

WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL.

MEETING - 11TH FEBRUARY, 1929.

MINUTES.

N J FRIZELLE
S ECRETARY

FORTVIEW
WEXFORD

THE MONTHLY MEETING OF WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL WAS HELD IN THE COUNTY COUNCIL CHAMBER, FORTVIEW, WEXFORD; ON 11TH FEBRUARY, 1929.

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

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

The Minutes of last Meeting were read and confirmed.

RATES FOR 1929-30.

The meeting was specially summoned for the purpose of adopting the Rates for General and Separate Charges for financial year, 1929-30.

Under date, 2nd February, 1929, the following letter was read from the Secretary, County Councils' General Council:-

"I have been directed to inform you that a Special Meeting of the County Councils' General Council was held on yesterday for the purpose of taking action to have effect given to the following resolution adopted by the Council on 26th April, 1928:-

"That this Council draws the attention of the Executive Council to the treatment of Agriculture in England since 1898 as compared with the treatment meted out to Agriculture in this Country.

"In England the Agricultural Grant each year since 1898

amounted to 50% of the actual rate on Agricultural land up to 1923, and since that year to 75% of the rate on Agricultural land. It is proposed to still further increase the Grant for relief of rates on Agricultural land in England.

"This Council now recommends that our Government should at once extend to Irish Agriculture the same measure of assistance in the matter of increased Agricultural Grant as is being accorded to Agriculture in England."

"The Council appointed a Committee to explore the means by which the desired object could be achieved and to enter into negotiations with the Executive Council of Saorstát Éireann for this purpose. The Committee is to report the results of its efforts to an adjourned meeting of the General Council to be held on Friday, 1st March.

"I have been also directed to suggest that County Councils should postpone the adoption of estimates for the forthcoming financial year pending the report of the Committee, and that the Minister for Local Government and Public Health should be requested to grant extension of time, where necessary, in striking the rates for 1929-30".

Chairman.- I don't know if it will make very much difference even if you go ^{on} with your Rate to-day. I am afraid you will not have any legislation to deal with the matter for some time. However, it is open to the Council to take any action which they consider necessary. We might have some ways and means devised as there have been in other countries to give us relief.

Mr D'Arcy asked if, in the event of postponing the adoption of the Rate to next meeting, it would be possible to have any effective legislation within a month.

Miss O'Ryan said, even if relief did not come in time, it might be possible to apply it to the second moiety. As regards

relief itself, farmers were 70 per cent of the community and what relief they got as ratepayers would have to be made good as taxpayers. Until this Government had courage enough to stop some of the money that was going out of the country, there would be no relief for farmers.

Colonel Quin.- The farmers of England are only $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent of the population, while in this country they represent 70 or 80 per cent. England was an enormously rich country; Ireland was not and they could not afford the money necessary to provide for the de-rating of land. I think the proposal is beautifully Utopian, largely propaganda, and a lot of it "gallery".

The Chairman said they had a resolution from the Wexford District Executive of the County Wexford Branch of the Farmers' Union which it would be well for the Council to hear.

The following is the resolution:-

"That we, the members of Wexford District Farmers' Union Executive, feel dissatisfied with the members of the County Council in not adopting the resolution that came before them relative to the de-rating of Agricultural Land in the Saorstat".

Mr O'Byrne said that the farmers in Northern Ireland represented thirty-three and one-third per cent of the community and they were to get the benefit of de-rating of land.

Mr D'Arcy.- They have the land annuities in Northern Ireland and, if we had these and de-rating, it would settle the whole thing.

The Chairman said that the annuities was a political question. If any party wished to dispute the legality of the present position why not go into a court of law and settle it. The party advocating it would be perfectly right in taking a test case and having it decided. The country was divided on the question in many ways but the Party, who so strongly advocated the retention of these annuities in the country, would be justified in taking up a few test cases and having the matter decided in law.

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Colonel Gibbon said they had to face the facts. The agricultural community in Wexford had never been worst hit since he began farming than they were last year. Reading an account lately of the annual meeting of one of the big English banks, one saw the statement that, although the English farmer had one of the best harvests for years owing to favourable weather, still, owing to the slump in prices, the year could not be looked on as otherwise than disastrous. He (Colonel Gibbon) had been farming in Wexford for 12 years, and this year the yield of crops was the most disastrous he had experienced. He never had corn "drowned" out in the same manner as last year, nor had he ever before had to hand weed his land three times to keep it clean. In face of the good harvest, relief from rates on land is to be given to the farmer in England who had been in clover compared to the farmer in County Wexford, and he wished to know how they were to find the heavy rates until some relief was afforded to them. He did not know if the de-rating solution was altogether practicable. That was a question ^{for} of the Government. But they should represent to the Government that they should see how the local agricultural ratepayer is to be assisted in such a terrible time as he had been through.

