Council will be able to oblige me."

Mr O'Byrne stated he would give the necessary notice of motion to enable Miss Kavanagh's application being complied with.

ILLNESS OF OFFICIAL

Certificate was read from Dr. M. O'Brien, County Hospital, Wexford, under date 13th November, 1931, that Mr Stephen

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Hayes, Clerical Assistant, County Council Offices had been under his care from 6th November, 1931, suffering from acute tonsillitis and would not be fit to resume duty for at least two weeks from 13th November, 1931.

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

"That the County Council be recommended to grant sick leave to Stephen Hayes in accordance with certificate of Dr. O'Brien, County Hospital, Wexford,"

COMPENSATION STOCK

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

"That 5 % Compensation Stock (I.30452) be redeemed at £50.

"That the Seal of the Wexford County Council be affixed to Form of Request to National City Bank Ltd., Dublin, for transmission by post of Warrants for Redemption money."

"That Seal of the Wexford County Council be affixed to letter of Attorney transferring said Stock to Stearne Tighe Taylor & Miceal MacAmhalghaidh of 10, College Green, Dublin."

FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS

In connection with appeal in case of Garda Stephens v R.W. Hall-Dare, the following report under date 18th November, 1931, was read from Mr. Elgee, County Solicitor:-

"In this case in which the District Justice had on the 19th September imposed a Fine of £3: 0: 0: on Mr. R.W. Hall-Dare of Newtownbarry in respect of a Sample of Milk which was deficient of Butter Fats to the extent of 52.33 % as certified by the County Analyst,

Mr Hall-Dare appealed against this decision, and the Appeal was heard today by the Circuit Court Judge when he

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reversed the Decree holding that as it had not been proved that Mr Hall-Dare ~~for~~ his Servants had in any way interfered with the Milk, and that it had been sold as it came from the Cow no offence had been committed. The Judge allowed no costs on either side."

STRONG ROOM OF COUNTY REGISTRAR

The following under date 13th November, 1931, was read from Co. Registrar:-

"The above room has become infested with mice and a number of records stored there have already been damaged.

"The mice, apparently, are coming in from the floor area and it seems that the only way to deal with the trouble is to have the floor concreted. I shall be much obliged if you will have this attended to at once and oblige."

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr O'Byrne seconded by Mr Shamon:- "That floor of strong room used by County Registrar for records be laid down in concrete cost not to exceed £6."

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

"That the Minutes of Finance Committee in respect of meeting held on 19th November, 1931, be received and considered."

University Scholarship Scheme: The following motion of which he had given previous notice was moved by Mr O'Byrne:-

"That the University Scholarship awarded Miss Mary Kavanagh, Hollyfort, Gorey, be held over for her until she has completed her training for the position of National Teacher."

Mr O'Byrne pointed out that applicant had first secured a Primary Scholarship from the Council. Her father was a poor labourer and the granting of University Scholarship to Miss Kavanagh was a recognition of her successful studies and a proof of the help that the Council afforded to the children of the poor.

Mr D'Arcy seconded the motion which was adopted after discussion.

Illness of Official: Under date 4th December, 1931, Dr. O'Brien, Medical Officer, Co. Hospital, certified that Mr Hayes would not be fit to resume duty for about ten days from that date.

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

"That, in accordance with medical certificate furnished from Dr. M. O'Brien, leave of absence be granted Mr. Stephen Hayes, Clerical Assistant, Co. Council Offices, up to 14th December, 1931."

Strong Room of Co. Registrar: The County Surveyor said that the presses in the strong room were built into the wall with the result that in order to lay concrete an excavation had to be made and this ran up the price. They could not pull the presses to pieces except at a much higher cost.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of

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Mr O'Byrne seconded by Mr Hall:- "That a sum not exceeding £8 be allocated for the work of laying down concrete floor in strong room attached to the offices of the Co. Registrar."

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

"That the Minutes of Finance Committee in respect of meeting held on 19th November, 1931, except in so far as same have been altered or amended by resolution adopted at this meeting be and are hereby confirmed."

The Minutes of Finance Committee in respect of meeting held on 3rd December, 1931, were submitted as follows:-

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The fortnightly meeting of the Finance Committee was held in County Council Chamber, County Hall Wexford, on 3rd December, 1931.

Present - Messrs John Culleton, James Hall, Thomas McCarthy, Sean O'Byrne and James Shannon.

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

On the motion of Mr O'Byrne seconded by Mr Culleton, the chair was taken by Mr Hall.

The Minutes of last meeting were read and signed.

PAYMENTS

Treasurer's Advice Note for £5,727: 4: 9d was examined and signed.

RATE COLLECTION

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

No.	Collector	Percentage of Warrant accounted for (Including Discount)
1.	J. Curtis	54.6
2.	E. J. Murphy	53.7
3.	J. Quirke (No. 1)	53.0
4.	W. Doyle	52.4
5.	J.J. O'Reilly	53.3
6.	T. Rowe	50.6
7.	A. Dunne	49.9
8.	T. Bolger (14)	49.0
9.	S. Gannon (10)	48.9
10.	P. Carty	48.5
11.	J. Deegan	48.1
12.	J. Cummins	47.5
13.	S. Gannon (6)	46.8

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No.	Collector.	Percentage of Warrant accounted for (Including Discount)
14.	M. McCarthy	46.8
15.	P. O'Byrne	46.8
16.	P. Nolan	46.7
17.	P. Doyle	45.4
18.	W. Cummins	43.2
19.	J.J. Sinnott	42.5
20.	T. Bolger (No.12)	40.6
21.	J. Quirke (No. 2)	38.6
	Average for County	47.5

Payment of Poundage: Rate Collectors J. Cummins (Ennis-corthy) J.J. O'Reilly (Gorey) J. Curtis (New Ross) and J. Quirke (Wexford) came before the meeting with respect to the payment of poundage fees.

Mr Cummins suggested that Collectors who had 50 % of their warrant, less arrears, collected should receive full poundage.

After discussion the following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr O'Byrne seconded by Mr McCarthy:-

"That in view of the fact that Rate Collectors have not received any payment in respect of poundage for current warrant, and as a number of the Collectors have no other means, we request Minister for Local Government to sanction an advance of poundage (so that payment may be made to Collectors before Christmas) on lodgments by Collectors to 31st October, 1931, as follows:-

Collectors who have lodged 50 % of Warrant:-	90 % of Poundage on lodgments to 31st October, 1931.
Collectors who have lodged less than 50 % of warrant:-	75 % of Poundage on Lodgments to 31st October, 1931."

Collectors and Lodgments: Under date 28th November, 1931, the Rates Inspector reported that Collectors P. Doyle (No.3) and Thos. Rowe (No. 18) had made no lodgments since 14th

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November and 16th November respectively.

Both Collectors had been summoned to attend the Finance Committee but Mr Rowe owing to infrequent postal deliveries of letters in his district was not in attendance.

Mr Doyle said that between 14th November and 4th December he had collected only £2: 5: 0d and on the 4th he collected £34 and these two sums he had lodged on 5th December. He was busy during that period in revising Election Lists. He found great difficulty in obtaining payment of Rates this year.

The Committee accepted the explanation of Mr Doyle and directed that Collector Rowe be summoned to attend Finance Committee meeting of 17th December, 1931.

Rates on Boira Bog and Saltee Islands: Under date 26th November, 1931, the Department of Local Government wrote (G.90613 - 1931 Loch Garman Fa.) that the Council should act on their own responsibility in respect of their proposal to take legal proceedings for the recovery of the rates due against the present owners of the Saltee Island and part of the Bog of Boira.

It was decided to refer the communication from Local Government Department to Mr Elgee, County Solicitor.

Alleged Irregularity by Road Ganger: Mr Birthistle, Assistant Surveyor, reported that in consequence of a complaint by John Butler, Kilmacree, that Ganger Boggan had not paid ~~him~~ a sum of 9/- for carting on 13th November, 1931, the Ganger had been suspended by him.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of the Chairman seconded by Mr. Shannon:- "The Finance Committee direct that Ganger W. Boggan and John Butler, Carter, be summoned to the meeting of Committee to be held on 17th December, 1931, and in meantime, pending investigation by Finance Committee, Boggan's suspension remain

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in force."

COUNTY COUNCIL MESSENGER

The position of Nicholas Roche, Messenger, came up for review on the following resolution which had been adopted at the meeting of the ^{Council} Committee on 14th September, 1931:-

"That Nicholas Roche, Messenger, County Council Offices, be retained for three months as messenger at 30/- per week, less insurance. That as Fortview has been sold, the County Council are no longer able to supply him with free quarters and that he be furnished with a copy of this resolution. That the position be reviewed by Finance Committee meeting of 3rd December, 1931."

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr O'Byrne seconded by Mr Shannon:- "That the Council be recommended to continue in office for a further ~~six~~ months as from 14th December, 1931, Nicholas Roche, Messenger, at a remuneration of 30/- per week less insurance."

LINOLEUM FOR COUNTY COURTHOUSE

The following under date 1st December, 1931, was read from Mr. M.J. O'Dwyer, County Registrar:-

"I find that the wiring of the ceiling of the Court-house has not had the effect of improving the Acoustics or minimising the noise. I shall be much obliged if you will ask the Council to proceed with the laying of the Cork Lino on the floor. As I will have to Certify for the work to my Department, it would be well for the County Surveyor, to consult with me on the matter, so as to avoid any misunderstanding or unnecessary delay."

The County Surveyor said the wiring had stopped the echo in the Courtroom but had not stopped the noise caused by the shuffling of feet and shifting of seats.

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The following resolution was adopted on the motion of the Chairman seconded by Mr Culleton:- "That as the County Council have already made a decision in this matter the Finance Committee consider it is essential to refer the letter of County Registrar to the meeting of County Council to be held on 14th December, 1931."

FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS

The District Superintendent, Garda Siochana, Gorey, wrote that the appeal of Mr. R.W. Hall-Dare, Bunclody, against a fine of £3 for selling adulterated milk was heard by the Circuit Court on 18th November, 1931, and allowed, without costs, the grounds being that, from the evidence rendered, the milk had been sold as it came from the cow and had not been tampered with by the defendant.

CONCRETING WEXFORD-NEW ROSS ROAD

The County Surveyor submitted the following letter to him from the Pioneer Road Construction Co., East Wall, Dublin, Contractors for reconstruction of above road:-

"In reply to your letter of the 25th instant we regret that circumstances beyond our control have prevented us from completing the above Contract within the period mentioned in the Specification, and afterwards extended to cover the delay which was incurred in the acceptance of our Tender. The extension referred to, which we understand was 16 working days beyond the date mentioned in the Specification would take our working period to October 19th, adding the number of days which have been lost owing to inclement weather and a few days that were lost owing to the breakdown of the quarry Plant and Mixer etc., we think the allowance to which we are entitled will bring us easily within the time allotted for the work.

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"We have kept a record of each day lost because of these unavoidable causes, and on the next occasion that we have an opportunity of seeing you in Wexford we shall go into the matter in detail, and we have no doubt that we can show you that no time has been negligently lost by us in the prosecution of the work."

The County Surveyor said that no time had been lost by the Pioneer Company or by Mr Lee who was reconstructing the Enniscorthy-Buncloody Road. The delay was caused by stress of weather and odds and ends which could not be controlled. He was satisfied that the explanation given by the Contractors was reasonable. The mix when it came from the mixer was all right but with the bad weather it was sloppy when it got on to the road. He was not satisfied with the hardening of the road at Cushinstown. He had discussed this matter with Mr. O'Brien of the Pioneer Co. and Mr. N. O'Dwyer, Chief Roads Engineer. The latter had suggested the road should be treated with silicate of soda. He (County Surveyor) was prepared to meet the Contractors as regards this proposal. Mr O'Dwyer suggested the Contractor and County Council should go equal shares in the expense. The Pioneer Company turned down the recommendation and he wrote to them about several matters pointing out amongst others that if the road broke up they would be held responsible for its replacement. Since then they had written that they were prepared to go 50-50 in the cost of treating the road with silicate of soda. The fault was in the sand with which he (County Surveyor) had not been satisfied but which was the best procurable.