Colonel Quin proposed:- "That this meeting decides to adopt the rate for 1929-30".

Mr Corish said that something would have to be done for the relief of the farmer. He was in favour of the consideration of the rate being adjourned for a month. It might cause some inconvenience but that could not be helped. The different Councils all over the country should not strike their rates until the Government seriously considered the question of a measure of relief for the farmers. Something would have to be done for the farmer as it was apparent he was not getting what he was entitled to for his labour and for the capital he had put into the land. The different County Councils should be circularised to get the General Council of County

Councils to appoint a deputation to put the matter before the Minister for Finance.

Mr O'Byrne.- The General Council have appointed a Committee and I don't think you can do much harm by adjourning the adoption of the rate to-day. This would strengthen the hands of the Committee of the General Council.

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

"That the adoption of Rate for 1929-30 be adjourned to 11th March, 1929, the date of next meeting of the Council".

Colonel Quin's motion to adopt the rate at that day's meeting was not seconded.

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

"That the Minister for Local Government and Public Health be requested to extend the time for the adoption of the rate for 1929-30 by this Council to 11th March, 1929".

Colonel Gibbon said they should urge the Government to set down an early date for the discussion of the question in An Dail as to how the problem was to be faced.

Mr Jordan said that the Farmers' Party had approached the Government in the matter of relief for the farmer as far back as last October but nothing definite had been yet decided. He believed they would get something, not as much as was given in England because it was not possible.

MINUTES OF COMMITTEES - FINANCE.

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

"That the Minutes of Finance Committee, in respect of meeting held on 17th January, 1929, submitted as follows, by the Secretary, be received and considered":-

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The fortnightly meeting of the Finance Committee was held in the County Council Chamber, Fortview, Wexford, on 17th January, 1929.

Present:- Messrs Sean O'Byrne, John Murphy, James Hall, T. McCarthy, J. E. Walsh,.

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

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

The Minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed, after which Mr. James Shannon, vice chairman attended and presided for the remainder of the meeting.

PAYMENTS.

Treasurer's Advice Note for £3945: 3 : 6d was examined and signed.

RATE COLLECTION.

The following represents percentage of amounts of poor rate collected in respect of first moiety of Rate for financial year 1928-29 ~~collected~~ up to 17th January, 1929:-
 E. J. Murphy 99; J. J. O'Reilly 96; J. Curtis 95; J. Doyle 94;
 J. Quirke 93; T. Rowe 93; Philip Doyle 92; J. J. Sinnott 92;
 S. Gannon 92; Art Dunne 91; M. Deegan 90; P. Donohoe 87;
 J. Cummins 87; P. Furlong 86; W. Cummins 85; P. O'Byrne 85;
 T. Sutton 83; M. Kelly 72; M. O'Hanlon 66; No.5 District;
 (J. Quirke and P. Furlong) 30; No.14 District (J. J. O'Reilly and J. J. Sinnott) 41.

It was decided that all Rate Collectors be communicated with and asked to explain why they did not, as directed by Finance Committee, close their warrants for first moiety of current rate by 31st December, 1928. Also that all Collectors who had less than 87 per cent of this moiety collected be

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summoned to meeting of Finance Committee on 31st January, 1929, and directed to bring their collecting books to this meeting in order that the Committee would be in a position to examine all items of first moiety rate outstanding.

The amount of second moiety of rate collected to 17th January, 1929, was £3238: 15: 11d out of a total of £61007: 16: 2.

RATES ON SMALL DWELLINGS ACT.

Under date 7th January, 1929, Mr. J. Quirke (Secretary Co Rate Collectors) wrote, on behalf of the Collectors, for an allowance towards travelling expenses in connection with the making of returns of holdings under the above-mentioned Act. According to instructions Collectors had to visit every holding valued to £5 which meant four or five weeks of extra travelling for which they thought a fair amount of remuneration would be £1 for each electoral division.

The meeting did not - in view of the fact that the information obtained by the collectors in this instance would be the means of making their work in future years much easier as regards the actual work of collection - consider the claim of the Collectors should be acceded to.