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

"We recommend the County Council to spend a sum not exceeding £50 for the treatment of Wexford-New Ross road with silicate of soda provided the Pioneer Road Construction Company

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are prepared to spend a similar amount for this purpose."

TEMPORARY CLOSING OF ROADS

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

"That application be made to the Minister for Local Government and Public Health for an extension of the time for the temporary closing of the following roads:-

T. 12 No. 20 - from Wexford to New Ross between Tomcoole Cross Roads and Old Rural District Bounds at Poulpeasty from 16th December, 1931, to 30th January, 1932, both days inclusive.

T. 12 No. 22 - from Wexford to New Ross between Cushinstown and Ballymacar Bridge from 16th December, 1931, to 30th January, 1932, both days inclusive.

T. 16 No. 24 - from Enniscorthy to Bunclody between Tomgarrow Cross roads and Tombrick Bridge from 16th November, 1931 to 31st December, 1931, both days inclusive. Alternative routes in each case to be as originally fixed. "

INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL APPLICATIONS

Sergeant Shields, Garda Siochana, Wexford, wrote that he intended to apply at Wexford District Court on 2nd December, 1931, for the committal of Patrick Boyle, Thomas Clarke Street, Wexford, to an Industrial School. The boy was 12 years old and illegitimate, living with his step-father.

Mr Shortall, Superintendent Home Assistance Officer, wrote under date 1st December, 1931, that James Boyle, Step-father had four children under 15 years of age and the family is and has been destitute for a long time past. They were being assisted by the County Board of Health.

Under date 1st December, 1931, the Inspector, Co. Wexford and District Branch of the S.P.C.C. wrote that he intended to apply to Wexford Court on 9th December, 1931, for an order to commit to an Industrial School Mary Josephine Whitty, aged 13

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and Bridget Mary Whitty aged 11 of Ramsgrange. The mother was an epileptic and unfitted to have charge of children. She was recently in New Ross Hospital suffering from a fracture of the skull - the result of a fall prior to a fit. The father Thomas Whitty aged 52 was a steady and industrious man but unable to find employment. He fishes when he can but earns very little. The family was destitute and without means.

There were two other children in the family aged $9\frac{1}{2}$ years and $6\frac{1}{2}$ years. Application would be made under Section 58 (1) (4) of the Childrens' Acts 1908 - 29.

Referred to Mr. Elgee County Solicitor.

SALE OF FORTVIEW PREMISES

The Department of Local Government wrote under date 21st November, 1931 (G.88223/1931 - Loch Garman Fa.) that the Minister had consented to the proceeds of the sale of Fortview (£1000) being used as a set-off against the amount spent on the new offices at the County Hall.

COURTOWN HARBOUR DEPUTATION

Under date 27th ~~may~~ November, 1931, the Private Secretary to Lord Fitzwilliam wrote that Lord Fitzwilliam deplored a regular deputation as he had so little to suggest in connection with the improvement of Courtown Harbour but he would be pleased to meet one or two persons, conversant with local conditions at Coolattin on Friday 11th December, 1931, at about one o'clock.

It was decided that the following would wait on Lord Fitzwilliam:- Mr. James Hall, Co. Councillor, Mr. D. Bolger, Millmount, Gorey and the County Surveyor.

BOUNDARY FENCE BETWEEN RIVER SLANEY AND RAILWAY BRIDGE.

The County Surveyor submitted letter under date 30th November, 1931 (L.2196) from the General Manager, Great Southern Railways, that the Company had been informed by their Legal

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Adviser that they are not responsible for the maintenance of the boundary wall between the River Slaney at Ferrycarrig and Newtown Railway Bridge and consequently the application of the County Surveyor that the Company should repair it could not be acceded to.

The County Surveyor stated that this place was on a road diversion and was originally built by the Railway Company. The Council had agreements with the Railway Company to maintain the surface of road diversions at their expense. He had written on receipt of the letter disclaiming responsibility that unless the work was done at once he would bring it before the Council. The work had not been done and he (Co. Surveyor) recommended that Mr. Elgee, County Solicitor, be authorised to take proceedings against the Railway Co. He (Co. Surveyor) was absolutely certain the Company were responsible.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr O'Byrne seconded by Mr. McCarthy:- "That Mr. Elgee, be directed to take proceedings against the Great Southern Railways as regards repair of Boundary fence between River Slaney and Railway Bridge at Newtown should this course be found necessary."

Rate Collection: Col. Gibbon said that in order to prove the impossibility of high rates being paid he would point out that in Dublin market the price for fat cattle was 12 per cent below pre-war, fat sheep 22 per cent, fat lambs 10 per cent. These were the principal producing and selling ends of the business of County Wexford farmers. The price of pigs to-day was 28/- per cwt with a cut of 4/- where over 16 stone. Milk was a small proportion of the sales of the farmer in Wexford. As regards butter they had never yet received less than 2/- per lb. at this time of the year but last week it was only 1/4d.

Mr Corish - The consumer is certainly not getting it for 1/4d.

Col. Gibbon - It went up a little last ^{week} ~~year~~. Then we are paying three times as much in wages as pre-war and from double to three times as much in railway freights in marketing our produce. We are paying somewhere about 20 per cent increase in price of feeding stuffs, while a great many farmers have large overdrafts in the bank and they have to find increased Interest, the figure being now 6½ per cent. I want to know what is to be the end of it all. The difficulties of collecting rates are increasing every week and if we strike an exorbitant rate in the New Year I don't know what will happen. I have ^{and} talked with people/studied the whole problem and honestly I cannot see how agriculture can meet the situation.

Payment of Poundage: The following under date 11th December, 1931 (G.94572-1931 Loch Garman Fa.) was read from the Department of Local Government:-

"Adverting to your letter of the 4th instant, I am directed by the Minister for Local Government and Public Health to state that as already pointed out in this Department's letter of the 26th October last interim poundage is payable under the Public Bodies Order only when a

moiety and arrears of the rates have been lodged and the Minister does not approve of the continuance of departures from the terms of the Order. The expressed wishes of the Finance Committee have been noted and in an endeavour to meet their desires as far as possible the Minister agrees to payment of poundage calculated on the amount of the first moiety and arrears at the rate of 7d to the Collectors in District 1, 13, 17 and 20 who lodged sums equivalent to 50 % of their current warrants (including arrears) by the 30th ultimo.

The Minister also agrees in the cases of Districts 4,5, 6,8,9,10,11, 15, 18, 19 and 21 where lodgments have exceeded the first moiety, not including arrears, that poundage at the rate of $\frac{1}{2}$ d less than the approved rate may be paid on the sums lodged to the 30th ultimo. Similar treatment may be granted in the remaining six districts if the lodgments by the 19th instant exceed the first moiety excluding arrears in each case."

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr O'Byrne seconded by Mr Gaul:- "That poundage be paid Rate Collectors in accordance with letter from Department of Local Government (11th December, 1931 - G.94572/1931 - Loch Garman Fa.) and that the Department be asked in the event of Collectors in whose cases deductions of portion of poundage is now made lodging the full amount of warrant by 31st March, 1932, to consent to the payment of poundage at full rates."

County Council Messenger: Mr Gaul proposed and Mr Shannon seconded the confirmation of recommendation of the Finance Committee.

Mr Culleton proposed that the remuneration in this case should be £1 per week.

This motion was not seconded.

The recommendation of the Finance Committee was then confirmed with a direction that the Co. Secretary, and Co. Surveyor should find some work for the messenger when not engaged in delivering letters or concerned about other messages."

Linoleum for Co. Courthouse Floor: Mr Gaul proposed and Mr Corish seconded the following resolution which was adopted:-

"That in order to allow the Council to consider communication from County Registrar as to having floor of County Courthouse covered with suitable material to neutralise noise, the Standing Orders of the Council be suspended."

Mr Gaul proposed and Mr Corish seconded the following :-

"That the floor of Wexford Courthouse be covered with Cork lino or other suitable material to improve the acoustic properties of the Court room. That the County Surveyor utilise amount to be set aside for this purpose to what he considers the best advantage."

In reply to Mr Roche the County Surveyor said he would not give a guarantee that when the floor was covered it would obviate the present complaint. The cost of the work would be £25 or £30.

Mr Roche said that before embarking on this cost they should have an experiment carried out on a small portion of the floor.

Chairman - If you put linoleum on a wooden floor it will rot the floor.

County Surveyor - I don't think it will because this is upstairs.

Chairman - I think heavy bass covering would be better than linoleum. Lots of people have it on boards on which they would not think of laying linoleum.

The County Surveyor said that it would very difficult to keep bass matting clean.

Mr Roche then proposed and Mr D'Arcy seconded the following resolution:-

"That the County Surveyor be instructed to carry out experiment over two or three yards of the floor of the County Courthouse to ascertain if covering the entire floor will meet the complaint as to the defective acoustic properties of the

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building. And that he report result of this experiment to the Council."

After further discussion a poll was taken on Mr Roche's amendment with the following result:-

For- Messrs Brennan, Cooney, D'Arcy, Gibbon, Keegan, Murphy, O'Ryan, Quin, Roche, Smyth, Walsh and the Chairman - 12.

Against- Messrs Armstrong, Colfer, Corish, Culleton, Cummins, Gaul, Jordan, Meyler, McCarthy, O'Byrne and Shannon - 11.

Mr Hall (1) did not vote.

The Chairman declared the amendment carried.

On being put as the substantive motion it was passed without dissent.

Concreting Wexford-New Ross Road: Mr D'Arcy said he understood that according to the specification the Contractor's were bound to keep the road in good order for six months after reconstruction and the present proposal seemed to be helping them out of a difficulty.

Mr Culleton said they would be able to get better value for the expenditure of the £50.

The Chairman said he did not see why the Council should be called on to furnish any extra money for this road.

Mr Roche said the silicate of soda treatment should have been provided for under the specification.

The County Surveyor in reply to Mr Walsh said it was now usual to apply this dressing to concrete roads.

After further discussion a poll was taken on the recommendation submitted by the Finance Committee with the following result:-

For;- Messrs Cooney, Gaul, Hall, McCarthy, O'Byrne, O'Ryan and Shannon - 7.

Against:- Messrs Armstrong, Brennan, Corish, Culleton, Cummins, D'Arcy, Gibbon, Jordan, Keegan, Mayler, Murphy, Quin, Roche, Smyth, Walsh and the Chairman - 16.

Mr Colfer (1) did not vote.

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The Chairman declared the Finance Committee's recommendation rejected.

Courtown Harbour Deputation: The following report of deputation to Lord Fitzwilliam was submitted by the County Surveyor:-

"On the 11th December, 1931, the deputation appointed by the County Council waited on Lord Fitzwilliam at Coolattin.

"There were present:- Messrs J. Hall, M.C.C., D. Bolger, Gorey, and the County Surveyor.

"Lord Fitzwilliam stated that as regards Courtown Harbour he did not wish to have the matter rushed, but as he saw possibilities of development there he thought it well to bring the matter before the County Council. He is at present exporting through Arklow slates and slate flour from his quarries at Kilcavan. There is an increasing demand across the channel for this, and he is now putting in more machinery to deal with the expansion. If Courtown Harbour can be made available he is prepared to export all his output through that Port, and to meet all reasonable port dues and charges. The Harbour, if improved, besides being of greater utility to local fishermen would also allow of imports of coal and other goods for the Northern part of the County. Mr Bolger is prepared to take up this matter if at all possible.

"Lord Fitzwilliam brought the deputation to his quarries, where work was in progress, quarrying and dressing slates, grinding dust and bagging and sending it off for shipment.

"It was pointed out that if the Harbour were improved, and export and import traffic developed the income derived from Port Dues would make Courtown self-supporting, instead of as at present, a heavy charge on the County. "

The County Surveyor said he had applied to the Department of Fisheries for a Grant towards clearing out the inner basin. If that were done in a satisfactory manner it would promote the fishing industry, meet the requirements of Lord Fitzwilliam and any merchandise traffic, and make Courtown

a good port.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr O'Byrne seconded by Mr Gaul:- "That the Minutes of Finance Committee in respect of meeting held on 3rd December, 1931, be and are hereby confirmed except in so far as same have been altered or amended by resolution adopted at this meeting."

PRINTING RATE BOOKS

The following tenders were received for printing Rate Books for 1932:- J. English & Co. Commercial Quay, Wexford, £21: 0: 0d; "The People", £22:17: 6d and "Free Press", £45.

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

"That the tender of Messrs English & Co. at £21 (being the lowest) be accepted for the printing of the Rate Books of Wexford County Council for 1932."

ROAD WORKS SCHEME

The following letter under date 11th December, 1931, (R/RGN/32) was read from Roads Department (Local Government Department):-

"I am directed by the Minister for Local Government and Public Health to refer to the Minutes of Proceedings of the Wexford County Council on the 23rd ultimo from which it would appear that it is the intention of the Council to limit the expenditure in respect of the roads of the County in 1932/33 to a sum of £40,000; and I am to point out that having regard to the estimates put forward by the County Surveyor the sum of £40,000 falls short of making reasonable provision for road upkeep in the coming financial year. The Minister thinks it well to draw the Council's special attention to the correspondence which took place with this Department with respect to a similar proposal a year ago in which it was specially pointed out that the voting of so small an amount would in-

volve the withholding of any grant towards the maintenance of main roads.

If a grant of 40 per cent were allowed of the sum (£17,226) proposed by the Council for the upkeep of main roads in 1932/33 the total road expenditure falling on the rates would be little more than 9 per cent over the sum borne by them seventeen years ago notwithstanding that the wages of the road workers in the county have risen 150 per cent in the same period."

Col. Gibbon asked if the inference to be taken from the letter of the L. G. D. was that if they cut wages they would get more money as grant.

The County Surveyor said as far as he could understand the meaning of the 9 per cent was that if the Council could count on the grant or the £17,226 or £6,890 the amount to be raised for roads in next financial year would be £33,110 while the amount spent on roads in 1914 was only 9 per cent lower than that.

The Chairman said they were entitled to the grant and they should get it.

Col. Gibbon said they should reply to the L.G.D. that in view of the state of affairs existing amongst the rate-payers they did not consider the County was in a position to pay a higher rate for roads than that which was agreed to at the meeting of 23rd November last and while the produce of that figure was £40,000 they took into account a grant of about £8,000 so that the amount really falling on the County would be £32,000 or £33,000.

Mr Roche said if they were to do justice to the people of the county they would strike no road rate at all. They could not even maintain the present rate and the County Council like other people would have to go with the times. The rate-payers hadn't the money. Stock could not be sold. The bigger the farmer the worse off he was and the bigger the rate he

would have to pay. The Minister or his officials gave them no solution as to where the money to pay the rates was to come from. It was absurd to strike a rate which they could not collect and to put the Council in the position of super-bailiffs in order to collect rates.

Mr D'Arcy said the Minister did not point out what amount of motor taxation was paid into the Road Fund of the Department. It would certainly be considerably more than the 40 per cent of main road expenditure offered as grant.

The Chairman advised the Council to stick to the amount they agreed to as road expenditure at last meeting. He did not believe the letter as it stood was a direct refusal of the grant.

Col. Gibbon - Can the Government withhold the whole grant from us absolutely or are we entitled to a certain percentage from what we spend from the rates on certain roads ?

Secretary - In their first letter they pointed out to you that the grant is contingent on a reasonable amount being set aside for the repairs and maintenance of roads. They say now that the sum of £40,000 which you propose, falls short of making reasonable provision for their upkeep. That is their opinion.

Chairman - That is their opinion but not ours.

Col. Gibbon - Is it reasonable to ask that an unreasonable amount should be paid by the ratepayers ? We are already told by members of the County Health Board that their rate is going to be up this year, and I don't know what it is going to be in the Mental Hospital. You will have elections and other contingencies that will make the rates higher. The election expenses were obligatory and should be provided for. He then again referred to the figures showing the decline in prices of farm production. With regard to crops there was a higher price for oats and potatoes, owing to the shortage, but the price for barley was down to pre-war rate.

That was the true state of the case regarding the crops in the country, and owing to weather conditions they found the crops were not more than 50 or 60 per cent of the average. The position of the ratepayers in these circumstances were not such as to bear a higher rate, and there must be relief afforded somewhere or other. They could not take it from the Mental Hospital or Health Board, and the roads were the only place they could effect any saving. Even if they had to put up with bad roads for a short time they should do it. He suggested replying to the Department of Local Government that in view of the existing state of affairs they did not consider the county was in a position to pay a higher rate for the roads.

Mr Shannon said they fully discussed this matter at the last meeting when he moved that they strike the same rate as last year, but it was defeated. It was quite obvious now that they would have to raise the same amount of money otherwise they would lose £10,260 of a grant to Co. Wexford. By reducing the rate Col. Gibbon was of the opinion that they were going to save money, but that was not his (Mr. Shannon's) opinion and he was as keen an observer of what was happening as Col. Gibbon was. The money for relief must be got somehow, and if it was not got by labour it must be got by Home Help.

Mr Keegan referred to livestock being carried by lorries along the road, and thereby deteriorating them. How could they expect ~~it~~ to have roads in these circumstances and compare things with 1914. He was just as much a friend of the farmers as anybody else. It was mentioned that the rates were increased by a certain amount between 1914 and 1931. That was quite all right. How much, he asked, had the upkeep of the Co. Home increased? Everytime they cut down an estimate they were not saving money - they were saving with the left hand and giving it out with the right hand to the Co. Home or

in home assistance. ^{did} Where/the advantage come in there ?
He held it was false economy.

Mr Roche said they could not forestall damage to the roads, and make provision for them with money they had not got and everyone, in their heart and soul, knew they could not pay more because they knew the people had not got the money. The rate administered was an exorbitant rate as it was. They might strike any rate, but would they get it ? He did not believe they would. The Minister wrote down from Dublin telling them to give this money and that money and never sent down any solution or suggestion as to how it was to be provided. Let the Government send down a Commissioner or anybody they like -

Mr. Cummins - And you will pay him through the nose.

Mr Hall - This Council is an agricultural Council and you would think by listening to some of the statements today that by the striking of a rate you are going to relieve unemployment in the country. That is not the case at all. I am a member of the Council here for a good number of years and I find that nobody wants to increase the rates only the Labour representatives. Referring to Rural workers and their interests, Mr Hall went on to say he was very/sorry they had not more representatives of rural workers on the Council than urban.

Miss O'Ryan said it was not fair to say that the workers wages were increased by 150 per cent to what they were in pre-war time. In pre-war time the road worker was employed the whole year round and to-day, if he was better paid, he might get very little work in the year. They might strike a bigger rate for the roads and one of the reasons for doing it was to keep more people in employment. It was remarked that the Public Health Estimate was up and the reason was due to the increased cost of maintenance in the Co. Home and for Home Assistance. The want of employment was responsible for the

increase in Home Assistance, and it was increasing every week. That was a reason she would be in favour if the Council as a protest, struck no rate at all for the roads. They could put up with bad roads, but they could not allow people to starve. If they struck no rate - and it was a reason why they should get people employed - they must strike a rate to relieve unemployment which would be giving these people money for doing nothing. If she had her way she would try to avoid that and would abolish the dole for she believed every self-respecting labourer would prefer doing work than doing nothing. If the Council wished not to strike a rate they would run the chance of losing £9,000 or £10,000 which might mean more unemployment and the roads would not be done. She represented the farming class as much as anybody there and knew as much about farming difficulties. There was no price for anything and, in realising these difficulties she felt, in this matter that if they did not spend in one way they would spend ~~in~~ in another. She should say that when the question of de-rating was discussed at their meetings, as a solution of the problem before them, it was treated very lightly by certain members.

Chairman - Miss O'Ryan made an allusion as to de-rating. The Council passed a resolution calling for de-rating and I don't think it could be said that it was treated lightly.

Mr D'Arcy - It was treated lightly in Dublin.

Chairman - But, not at this council.

Col. Quin said that the medical schemes and school schemes cost them something.

Chairman - We are only talking about the road rate at the moment and if we created new doctors and new positions you had just as much to say in the creation of them yourself as anybody else.

Col. Gibbon proposed the following resolution:- "That the condition of the ratepayers of the County be brought to the attention of the Local Government Department. The County

Council feel convinced that the ratepayers are not in a position to pay a higher amount for roads than £32,000 or £33,000. We ask the Local Government Department to allow a grant of £8,000 on this figure so as to bring the amount to be spent on the roads to £40,000. We urge on them consideration of the grave plight of ratepayers as a reason to reconsider their decision and agree to the request of the Council.

Mr D'Arcy - The Minister holds that we are not devoting enough money to the main roads, but the vast majority of the Councillors believe that the farmers use 90 per cent of the other roads, and they are not getting enough. The Minister does not give a straw, but we should look to the interests of the agricultural classes. I will second Col. Gibbon's proposition.

Mr Corish - In view of Mr. Hall's outburst that he wanted nobody here but rural representatives, I may say that six out of our party of nine are rural representatives. I am surprised at Mr. Hall's outburst, and since we come here I defy Mr Hall to point out one incident where we differentiated between rural and urban workers. Proceeding Mr Corish said as he had indicated in other places, the farmers were not in a good position, but he thought everybody agreed that there was no fear of the farmers starving, and that there was great fear, with less employment in county Wexford, that other people would starve. If they did not make reasonable provision in their roadwork, the upkeep of the County Home and the cost of Home Assistance would be infinitely more next year than for many years past. The matter, he said, should be considered from that aspect. Col. Gibbon, in his usual manner, professed to read in the letter from the Minister an inference to reduce the wages of workers. The wish, continued Mr Corish, was father to the thought. He asked if 30s. a week to a road worker, who was employed, perhaps, once or twice in the month, or six times in the year was exorbitant. If they wanted the co-operation of the Labour Party there, they should have less of the re-

marks they heard from Mr. Hall. They took as much interest in the affairs of the Council as any other party, and he defied anybody to show that they, on any occasion, did anything detrimental to the interests of the community as a whole.

Mr Hall denied that he had made any outburst. He had made a considered statement.

Mr Shannon moved as an amendment:- "That a sum of £50,000 the same amount as last year be agreed to for road expenditure in next financial year, provided that a Grant be received from the Government to allow of the sum to be raised by rate for this purpose being £40,000."

Mr Gaul seconded.

Col. Gibbon - I think we should not move that amendment until we make an appeal to the Department to give us a grant on the £40,000 rate. We should try and do that first. It is all very well to consider Mr. Shannon's proposition when the other is turned down.

Mr Shannon - Don't you know very well it will be turned down?

Chairman - They haven't said that.

Mr. Shannon - But it is quite obvious.

Mr. Cummins - Supposing Col. Gibbon's motion is passed, what amount will the ratepayers have to pay ?

Secretary - If you get no grant, £40,000.

Mr Cummins - I proposed here some time ago that no annuities be paid, and you turned it down. You hear a lot of talk about ratepayers paying rates, but that is money going to somebody belonging to you, and we hear nothing about the money that is exported from the country. There is no difference between ratepayers and the farmers, as annuity men, and I want to keep this money from going to England, and apply it in relief of the rates of the country. If we adopt Col. Gibbon's proposition will we get a grant ?