DAMAGE TO PROPERTY (COMPENSATION) ACT, 1923.

Under date 4th January, 1929, the Local Government Department wrote (R/DB/32) stating that the Minister for Finance had again drawn attention to the delay in payment by Wexford County Council of £19,772: 11/- due under the above-mentioned Act. It was requested that the special attention of the ~~Minister for Local Government~~ Council be called to the letter with a view to having the amount cleared off without further delay.

It was decided to request the Council at the Meeting in February to pay an instalment of the amount and to call the

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the attention of the Minister for Local Government to the fact that the Council found great difficulty in getting in rates and would discharge their liability in full the moment they were in a position to do so.

APPLICATION FOR INCREASE OF SALARY.

Under date 3rd January, 1929, Mr. John J. Roche, Coroner for South Wexford, applied for an increase in his salary of £100 per annum owing to increased work. Probably - Mr. Roche pointed out - the Council were not aware that under the New Coroner's Act very little discretion is left to Coroners regarding the holding of Inquests. In cases which before were left to the discretion of the Coroner it was now compulsory on him to hold inquests. His district extended 79 miles in one direction and 33 in the other. Should he be unable to attend an Inquest he had to pay for the services of a deputy.

The meeting having considered the application decided to adjourn the matter to next meeting.; Mr. Roche to be asked in the meantime, to supply details of the Inquests held by him for each of the three past years with the names of the places in which they had been held.

TOURIST DEVELOPMENT RATE.

Under date 12th January, 1929, the Secretary of the Irish Tourist Association wrote, asking for payment of the full amount of rate for the current year practically all of which had been already spent in preparation for the record tourist season assured for 1929.

It was decided that the County Council be recommended at next meeting to make as large a payment as was possible to the Association having regard to the condition of the finances of the Council.

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INCOME TAX- COURTTOWN HARBOUR.

It was decided that Income Tax demand in connection with Courttown Harbour, amount £1: 3: 3d should be paid.

REPAIRS TO MACHINERY.

Under date 16th January, 1929, the following was read from the County Surveyor:-

"At meeting of County Council on Monday last, owing to pressure of business, and time taken up with Estimates the Council did not deal with this matter of repair which is now pressing. As you know each Councillor was supplied with detailed particulars in regard to the cost of the work, and note of method of estimating, and, where possible to obtain, I supplied quotations from outside Firms for the various items. There can be no question, I think, that my Estimate was substantially the proper value of the work to be done, and I now ask the Finance Committee to give me instructions to proceed with it."

It was decided that the County Surveyor be given an allocation of £400 for repairs to machinery with an instruction to expend as little ^{as} possible out of this amount until it had been raised by the Council.

PREPARATION OF RECEIPT AND DEMAND NOTE BOOKS OF COLLECTORS.

Under date 14th January, 1929, the following was read from the Underwood, Typewriter, Company, 5, Leinster Street, Dublin:-

"For years past we have been drawing the attention of County Council Secretaries to the economy which can be effected in the cost of filling up Rate Demand Forms on the Simultaneous System. The saving in every direction is so considerable that we have brought the matter to the notice of the Local Government

Department, with specimens of the work, which must be admitted by all to be immeasurably superior to anything ever performed in the old way.

The possibility of this great saving of time, money and the trouble of quadruple or quintuple checking will be obvious to the Council, but in case of any doubt we hereby tender to carry out the whole work of type-filling the forms and checking the completed form with the Rate Books - all for a flat figure of six shillings per thousand ratings (six shillings per hundred), you to supply the necessary forms: there would be no increase for the inclusion of the alternative receipt demanded this year by the Small Dwellings Act.

We may say that for years past we have performed this work here for several County Councils, so that we are quite conversant with the task and we would do yours on the same lines.

We shall thank you to have this Tender submitted for consideration by the County Council at the appropriate time.

If you be interested in this question we shall be glad to hear from you at an early date, so that at your convenience, we could demonstrate the process and to give you any further ~~and~~ details that you might require".

The meeting having dealt with the cost of preparation of Receipt and Demand Note Books by the existing system and taken into consideration the fact that the temporary clerical staff engaged for this purpose belonged to the Unemployed and were, in the main, men with wives and families, decided that no advantage would be gained by employing an outside firm to perform the work.

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SHEEP DIPPING ORDER.