Mr. D'Arcy - To be sure we will.

Mr. Cummins - If I voted for Col. Gibbon's proposition and we did not get any grant -

Chairman - The grant is not turned down.

Mr Cummins - You are a more intelligent man than I am, and any member of intelligence can read that letter.

Col. Gibbon - That letter from the Department is not as strong as last year's, I am asking for a rate of £40,000, and the ratepayers might get a grant of £8,000, so that they would have to pay about £32,000.

Mr. Colfer asked if Col. Gibbon could make the same proposition with regard to the beet and the Sugar Co.

Chairman - The Sugar Company has nothing to do with the Co. Council.

Mr. Colfer - Not very much.

Chairman - It hasn't, and I rule it out of order.

A poll was then taken on Mr. Shannon's amendment and which resulted as follows:-

For:- Messrs Armstrong, Colfer, Cooney, Corish, Cummins, Gaul, Keegan, McCarthy, O'Byrne and Shannon - 10.

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

The Chairman declared the motion lost.

Mr. Gaul demanded a poll on Col. ^{Gibbon's} ~~Quin's~~ motion and this resulted as follows:-

For:- Messrs Brennan, Culleton, D'Arcy, Gibbon, Hall, Jordan, Meyler, Murphy, O'Ryan, Quin, Roche, Smyth, Walsh and the Chairman - 14.

Against:- Messrs Armstrong, Colfer, Cooney, Cummins, Gaul, McCarthy, O'Byrne, and Shannon - 8.

Messrs Corish and Keegan were not present when poll was taken.

The Chairman declared the resolution carried.

36 ESTIMATE FOR PUBLIC WORKS -----

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr. O'Byrne seconded by Mr Cooney:- "That the following allocations for Public Works be and are hereby approved:-

Maintenance Wexford Bridge	£100
Repairs Wexford Bridge	50
Maintenance Ferrycarrig Bridge	80
Repairs Ferrycarrig Bridge	2500
Maintenance and caretaking Mountgarret Bridge	35
Caretaking and Maintenance New Ross Bridge	150
Painting and repairs New Ross Bridge	1200
Loan Mountgarret Bridge	803
Loan Waterford Bridge	435
Maintenance Edermine Bridge	25
Repair Edermine Bridge	50
Maintenance Deeps Bridge	30
Repairs Deeps Bridge	20
Loan Deeps Bridge	278
Work at Courtown Harbour (Pier Head)	750
" " " " (Gates)	82
" " " " (Dredging, subject to grant of similar sum)	600
" " " " (General repairs)	250
Work at Poulduff Pier	50
" " Carne Pier	20
" " Kilmore Harbour	150
" " Fethard, Slade, Duncannon, Arthurstown, and Ballyhack	150
Courthouses	150
County Buildings	150
Total -	<u>£8108</u>

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TAKING OVER LANES

Kilscanlon Lane: Under date 4th December, 1931, Mr. Patrick Bennett, Kilscanlon, Ballynabola, wrote asking that Kilscanlon Lane should be taken over by the County Council. It led to his place and to a corn mill. The entrance from the public road was flooded by water off the road. There was a sewer there which Mr. Bennett said had been opened by the late Mr Jones, Assistant Surveyor, and which had never been finished. He had been asked by the local farmers to get the Council to repair the lane, and the farmers would help in the drawing of materials. The lane was three-quarters of an English mile long and it was not fair to expect him to keep the lane in repair for the public.

Messrs P. Bennett and Daniel Connors, Kilscanlon, and Higgins, Rathnageera, came before the meeting and urged the Council to take over the lane.

Mr. Bennett said that part of the lane was in contract up to about nine years ago.

The Co. Surveyor said that the Rural District Council refused to put it in contract. He never remembered any portion of it to be a contract road.

Mr O'Connor said the mill which was of great utility to the people of the district had been closed owing to the condition of the lane.

The Chairman said he could not understand how the portion of the lane which was under contract had been dropped.

Mr. Cooney said that a woman had been flooded out of her house there recently owing to neglect of the water tables and four turkeys drowned. It was probable she would proceed against the County Council for her loss.

Mr. O'Neill, Assistant Surveyor, reported that this lane was the only outlet for the water falling over a big area in the locality. There was an old covered drain (at present broken in several places) which was intended to take both the

surface water from the road and water from the land running for a distance alongside the lane. This drain if repaired would only take the water at present flowing from the land. It would be necessary to enlarge this drain for at least 20 yards, cover it with concrete and make a new gullet further down the lane. The cost of this would be about £15 and he recommended that this work be carried out.

Mr Gaul said that for 200 yards down from the road the lane was in very bad condition but the rest of it was fair.

Mr Walsh said it was evident the whole trouble arose from the broken gullet.

In reply to the Chairman Mr. O'Neill, said the annual maintenance would be about £10.

After the deputation had withdrawn Col. Gibbon proposed that the defective gullet be repaired at a cost not exceeding £15.

Mr. D'Arcy seconded.

In reply to the Chairman, Mr. O'Neill said it would take a further £15 to put material on the worst portion of the lane and provided that the local people gave some assistance.

Mr. Hall proposed that the County Council supply the people concerned with 20 yards of material and let them do the repairs themselves.

Mr. Elgee (Solicitor) said the County Council could not legally supply material for a private road.

Mr. Meyler proposed and Mr. Gaul seconded the following amendment:- "That the Council take over the lane known as Kilscanlon Lane, repair defective gullet at a cost not exceeding £15 and provide and spread the necessary material on the portions of the lane pointed out by the Co. Surveyor or the Assistant Surveyor for the District, cost not to exceed a further £15, this proposal to be contingent on the people concerned drawing half the material, proposal to be regarded as subject to further confirmation by the Council when the

requirements of Section 25 (2) of the Local Government Act of 1925 have been complied with.

A poll was taken on the amendment of Mr. Meyler with the following result:-

For:- Messrs Armstrong, Brennan, Colfer, Cooney, Culleton, Corish, Cummins, Gaul, Jordan, Keegan, Meyler, McCarthy, Murphy, O'Byrne, O'Ryan, Shannon, and Walsh - 17.

Against:- Messrs D'Arcy, Gibbon, Hall, Quin, Roche, Smyth, and the Chairman - 7.

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

Gortins Lane: Mr. Wm. White, Heavenstown, Cleariestown, wrote that a meeting of the residents of the townland of Gortins unanimously decided to ask the Co. Council to put Gortin's Lane under contract. The lane which was about a mile and a half in length led from the Wexford road at Heavenstown to Kilmannon. There were six families living on it with a population of 30 people. The working of the adjacent County Council quarry for some years past and the local traffic had broken up the foundations and rendered the lane almost impassable. He knew that the times were hard but still the people who lived on the lane and people like himself who had land adjoining deserve some consideration. The people concerned were prepared to give all the voluntary help possible in order to carry out the work, at the least possible cost to the ratepayers. If the Council believed they were not in a position to place Gortins Lane under contract he suggested as an alternative that some material be supplied out of the existing quarry to repair some of the damage which had been done by the traffic to and from the quarry.

Mr. Joseph Moran and Mr. Martin Sinnott attended as a deputation in favour of the request.

Mr Moran bore out the statement in Mr. White's letter and said if the lane was put in repair it would furnish a short cut to Cleariestown Church and Schools, and many of the people were at present unable to send their children to school owing to the condition of the lane. All the people asked was that they should enjoy the same amenities as the people in other districts.

Col. Gibbon said that as the lane had been cut up by the traffic to the quarry the Council should furnish sufficient material from the quarry to repair the damage. The heavy carting over the lane sunk the foundations.

The County Surveyor said there was an alternative route only half a mile away. They did very little work in Gortins quarry as it was never satisfactory. It did not average over 300 yards annually. He understood that the Council had put on material to repair the damage.

Mr Moran said if the Council put the lane into contract they would be prepared to widen it and do the cartage.

The Chairman said it would be admitted that the lane was in very bad condition but if County Council provided material for its repair the people should carry on for some time longer.

Col. Gibbon proposed that the Council provide sufficient material from Gurtins Quarry to repair Gortins Lane on the understanding that it be not taken over as a Contract road.

Mr Gaul seconded the resolution which was adopted.

Moteybower Lane: Mr O'Byrne proposed and Mr. D'Arcy seconded the following resolution:- "That the County Council agree to repair Moteybower Lane at a cost not exceeding £80, the local people to carry out voluntarily the work pointed out to them by the Co. Surveyor or the Assistant Surveyor for the district and also take over the lane as a Contract road, this proposal to be subject to further confirmation by the Council, after the requirements of section 25(2) of Local Government Act 1925 have been complied with."

Col. Quin proposed the following amendment which was seconded by Mr Roche:-

"That the County Council decline to take over Moteybower Lane."

A poll was taken on this with the following result:-

For:- Col. Gibbon, Col. Quin and Mr Roche - 3.

Against:- Messrs Armstrong, Brennan, Colfer, Cooney, Corish, Culleton, Cummins, D'Arcy, Gaul, Hall, Jordan, Keegan, Meyler, McCarthy, Murphy, O'Byrne, Shannon, Smyth, Walsh and the Chairman - 20.

Miss O'Ryan (1) was not present when poll was taken.

The Chairman declared the motion lost.

The resolution was then put and adopted, Mr. Roche and Col. Quin dissenting.

Rathfardon Lane:- Mr. Shannon proposed and Mr. Brennan seconded the following resolution which was adopted, Mr Roche dissenting:-

"That a sum of £40 be provided in Roads Scheme for repair of Rathfardon Lane, and that said lane be brought into contract provided that the local people are prepared to carry out the work pointed out by the County Surveyor or the Assistant Surveyor for the district, this proposal to be subject to further confirmation by the Council when the requirements of Section 25 (2) ^{of Local Govt Act, 1925} have been complied with."

Mountaimuck Lane:- Miss O'Ryan, who pointed out that all details in connection with this lane had been considered by the Council on a couple of occasions moved that a sum of £40 be set aside for its repair and that it be taken over as a Contract road on condition that the local people carry out any work pointed out by the County Surveyor or the Assistant Surveyor for the district, and that this proposal be subject to further confirmation by the Council when the requirements of Section 25 (2) of Local Government Act 1925 have been complied with.

Coolnagree Lane: Miss O'Ryan proposed and Mr O'Byrne seconded the following resolution:- "That a sum of £45 be provided for repair of Coolnagree Lane and that said lane be taken over as a Contract road provided the local people carry out the work pointed out by the County Surveyor or the Assistant Surveyor for the district, this proposal being subject to further confirmation by the Council when the requirements of Section 25 (2) of the Local Government Act 1925 have been complied with!"

Castlebridge Road:- Under date 13th December, 1931, ^{Passed} Mr Moses Murphy, Castlebridge, wrote that he had again been asked by the people of Castlebridge to urge on the Council the great necessity of having something done to the portion of the road which was flooded pretty often during the winter months. The hand-rail as suggested at the last meeting of the Council would be more of a hindrance than a help to the school children.

Mr. Culleton said that the opinion of a number of people in the district did not agree with the statement of Mr Murphy.

It was decided to take no action.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr D'Arcy seconded by Mr Roche:- "That the sum of £210 agreed to at this meeting for repair of lanes be taken from amounts proposed for main roads."

Passed.

EMPLOYMENT OF MEN IN GOREY AREA

The following report of Sub-Committee which had been adjourned from time to time came up for consideration:-

County
"The Committee of the/Council appointed to deal with this matter met in Gorey on Tuesday-last, 11th instant, and there were present:-

Mr Hall (in chair) also Col. Quin, Messrs J. O'Byrne, W.P. Keegan and T.F. D'Arcy.

The County Surveyor and his Clerk, in charge of the records, as also Mr Treanor, Assistant Surveyor, were in at-

tendance.

Having examined the books and gone into the records of employment the Committee recommended that the results should be circulated amongst the Members for Gorey Area so that they might be in a position to deal with the matter at the County Council meeting. Accordingly I now send you List as directed."

Extract from Minutes of Co. Council meeting of 9th September, 1929, relative to the employment of workers was read.

Mr. Hall proposed and Mr. Keegan seconded the following resolution which was adopted:-

"That the Report of Committee as to employment of men in Gorey Area be received and considered."

Mr. Hall said the Council could see from the figures which had been supplied that the Gangers worked full time. Some of these had 30 under them and some eight. These men in a great many cases secured only three or four weeks' work.

Mr Keegan contended that there was not a fair distribution of work amongst the workers in Gorey area. He then referred in detail to the Gangers - P. Byrne with 10 men, Patrick Ryan with 36 men, Arthur Nolan, 10 men, John Byrne 24 men, James Swords, 34 men, Ml. Jordan 8 men and Peter Byrne, 12 men. In all these cases the Gangers had fully stamped cards for the year and a half under review while the men had in no instance full stamps and some of them very few. Mr Keegan also complained that even since the Committee met a labourer had been employed pointing bridges though the Council had decided that tradesmen should be employed for tradesmen's work. The resolution of Mr. Armstrong that haulage work should be shared amongst available carters had not been carried out.

Mr Cooney said in New Ross district he had received complaints that some workers could not get any work while others worked practically the full period.

In reply to a query the County Surveyor said that when men were disemployed, gangers with less than four men received only the wages of an ordinary road worker. It was not every-workman who was fit for a ganger's duties and it was not in the interests of road maintenance to discharge a good ganger. Work could be always found for him.

Col. Quin held that the Assistant Surveyors in each district were the best judges as to the men to be employed. It looked as if some member or members of the Council wanted to take over the Assistant Surveyor's jobs. He was on the Committee which met at Gorey and could not see anything wrong with the way in which the men were employed.

The County Surveyor said that as regards the number of Insurance stamps the ganger might be working with one set of men for some weeks and with another group later.

Mr. Roche said that every day carters were complaining to him that they could not get employment although some of them had purchased horses to deal with the haulage, of the County Council. The system of employing the men was wrong and it was certainly not carried out according to the wishes of the Council.

The County Surveyor said he would admit quite openly that there was a system of favouritism or rather selection in the employment of the men. He and his Assistants endeavoured to get the best man for the job. Mr. Roche would not care to change his men if he found those in his employment satisfactory.

Mr Murphy said that he went through a good deal of the figures with Mr. O'Neill, Assistant Surveyor, for New Ross District, and he was satisfied that Mr. O'Neill kept on the best men.

Mr Byrne said the whole trouble arose because they had at one time 700 men employed; now they had not half that num-

ber so the work was not there for the men. He was satisfied that in his own area the work was distributed as well as it could be, with efficiency.

Mr Armstrong said he was not satisfied the work was fairly distributed in his area consistent with efficiency. He agreed that the gangers should be kept on. He found, however, that it was one set of men that got all the work. Since the resolution of 1929 the position was worse.

Mr. Keegan said he would propose that in Gorey Area there should be a fair distribution of work for ordinary men and carters.

Chairman - So far as my quarter of the county is concerned there are two or three men who are never out of employment and who are as well off as other men who never got an hour's work. He had no fault to find with the arrangements for carting in the Summer but in the winter it was the same two or three men who got all the work. We should direct the County and Assistant Surveyors to carry out our resolution to the best of their ability and especially in hard times like the present when we cannot give complete employment and divide it as well as possible.

Mr Keegan proposed that the Co. Surveyor be made responsible for the Gorey area and give it a little more of his time.

Col. Quin said this was a direct insult to Mr. Treanor the Assistant Surveyor for the district.

Mr. Keegan said if his suggestion was considered to be an insult to Mr. Treanor he would withdraw.

Col. Gibbon proposed and Mr. Cooney seconded the following resolution which was adopted nem con:- "That the County Surveyor and Assistant Surveyors be instructed to carry out the original orders of the County Council as regards employment of men and to be particularly careful in carrying out this instruction in the winter months."

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ALLOCATIONS TO URBAN DISTRICTS UNDER ROAD
WORKS SCHEME

Mr. Corish raised the question of amounts to be allowed Urban Councils for the maintenance of the main roads in their districts for financial year 1932-33. In Enniscorthy £382 had been allowed in 1931-32 and for next year the amount proposed was £441 an increase of £59. In New Ross the amount allowed in 1931-32 was £482 and for next year £214, a reduction of £268. Wexford was allocated £750 last year and the proposed amount for 1932-33 was only £247 a reduction of £503. It was absolutely impossible to maintain 600 perches of important streets in Wexford for £247.

The County Surveyor pointed out that the apparent discrepancy in the treatment of the three districts was caused by the fact that the full amount was allowed for spraying work. If this procedure was not adopted the amount would have to be dropped altogether. In Enniscorthy £213 had to be set aside for spraying and in New Ross £100. There was no spraying work proposed for Wexford for next year.

Mr. Corish then proposed the following resolution which was seconded by Mr. Gaul and adopted:- "That allocation for maintenance of main roads in Wexford Urban district be increased by £100, amount to be deducted from the sum provided for County Main Roads."

FLOODING AT BALDWINSTOWN

It was decided that this matter be adjourned to County Council meeting to be held on 28th inst. at which Mr Hayes Co. Councillor, concerned, and Mr. Kehoe, Assistant Surveyor, for the district will be in attendance.

FLOODING AT KILLAGOLEY

Correspondence as to the flooding of the premises of Miss Forrestal at Killagoley from Mr. Elgee, Co. Solicitor, and Messrs P.J. O'Flaherty & Son, Solicitors, Enniscorthy,

was read .

Mr. McCarthy said that it had been arranged for Miss Forrestal to vacate the premises which were being taken over by the Mental Hospital who would arrange with the Co. Surveyor that catchpits should be put in.

TRANSFER OF ROAD ALLOCATIONS

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr Corish seconded by Mr. Colfer:- "That as requisitioned by County Surveyor the following transfers of Road a/cs be agreed to:- £30 from Account 31 to Account 18; £30 from A/C 18 to A/C 16; £7: 10: 0d from 3 M to 4 M and £10 from 3 M to 44 M."

TEA CONTRACT AT MENTAL HOSPITAL

The following under date 4th December, 1931 (T.94060-31-Enniscorthy Mental Hospital) was read from the Trade Dept. of Local Government Department:-

"With reference to the entry in the Minutes of Proceedings of the Wexford County Council, at their meeting on the 12th October last, relative to the tea purchased for consumption in the Enniscorthy Mental Hospital, I am directed by the Minister for Local Government and Public Health to state that an Inspector from this Department, having visited the Mental Hospital, reports that no tea save from the Official Contractors has been purchased for use in this Institution since 18th May, 1929, and he was informed that it has given every satisfaction, and no complaints in regard thereto have been received."

TRAVELLING ALLOWANCE OF RATES INSPECTOR

The following under date 3rd December, 1931, (G.93190/1931. Loch Garman Fa.) was read from the Department of Local Government:-

"I am directed by the Minister for Local Government &

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Public Health to advert to the Minutes of the Wexford County Council of the 23rd ultimo and to state that he sanctions the Council's proposal to increase the travelling allowance of Mr. O'Kennedy, Rates Inspector, by £50. It is presumed that the Rates Inspector keeps a Diary in which he records his various journeys and that such Diary will be available for inspection at audit or when desired."

ROAD GRANT

Under date 8th December, 1931, the Department of Local Government wrote (R.G.79) stating that a payment of £2,009 had been made to the County Council - the final payment in respect of the Grant for Enniscorthy streets.

GOREY GARDEN CITY LOAN

Under date 2nd December, 1931, the Department of Local Government wrote (H.91348/1931. Pc. Loch Garman.) forwarding copy of letter to the Co. Wexford Board of Health and Public Assistance approving of the borrowing of £9,000 from the Royal Liver Friendly Society Ltd., for the erection of 50 cottages under the Labourers Acts in Gorey Rural Area. The loan is repayable in 40 years by equal half yearly instalments of Principal and Interest at the rate of 5 per cent.

APPOINTMENT OF SUBSTITUTE FOR CO. MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH, DURING HOLIDAYS.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr Walsh seconded by Mr. Culleton:- "That as unanimously recommended by Co. Wexford Board of Health this Council approves of Dr. George Sheehan, the Crescent, Lucan, Co. Dublin, acting as substitute for Dr. C. Bastible, Co. Medical Officer of Health during the absence of the latter on three weeks holidays commencing on 22nd December, 1931."

PLANTING OF FORTH MOUNTAIN

Under date 2nd December, 1931, the Department of Agriculture wrote (1650/F.) that they proposed to take

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possession of selected parts of the lands of Forth Mountain on 15th December and that preliminary work would be put in hands as soon as possible after that date.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr. O'Byrne seconded by Mr. McCarthy:- "As we understand that Mr. P. Hogan, Minister for Agriculture will visit Wexford on Sunday 20th December, 1931, we cordially invite him to inaugurate the excellent work of afforestation at the Mountain of Forth by planting the first tree there."

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr. O'Byrne seconded by Mr. Culleton:- "That we return our thanks to the T.D.'s of the County Wexford for the interest and energy displayed by them in pushing forward the work of afforestation at the Mountain of Forth."

BUILDING ADJOINING ROAD 197

In connection with the application of Mr. Michael Bolger, Ballybeg, Ferns, for permission to erect building, Mr. T. Treanor, Assistant Surveyor, for the district, reported that he had inspected the site on 26th November and was of opinion that the building when erected will not be an obstruction.

It was decided to take no action in the matter.

RELIEF WORKS

Mr. Corish said that when the question of the erection of a wall at Rosslare Burrow was under consideration it had been suggested that Mr. Jordan and himself should see the Ministers concerned about getting some thing from the Unemployment Fund. They saw Mr Roddy of the Land Commission, Parliamentary Secretary, on the 10th inst. and he thought they had succeeded in getting something for Cahore Drainage Scheme. He desired to acknowledge the assistance they had received from the other County T.D.'s particularly as regards the application for Cahore. He had received, under date

12th December, 1931, the following letter from Mr. Roddy:-

"Referring to my conversation yesterday with yourself and Deputy Jordan, relative to the Cahore and Kilmore drainage, and the Rosslare Burrow, I wish to let you know that the question of the Cahore Drainage is being considered sympathetically, and will be dealt with in a week's time. I shall write to you later regarding the other two matters."

On the proposition of Mr. O'Byrne seconded by Mr. Shannon, a vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Corish and Mr. Jordan for their efforts in connection with Cahore.

The County Surveyor said he had been instructed by the Finance Committee to make application for some of the grant and had put forward the following:-

1.	Improvement Courtown Harbour by dredging the inner basin	- £2,000
2.	Sewerage work Rosslare Strand	-£16,000
3.	Sewerage work Taghmon	- £1,200
4.	Land Drainage Cahore	- £1,000
5.	do Ballyteigue	- £1,000
6.	do Courtown Harbour	- <u>£3,000</u>
Total.....		£ 24,200

He had had a reply from the Department of Finance that his application had been forwarded to the appropriate Government Department.

WEXFORD STEAMSHIP COMPANY

The following was read from the Irish Livestock Exporters and Traders' Association Ltd.,:- "At the meeting of the committee of this association a resolution was unanimously adopted calling on the farmers and livestock exporters of Co. Wexford to give their whole-hearted support to the Wexford Steamship Co. trading between Wexford and Birkenhead. A combined attempt is being made to drive this independent company out of business, and it is considered, with due deference to

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your council's opinion that ~~if~~ such an effort should prove to be successful, the Wexford farmers and livestock exporters would suffer a loss which could not easily be righted. The Irish Shipping Co. which is for some weeks operating between Dublin and Birkenhead by the same owners, has also received the unanimous support of this association, and since its inception at Dublin has been a complete success, we are glad to say. It is our intention that it shall continue to be so, and although we may be on the eve of a period which will test to the utmost the loyalty of farmers and exporters towards the independent Irish Shipping Companies, we feel, and it is our ardent desire, that with the faithful co-operation of all those who are in a position to help, that any attempt of the associated Coast Line Companies to nullify the courageous activities of an Irish independent shipping company will prove fruitless. The moment is opportune for seeking a reasonable, but not uneconomic, rate for the transport of live stock, and already a move in that direction has been made by some of the Coast Line Companies. These reductions, anticipated and actual, will last only so long as the opposition is there, and should we be so unfortunate as to lose the lever which makes such reductions possible, a speedy return to the general existing rates would be made. This letter is being sent in the spirit in which it is written, and it is hoped that your council will not interpret it as an attempt to dictate to the people of Wexford."

Mr. O'Byrne proposed a resolution approving of the Association's letter. He hoped that the farmers would stand by the Wexford company. Exporters might get a cheaper rate now, but if the local company disappeared the rates would go up again.

Mr. Culleton seconded, and said he would be very much surprised if people withdrew their support from the Wexford Steamship Company.

The Chairman said all the members were aware of the big

effort made by the farmers to establish a boat in Wexford. For a number of years they had been soliciting, suggesting and doing everything else in their power to try to get another company to carry live stock, and they point-blank refused. Through the efforts of different bodies in the county, and through the great pluck and energy of their townsman, Mr. Stafford, there was a boat put on to carry the farmers' and dealers' produce and livestock to Birkenhead, and elsewhere if required. He thought it would be a crying shame if the farmers of the County were to let down such a service now, even if they could ship their livestock a trifle less by another line of steamers, that at one time would not give the least consideration or hearing to the farmers of the County. He thought it would be a shame if the Wexford ^{Company} ~~County~~ were let down, and if it were let down there would, perhaps, in a few years, be again no livestock carrying company at all, and he thought the rates would be increased if the competition was put out of action. He would like the farmers and dealers to support the livestock trade that was being carried on in Wexford by the Wexford Steamship Company, in the future as they had done in the past.

Mr. O'Byrne's proposition was passed.

M. Doyle

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WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL

MEETING 28TH DECEMBER 1931

M I N U T E S

COUNTY HALL,
WEXFORD.

N.J. FRIZELLE,
SECRETARY.

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A meeting of Wexford County Council was held in County Council Chamber, County Hall, Wexford, on 28th December, 1931.

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

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

The Minutes of last meeting were confirmed.

THE LATE MICHAEL A. KEEGAN

The following resolution which was adopted in silence on the motion of Mr. O'Byrne seconded by Col. Gibbon, was spoken to by Messrs Hall, Smyth, the Chairman, Co. Secretary, and Co. Solicitor:- "That we offer Mr.W.P. Keegan our esteemed colleague, and to Mrs. Keegan, our heartfelt condolence in the death of their only child Michael Aloysius, cut off in the flower of his youth. We assure them that we deeply deplore their loss and sorrow with them in their tragic bereavement."

COUNTY SURVEYOR'S REPORT

The following monthly report was submitted by County Surveyor:-

"As ordered by the County Council at their meeting on the 14th instant I have gone through the Provisional Road Works Scheme, and amended same according to directions, I have added to the list of lanes agreed to be repaired, that they are subject to preliminary work being done by

local people, and the cost of these I have deducted from the Main Roads, taking account of the requirements of each. I have allowed the amounts set off in the Urban Areas for Main Roads as originally agreed to with the exception of an additional £100 to Wexford.

There is another item of expenditure in the coming year which must be provided for, and that is the maintenance of the Kilmannock Drainage Area. During the present year there was an expenditure of about £20 which had been previously raised, but it was subsequently allowed the Ratepayers in the Area as a "set-off", and this must now be provided for, as well as a sum of £20 for the coming year. There will thus be a sum of £40 to be raised.

On the night of 23rd-24th November last there was damage done to a small relieving arch at Clohamon Bridge, and as all the Main road traffic is now diverted this way it was essential to have it immediately repaired, and this has been done at a cost of £45. The same floods carried away road fence walls in a number of places between Ryland Turn and the Bridge, and I am in doubt as to the Council's liability for their re-building. These walls are being constantly damaged by floods, and I suggest that if the Council be liable that a railing should be erected instead of a solid wall so as to allow free passage ^{for} flood water. This will cost about £35. I do not contemplate carrying out any extensive works to the walls, even if the Council be liable as this would run into hundreds of pounds and I suggest that the matter be referred to the County Solicitor for his opinion.

The District Justice pointed out to me alterations he wanted done in Bunclody Courthouse, and on the 22nd instant I examined the place thoroughly with a local carpenter. I now have estimate for the work amounting to £8: 18: 0d, and ask for your direction in the matter.

I have in hands the laying of the concrete floor in the County Record's Room, as agreed to at a former meeting, and the work is nearly completed.

I have been in communication with the Local Government Department in regard to allocation of Unemployment Grant. The Department requires particulars of the available unemployed labour in the **four** districts, and details in regard to suggested works. Those already mentioned are not in connection with roads, and perhaps the Council may offer suggestions at their meeting.

I have a letter from Mr. William Murphy, Machinery Overseer, asking the Council to now consider the matter of making his appointment permanent. This matter was before the Council sometime ago, and pending my report on the working of the new machinery it was adjourned. I certainly can substantiate his statement in regard to the efficient manner in which the machinery has been maintained, and in which he has carried out his duties. He has been in the employment of the Council for about 16 years, and during the whole of that time has been a most efficient Officer, and I am satisfied carried out his work in a most economical manner, and he has given entire satisfaction to myself and the Council. The reports of the Insurance Inspectors have always set out that the machinery has been maintained in the highest possible manner."

ROAD WORKS SCHEME

The following under date 23rd December, 1931 (R/RGM/32) was read from the Department of Local Government (Roads):-

"I am directed by the Minister for Local Government and Public Health to refer to your letter of the 21st instant on the question of the amount which the Wexford County Council propose to allow for the upkeep of the roads of the County in the year 1932-33; and to state that the Minister would not feel justified in making any maintenance grant

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if the sum to be raised from rates in respect of main roads were restricted to £10,210 (i.e. £17,016 less 40 % thereof). Such a figure falls much too short of what the position requires.

"It is to be noted that the County Council have actually deducted from the inadequate sum of £17,226, previously allotted by them for the upkeep of main roads, a sum of £210 in respect of the taking over of lanes. The Council by the taking over of lanes are imposing upon the ratepayers of Wexford practically for all time the liability for the maintenance of such lanes, as ~~once~~ such lanes are taken over it becomes the duty of the Council to maintain them. There is also, of course, an assumption of liability in respect of a larger mileage of roads on foot of negligence in the performance of the duty. Such a proposal is wholly inconsistent with the views as to economy in the ratepayers' burdens expressed in the Minutes of Proceedings of the Council on the 14th instant. The Minister, of course, can express no opinion as to the validity of the Council's proposals in regard to the taking over of lanes. Attention is drawn to the concluding paragraph of the Minister's circular letter of the 18th instant (RGM/201/31) as to the effect of the taking over of new roads on the question of the grant for upkeep of Main Roads.

Grants towards the cost of the upkeep of roads can only be made in cases where reasonable sums have, in all the circumstances, been voted by County Councils. The Minister would be prepared to notify a grant of £10,162 if the Council, in reconsidering the matter, decide to allow the same amounts for the upkeep of main and County roads as for the current financial year. It may be possible that the Council could effect some economy in respect of improvement works or repair works of a minor character."

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The following Circular letter (No.RGM/201/31) under date 18th December, 1931, was read from Department of Local Government (Roads):-

"I am directed by the Minister for Local Government and Public Health to refer to the above scheme, and to ask you to be so good as to furnish in due course particulars (including cost) of proposals passed by the County Council for the

(a) Making of New Roads;

(b) Maintenance of roads not previously repaired.

The allowance of monies for the making of new roads, or for the maintenance of roads not previously maintained increases permanently the liability of a County Council for road upkeep, and imposes upon the rural ratepayers of the County burdens in respect of works which in the majority, if not in all, of the cases, are of little general public utility.

In considering the question of the grant towards the upkeep of Main Roads for 1932/33 the Minister must have regard to the extent to which a Council vote money for such minor works as those referred to in the preceding paragraph."

The Chairman said it was evident from the letter of the L. G. D. that they were concerned with the main roads only. No matter what the ratepayers who were in the main using the County roads, suffered, they were to get no relief.

Miss O'Ryan considered that there should now be a decrease in the cost of the upkeep of the main roads, as so many of them had been recently reconstructed.

The following resolution was proposed by Mr. O'Byrne seconded by Mr. Shannon :- "That a sum of £50,000 be spent on all roads maintained by the County Council for the financial year 1932-33, this to be contingent on a sum of £26,388 being set aside for maintenance of main roads, £233 for maintenance of walls, fences etc, on main roads and £4115 for maintenance

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of bridges on main roads or over tidal rivers. Total - £30,736 in order to secure the Government Grant referred to in letter from Local Government Department - Roads - R/RGM/32 - under date 23rd December, 1931.

Col. Quin agreed with Local Government Department that the Council should not add to their annual road expenditure by taking over lanes.

Miss O'Ryan said it was unfair that users of main roads and should get everything/^{and} that no concession was to be afforded to people living on lanes and who paid their share of the cost of road upkeep.

Col. Gibbon said that despite the tremendous drop in the prices of agricultural produce there was no corresponding economy in the amount of the expenditure from rates, provided in the main by the agricultural community. The drop had been going on for the past three years, the present year being by far the worst. And in spite of this, the Government kept pressing them to spend money irrespective of where it was to come from. So far as he could see they were in the present instance in a cleft stick and would have to carry out the directions of the L. G. D.

Mr. Culleton proposed and Mr. D'Arcy seconded the following amendment:- "That in view of the attitude of the L.G.D. in refusing the State Grant for roads on an amount which in the opinion of this Council is the most the ratepayers are able to pay we decide on striking no rate for maintenance of main roads."

Mr. Cummins asked was he to come to the Council and agree that the ratepayers should lose £10,000 of a State Grant. The amendment of Mr. Culleton was ridiculous and would only throw dust in the eyes of the people. Ratepayers should be prepared to pay rates or let them get out in favour of those who ^{would} ~~were~~. If lands and houses were put up for sale there were plenty to purchase and if they could not purchase they

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would grab them.

Col. Gibbon pointed out that the Government said to them "You can let your £40,000 stand but we will not give you any grant on it", and which would mean that the County Council would have to raise the entire £40,000 from the ratepayers. If they agreed to the proposal of the L.G.D. they would still have to provide the £40,000 ^{from} ~~for~~ the ratepayers but they would have £10,000 more to spend on the roads. If they turned down the proposal of the L.G.D. as suggested by Mr. Culleton he did not think there was much hope of being able to bring sufficient pressure to bear on the Government to enable them to get back to their original proposal. If the Council refused the Grant the main roads would deteriorate so much that they would have to strike a much higher rate in the following year to make up for the extra damage to them. He had tried at last meeting to make clear to the Government and to the public the reasons operating in the minds of the Council to fix the road expenditure at £32,000 or £33,000. It was absolutely essential some endeavour should be made to cut down the rate this year which was the worst he had experienced. In spite of this, however, it was evident they would have to deal with an increased rate. They could not look on the position with equanimity. Their T.D.'s should put the position before the Government to try and change their aspect particularly at the present moment, when they had to pay a higher rate though it was absolutely essential and urgent the rate should be cut down. If the Government or any of the Councillors opposed to cutting down the rate would give them any alternative he (Col. Gibbon) did not mind what it was so long as the community in general secured relief.

Miss O'Ryan would favour Mr. Culleton's amendment to show her sympathy with the ratepayers. But they would have to look on road work as affording relief for unemployment

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and if they adopted Mr. Culleton's proposal they should suspend their very expensive but very efficient staff of Surveyors and Road workers, which would be a very serious matter. The more the road rate was cut down the more unemployment they would have and the more people would be in the County Home. She feared there was no alternative but to fall in with the view of the Government.

Mr. D'Arcy held it was the direct duty of the Government to look after unemployment as this was done in every other civilised country in the world.

On the suggestion of the Chairman Mr. Culleton withdrew his amendment and proposed the following amendment in substitution:- "That we again call the attention of the Department of Local Government to the low financial condition of the ratepayers. We are convinced they are not in a position to pay any higher amount for roads for next financial year than £32,000 or £33,000. As we genuinely believe this to be the limit they can afford under this head we ask the L. G. D. to allow the usual maintenance grant on this figure."

Mr. D'Arcy seconded.

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

For:- Messrs Brennan, Culleton, D'Arcy, Doran, Gibbon, Hall, Quin, Smyth, Walsh and the Chairman - 10.

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

The Chairman declared the amendment lost.

The resolution of Mr. O'Byrne was then passed nem con.

Mr. D'Arcy then proposed and Mr. Culleton seconded the following resolution:- "That £5,000 of the allocation for Main Roads be set aside for certain Main and Link Roads requiring special attention." *Passed*

Kilmannock Drainage Rate: Mr. Cummins proposed and Mr.

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Brennan seconded the following resolution:-

"That a sum of £40 be raised as a separate charge to provide for necessary work in Kilmannock Drainage area."

Clohamon Bridge:- The County Surveyor said every time there was a big flood in the river the walls of the bridge were "gapped". Some of them were in a bad way though they might not collapse at once. If the Council was responsible for the matter he would recommend the erection of a railing to allow the flood to run through.

Mr. Hall proposed and Mr. O'Byrne seconded the following resolution which was adopted nem con:- "That a sum of £45 (to be taken from next year's Main Roads and Contingency Fund) be allocated for repair of damaged relieving arch at Clohamon Bridge." "That the question of the liability of the County Council for the repair of road fence walls between Ryland Turn and Clohamon Bridge be referred to Co. Solicitor for his advice."

Bunclody Courthouse:- The County Surveyor said the District Justice was anxious that the repairs in this instance should be carried out to enable him to hear what Solicitors engaged in cases were saying. He wanted to have the platform in the Court extended so that he and the Solicitors would be on the one level. The Courthouse was held at an annual rent.

Miss O'Ryan considered it would be foolish to spend money on a place in which they had no interest.

Mr. Elgee said the real trouble was that the Solicitors were too far away from the fire. The building which had a concrete floor was very cold.

The Chairman proposed and Mr. O'Byrne seconded the following resolution which was adopted:-

"That the reps of the late Dr. Dormer, landlords of Bunclody Courthouse, be asked to carry out repairs in Court-room estimated by County Surveyor to cost £8: 18: 0d., and, in the event of their refusal to comply with this request, inquiry be made of Mr. Dennis Lennon if it be possible to secure the use of the Parochial Hall as a Courthouse and on

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what terms."

Unemployment Grant: The County Surveyor submitted the following letter under date 17th December, 1931, (S.96.901/31 Loch Garman) which he had received from Local Government Department:-

"With reference to your letter of the 7th instant addressed to the Minister for Finance, I am directed by the Minister for Local Government and Public Health to state that no allocation can be made from Relief Funds to any district until particulars have been obtained as to the extent of unemployment. No allocation could be made to any work unless it can be clearly shown that the local authority is in a position to proceed with it forthwith. Some of the works referred to, such as the sewerage works at Rosslare Strand and Taghmon would presumably be dealt with by the Board of Health. Where works are proposed to be undertaken there should be submitted a plan, specification and an estimate of cost of (a) materials and of (b) labour, together with information as to the number of men that could be usefully employed thereon."

The County Surveyor said he had applied to the four Labour Exchanges in the County for a list of men out of employment and had received information from three. In Enniscorthy there were 150 men; in New Ross 80 and in Gorey 300 available. He had no figures yet from Wexford.

Miss O'Ryan said that there were a number of people not listed with Exchanges and who had been out of work for three or four years.

The Chairman said that the rural portion of Wexford was certainly suffering as badly as the rest of the County. As regards relief schemes it would be difficult to provide the local contribution required in order to qualify for a grant. They had on that account at the Co. Board of Health turned down Rosslare sewerage scheme which was calculated

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to cost £16,000. They would not be able to get a sufficient large grant to make the scheme feasible.

Miss O'Ryan said the same thing applied to Taghmon.

Mr. Gaul said that Rural workers were never on the Labour Exchange and they were very badly off.

The Chairman said the Health Board had agreed to a small scheme costing £400 to provide for ~~an~~ extension of the Rosslare water supply for people who had been using water which had been condemned. So far as he could ascertain very little of the Grant would be administered by the Local Government Department; most of it had gone to the Land Commission, which would carry out works without any local contribution.

Mr. Smyth pointed out that the improvement of Cahore drainage was being done out of the Land Commission ordinary vote and not as a relief work.

The County Surveyor said that there were no jobs except those on roads which could be proceeded with immediately. No works of drainage could begin now.

Mr. O'Byrne held there was nothing to prevent the immediate start of the work at Boira Bog.

Mr. Gaul said they would naturally expect the Government would give money for any scheme the Council would put up.

The County Surveyor said if the hollows on the road between Scarawalsh and Clohamon could be filled from the Relief Grant it would make greatly for public convenience. This work could be commenced immediately. Then there was the flooding at Castlebridge road. If the Council authorised him to send forward a scheme to deal with flooded hollows on a number of roads he would be pleased to do so.

Col. Quin said that in any scheme they sent forward it should be set down that a local contribution would not be asked for.

The Chairman said they were as much entitled to a share of this Relief Grant as any other County but it appeared they

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always got a smaller amount.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr. Gaul seconded by Mr. Shannon:- "That the County Surveyor prepare a Relief Scheme to cover the filling of flooded portions of roads and submit same to the appropriate Government Department. And that in the event of amount set aside by Land Commission not being sufficient to complete the work at Cahore Drainage area the balance be applied for under Relief Grant.

Mr. Shannon said it would be well to make application for a sufficient amount to ease the many dangerous corners in the County. Even if the rates had to bear the expense it would be money well spent. If one life could be saved by this work say even once in ten years it would be sufficient to justify the necessary expense. Fatal accidents had occurred at some of these corners.

Mr. Hall proposed that the County Surveyor include the work of draining at Boira Bog as portion of the application under Relief Grant.

Mr. O'Byrne seconded and the resolution was adopted.
Machinery Overseer: The following letter from Mr. William Murphy, Machinery Overseer to the County Surveyor under date 22nd December, 1931, was read:-

"Sometime ago the County Council adjourned the consideration of making my appointment permanent. This was awaiting your report on the new plant. I think you will be able to state that all the machinery has been maintained in the best manner and that I have spared no effort to make my work efficient. The Insurance Inspectors' reports will also bear out this.

"I shall be obliged if you will now ask the County Council to take up the matter."

In reply to the Chairman the County Surveyor said that the wages of Mr. Murphy was £5 per week. He was not paid for overtime of which he gave a great deal to the Council. All

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the machinery had been overhauled and was in excellent condition. They had made a small profit on the hire of machinery to Tipperary North Co. Council but the important thing was that their machinery was kept in use and their own men kept in employment.

Mr. Hall proposed and Mr. O'Byrne seconded the following proposal:- "That subject to the sanction of the Minister for Local Government, Mr. William Murphy, Machinery Overseer, be placed on the permanent staff of the Council."

Mr. Corish and Mr. Shannon supported the proposal.

The County Surveyor said the real point in the application was that at the moment Mr. Murphy was subject to discharge on a week's notice. In his (Co. Surveyor's) opinion Mr. Murphy was the most efficient officer employed by the Council.

Miss O'Ryan said that a few meetings back the County Council put on the permanent staff an official with only two years' service.

The County Surveyor said that Mr. Murphy could have obtained a job outside the County at a higher salary but did not accept.

A vote was then taken on the proposal with the following result:-

For:- Messrs Armstrong, Cline, Colfer, Corish, Culleton, Cummins, Doran, Gaul. Hall, Hayes, McCarthy, O'Byrne, O'Ryan, Quin and Shannon - 15.

Against:- Messrs Brennan, D'Arcy, Smyth and the Chairman - 4.

Col. Gibbon (1) did not vote.

Messrs Cooney and Walsh (2) were not present when poll was taken.

The Chairman declared the motion carried.

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

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of County Surveyor as submitted to this meeting be, and is hereby, approved."

REPAIR ROAD RETAINING WALL

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr. O'Byrne seconded by Mr. Hall:- "That as recommended by the County Surveyor a sum of £22 be taken from next year's Main roads Contingency Fund, to meet cost of road retaining wall near Camolin village which collapsed recently."

COAST EROSION AT SLADE

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr. Cummins seconded by Mr. Colfer:- "That the attention of the Land Commission be called to the fact that Messrs Moran and Fortune, Slade, have now owing to coast erosion no roadway to their houses and though the attention of the Land Commission has been called to the matter on more than one occasion nothing has been done. We invite the observations of the Land Commission in the matter."

ENNISCORTHY-BUNCLODY CLOSED ROAD

The following addressed to Mr. R.J. Ennis, Assistant Surveyor, Enniscorthy, under date 21st December, 1931, was read from Mr. Wm. Lee, Contractor for reconstruction of above road:-

"My man, J. Nolan, who is working on above road at present, reported to me this morning that a small lorry passed over the concrete road, from the Bunclody end at 3.10 p.m. Saturday, 19th inst. and would not go back when told. He said no one would stop him, from going over the road. One of the wheels of the lorry had no tube or tyre only the iron rim. This lorry is M I. 1292 of Enniscorthy. The same lorry went over the road some time ago and would not go back when told. I am told the owner's name is Brien, he goes about selling fish etc."

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr. Hall seconded by Col. Quin:- "That report from Mr. Lee,

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Contractor for reconstruction of Enniscorthy-Bunclody road, under date 21st December, 1931, be handed to Co. Solicitor with a view to the prosecution of the owner of the lorry concerned."

CLOSING OF ROADS UNDER RECONSTRUCTION

Order from the Minister for Local Government (under date 16th December, 1931, R/IR/107/1) extending the periods for closing the following roads was read:-

1. The portion of road from Wexford to New Ross situate between Tomcoole Cross Roads and the Old Rural District Bounds at Poulpeasty to 30th day of January, 1932.

2. The portion of the road from Wexford to New Ross situate between Cushinstown and Ballymacar Bridge to 30th January, 1932.

3. The portion of the road from Enniscorthy to Bunclody situate between Tomgarrow Cross and Tombrick Bridge to 31st December, 1931.

CASTLEBRIDGE ROAD

Mr. Corish said it had been stated at last meeting that the people of Castlebridge were satisfied that a hand-rail and bank at the flooded road would meet the situation. The general body were opposed to that and did not consider it would remedy the matter. Though a good deal of tar had been placed on that road it was still in a wretched condition and clergy, doctors and school children were being held up.

The Chairman said that the County Surveyor had made application under the Relief Grant to have this road raised.

Mr. Corish said if they did not succeed in getting anything from the Relief Grant the Council should allocate something themselves for the work.

The County Surveyor said that some of the people objected to the erection of the railing, he could not understand why.

Mr. Corish asked was it desirable to have children walking along a bank with a handrail. Was there not a danger that they might fall into the water.

Mr. Culleton said he had been informed by the people of Castlebridge that in their view the hand rail was sufficient.

The County Surveyor said it would cost about £35 to make the necessary footpath.

Miss O'Ryan - That money would be spent very foolishly.

The County Surveyor said it would cost about £400 to raise the road.

Mr. Corish said that if necessary they should ask the special sanction of the Minister for Local Government to build up this road. He proposed:- "That in the event of Road Improvement Grant being received from the Government an allocation be made therefrom to raise the road at Castlebridge which is subject to flooding."

Mr. Gaul seconded.

Mr. Culleton said the road was flooded only seldom.

The County Surveyor said it was not possible to say when it would be flooded. It might be twice in a month or only once in two years.

The resolution was then put and passed without dissent.

KILMORE PIER - REPAIRS ETC

Col. Gibbon asked if anything had been done to repair the damage to Kilmore breakwater and had the lamp been attended to.

Mr. Kehoe, Assistant Surveyor for the district, said the repairs had been in progress for the past three or four days. The lamp was the best procurable but, according to the Harbour Master it would not remain lighting in bad weather. It had been brought to Wexford for test and when they had suitable wild weather this test would be carried out.

PLANTING OF MOUNTAIN OF FORTH

The following under date 16th December, 1931 (M.A.7033-31)

was read from the Minister of Agriculture:-

"I desire to acknowledge with thanks, receipt of your letter of the 15th instant, transmitting copy of resolution adopted at a recent meeting of the Wexford County Council, inviting me, in connection with the Scheme of afforestation on the Forth Mountain, to plant the first tree there on Sunday next. As the portion of the Forth Mountain to be planted was not taken over by the Department until this week and is not protected by fences, actual planting cannot be commenced for some time. Therefore I regret that next Sunday would not be a suitable date to plant the first tree. In the circumstances, it is not possible for me to avail of your Council's kind invitation."

, Mr. Hayes raised the question of the amount of unemployment in the district of the Mountain and asked for information as to what steps men should take to try and be taken on for the planting.

Mr. Corish said that all Government Departments employed their casual labour through the Labour Exchange.

Mr. O'Byrne said that one third of the people who required employment were not registered with the Exchange. It was a great pity that people in the Rural portions of the County did not register.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr. Corish seconded by Mr. O'Byrne:- "That the Manager, Wexford Labour Exchange, be requested to have a couple of the usual posters inviting employment at Mountain of Forth exhibited at the entrance to the following Catholic Churches viz:- Barntown, Cleariestown, Murrintown, and Trinity."

SCHOLARSHIPS IN SECONDARY AND VOCATIONAL
SCHOOLS.

The following under date 24th December, 1931, was read from the Office of National Education:-

"I am to inform you that this Department having care-

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fully considered the report of the Scholarship Committee submitted by you in connection with the County Council scheme of Scholarships for 1932 is satisfied that it is not desirable to alter the syllabus of the examination at present and consequently the subjects of the examination for 1932 will be the same as those for 1931.

As regards the Committee's proposal to have a general valuation limit of £75 maximum for all applicants, I am to state that this suggestion does not commend itself to the Department. It does not seem fair that the Rate-Payers should be asked to provide a Secondary education for the child of a parent whose Poor Law Valuation is £75 and who has only one or two children in family. It is, of course, admitted that the valuation basis is not a good criterion of the means of parents, but it may be taken as a fairly accurate guide in normal circumstances and one which saves the Council a great deal of trouble such as would be caused by the adoption of other and more exact methods, for instance, the procedure followed by the Income Tax Authorities. In all the circumstances the Department considers that the Council would be well advised to adhere for the present to the scale approved in the scheme for 1931.

In regard to the latest date for receiving applications, I am to point out that the Scholarship Examination next year will be held in the week commencing 28th March and in order to enable the Department to make the necessary arrangements for the holding of the Examination it will be essential that the list of candidates be furnished to this Office not later than the 14th February next. Consequently, the last date for receiving entries should be fixed by the Council so as to allow sufficient time to have the entries approved and the list furnished to the Department by the date mentioned.

I should be glad to hear from you in regard to the matters mentioned in this letter as soon as possible so that

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formal approval may be given to the scheme."

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Col. Quin seconded by Mr. O'Byrne:- "That this Council - with great reluctance - agrees to fall in with the suggestion of the Department of Education to adhere for the present to the provisions of Scheme of Scholarships in Secondary and Vocational Schools - which obtained in 1931. Owing to the four months' delay on the part of the Department of Education, ^{the fact} and/that entries must be lodged with County Council previous to 8th February, 1931, no other course is open to the Council which called the attention of the Department in previous years to a similar delay.

"That our Secretary have approved Scheme printed and circulated as soon as possible."

ADVERTISING CIRCUIT COURT SITTINGS

The following under date 18th December, 1931, was read from the Co. Registrar:-

"With reference to the publication of the County Wexford Circuit Court sittings for 1932, the Law requires that these must be published at least two months before the first sittings in some paper circulating in the county. The Minister for Justice states that County Councils invariably defray the cost of such advertisements, and that as comprehensive Lists have already been printed and distributed, he considers that a short advertisement (copy attached) would be sufficient, so as to reduce the cost to a minimum.

"I would thank you to bring this matter before your Council for their approval."

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr. O'Byrne seconded by Mr. McCarthy:- "That the County Registrar be informed that the County Council are prepared to pay for insertion of advertisement calling attention to the dates of Circuit Court Sittings and copy of which accompanied his letter of 18th December, 1931."

RATES ON BANTRY AND BLACKSTAIRS COMMONS

The following under date 15th December, 1931, was read from the Secretary, Carlow County Council:-

"I have been directed by the Carlow County Council to bring under the notice of the Wexford County Council the seizure of sheep belonging to persons resident in County Carlow for rates due to Wexford Council when said sheep cross the mountain into County Wexford. The Carlow County Council appointed a deputation of five members to meet a deputation of a like number of the Wexford County Council to see if any arrangement could be arrived at so as to avoid a continuance of this unsatisfactory state of affairs, and I shall be glad to know if the Wexford County Council will appoint such a Deputation. It also has suggested that Enniscorthy would be the most convenient place for said Deputation to meet."

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Col. Quin seconded by Mr. O'Byrne:- "That the following deputation with our Solicitor be appointed to meet the deputation from Carlow County Council relative to rates on Bantry and Blackstairs Commons:-, Messrs Brennan, Shannon, McCarthy, Doran and Cline, conference to take place in Enniscorthy Courthouse at 11 a.m. on 19th January, 1932."

FLOODING AT SCAR - ROAD NO. 57

The following under date 26th December, 1931, was read from Mr. Kehoe, Assistant Surveyor, for the district:-

"There are five people who own land by the river bank at Scar where Road No. 57 is flooded after heavy rains and none of them are inclined to do any work in the way of cleaning out the bed and the sides of the river.

"I saw the river on Saturday last and I don't think there could be anything effective done in the way of cleaning at present owing to the amount of water along the whole way.

"I would suggest that the matter be deferred for three

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or four months."

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Col. Quin seconded by Mr. Hall:- "That consideration of the question of cleaning up river at Scar, be deferred for three months."

NEW ROSS BRIDGE - COMPLAINT AS TO OPENING

Mr. T. Kearns, Harbour Master, New Ross, forwarded the following complaint from Capt. W. Tyrell of the Motor Vessel "Pacific" of Dublin, under date 21st December, 1931, and the truth of which the Harbour Master said he could verify:-

"I wish to bring to your notice a complaint about the opening of New Ross bridge on the 19th instant. The above named vessel (Pacific) was loaded at noon on the 19th December, and the bridge had been ordered for us to pass through at 1 p.m. We were kept waiting till 3 p.m. before bridge opened, due I believe to the Electrician not being able to be found to cut off current. This may not seem much to write about but the two hours' delay meant we did not get through bridge till 3 p.m. and consequently it was only touch and go whether we would get through Barrow Bridge before dark. As it happened we were allowed to pass through at 5 p.m., "after sunset"; otherwise we could not have sailed till following day, and had this been the case I should have claimed demurrage for the delay. Furthermore 24 hours or even 12 hours" delay in our little vessels this time of year often means the loss of a passage, and a delay of weeks if weather comes bad in the meantime. If this had happened me I should have gone the limit to make you be responsible for such delay. I would be pleased if you would enquire into this matter so that it will not occur again. It will be to your advantage as well as to the shipping that may be delayed."

The County Surveyor said that the Electricity Supply Board agreed to have a man available at all time and at all stages of tide. He understood that the Supply Board were to put in a

cable.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Col. Gibbon seconded by Mr. Walsh:- "That copy of letter from Capt. Tyrell of motor vessel "Pacific" as to the delay in opening New Ross Bridge on 19th December last be forwarded to the Electricity Supply Board for their observations and that they be requested to provide an electric cable in connection with the bridge."

POISONS AND PHARMACY ACT

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr. Hall seconded by Mr. Culleton:- "That renewal of licence under Poisons and Pharmacy Act 1908 issue to Robert Butler, General Merchant, St. Ivers, Broadway, as from 9th December, 1931."

VACCINATION LAWS

The adoption of the following resolution from Waterford Corporation was moved by Mr Hall seconded by Mr Corish:-

"That the Government be requested to amend the Law dealing with Vaccination so that persons who believe that Vaccination would be prejudicial to the health of their children will not be liable for penalties under the Vaccination Acts."

A poll was taken with the following result:-

For:- Messrs Armstrong, Brennan, Cline, Colfer, Cooney, Corish, Cummins, D'Arcy, Doran, Gaul, Hall, Hayes, McCarthy, O'Byrne, Shannon, Smyth and the Chairman - 17.

Against:- Messrs Culleton, Gibbon, Quin and Walsh - 4.

Miss O'Ryan (1) was not present when poll was taken.

The Chairman declared the resolution carried.

HOUSING ACCOMMODATION

The following resolution from Tipperary S.R. County Council was adopted on the motion of Mr. Hall seconded by

Mr. O'Byrne:-

"That owing to the great want of proper Housing accommodation at present existing in the Saorstát, we call on the Government to at once introduce legislation so as to initiate a great new Housing Scheme on National lines, a new loan to finance the scheme to be floated if necessary. We consider that the want of proper housing facilities for the workers is a serious grievance, as especially no new houses were erected in rural areas under the public boards for nearly twenty years, and we consider that the matter should receive immediate attention from the Government and all political parties and public boards in the Saorstát."

FREE STATE CONSTITUTION ACT

Copy of the Statement sent to the Papal Nuncio, Cardinal McRory and the Bishops of Ireland as to certain provisions in above Act forwarded by Maude Gonne McBride were read for the meeting.

During the reading, Col. Quin said that as the document was purely political it should not be read or considered.

The Chairman said the Council should hear what it was all about and when it had been read it was open to them to take whatever action they desired.

Mr O'Byrne, when the document was read proposed that it be marked "read".

Mr. McCarthy seconded.

The motion was declared carried by the Chairman, Mr. Cummins being the only dissentient.

MOTOR CAR ACT ADMINISTRATION

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr. Cummins, seconded by Mr. Doran:- "That we request Motor Taxation Section of Local Government Department to deal as soon as possible with all claims for refund of portion of licence duty for 1931. Many owners of cars entitled to

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a refund must take out licence for year 1932 at once,
and it would be of considerable financial help to them if
they could count on the refund to make up the amount of duty
for next year.

Michael Doyle