In connection with request of Sergeant Dwyer, Rosslare Pier for permission of the Council to prosecute eight persons for breaches of Sheep Dipping Order, and in regard to which the Council had directed the Sheep Dipping Inspector for Wexford District to call on the defendants and inform them they would have to dip their animals the Secretary reported that the Inspector had informed him that three of the defendants stated to him they would sprinkle dip on the sheep but were not prepared to dip them.

It was decided that, in the event of the defendants refusing to dip their sheep the Council should give permission for prosecution. The Finance Committee are not in favour of accepting sprinkling with dip as a compliance with the Order.

ILLNESS OF MR. J. J. FANNING.

The Secretary reported that Mr. John J. Fanning, Clerical Assistant in Co. Council Offices, was about being discharged from the Co. Mental Hospital on a month's probation.

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Rate Collectors and Rates on Small Dwellings.

Mr Cooney proposed and Mr Keegan seconded the following resolution:-

"That we dissent from the recommendation of the meeting of the Finance Committee of the 17th January, 1929, declining to approve of the payment of any remuneration to the Rate Collectors for their work in compiling returns under the Rates on Small Dwellings Act, and that we hereby agree to pay to the Collectors a sum of 10/- per Electoral Division to cover the extra work which the Collectors had been called on to perform".

The Secretary said the amount involved would be £59.

A poll was taken with the following result:-

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

Against:- Colonel Gibbon, Colonel Quin, Messrs Brennan, Culleton, D'Arcy, Doran, Hall, Jordan, Mayler, Roche, Smyth, Walsh, and the Chairman. 13.

Mr Murphy was not present when the poll was taken.

The Chairman declared the motion lost.

Tourist Rate.

Mr Culleton proposed:-

"That we strike no rate for Tourist Development for the coming financial year and do not contribute anything to the Tourist Association".

Mr D'Arcy seconded and said that he thought some time ago 36 hotel proprietors had a fine holiday on the continent and when they came back they recommended that the conditions were so different over there that it would be ridiculous to put the hotels in Ireland on the same footing. He did not believe the farmers got anything at all from the tourist traffic like what they suggested. It was stated that in County Wexford last year they got £75,000, but he thought the people who got the benefit were

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the owners of hotels.

Colonel Gibbon suggested that the grants for tourist road improvement depended on striking a rate to help the Tourist Association. It would be a good investment to give £400 in order to get grants of a couple of thousand pounds.

The Chairman said there was a certain amount of money allocated to different counties and he thought that, without the interference of anyone, the grants would come if they were entitled to them. Of course, he was not an authority on the matter. The Tourist Association might^{do}/some useful work in getting the grants but he did not think they were the people who got them.

Mr O'Byrne said the Association's application was for a rate of $\frac{1}{4}$ d in the £ - £410. He believed they had got benefit for their contributions. The Association had been responsible for getting £3,000 in grants for the County and, if they had not been contributing to the Association, these grants would have gone elsewhere. The Association were doing good work in bringing people to the country and he thought it would be economic on the part of the Council to give the $\frac{1}{4}$ d in the £.

Mr McCarthy said he wished to support the recommendation of the Finance Committee for the rate of $\frac{1}{4}$ d in the £ as last year. He looked upon it as a good investment for the country. If the farmers did not directly get the benefit, they indirectly got it, and, if £2,000,000 came to the country last year, it must have meant something for the country: None of them might get it directly, but if it came into the country it should be a benefit. He thought they should encourage the tourist traffic and the small amount they were asked to spend would, in his opinion, be an excellent investment. The Tourist Association were a very influential body, and it was probably through their influence that the grants for the tourist roads were obtained.

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They had got £3,000 up to the present and at the moment they were endeavouring to get a grant for the road from Wexford to Rosslare and from Rosslare to Rosslare Pier. He did not say they would be successful, but they were doing their best. All the accounts of the Association were audited by the Local Government Department and the greater part of their funds was spent on publicity; and Wexford got its share of that publicity. He thought the Council would be wise to strike the rate.

Mr Keegan supported Mr McCarthy's statement. If the farmers did not get a lot out of the tourist traffic there were other people in the country who had a right to live as well as the farmers- the hotel keepers, servants, motor owners.

Mr Culleton.- To my mind the railway companies and shipping companies are getting the lion's share.

Mr D'Arcy agreed and said the companies should carry out publicity work.

Mr Walsh also spoke in favour of striking the rate.

Mr Jordan said he believed with Mr McCarthy that money contributed to the Tourist Association was really money well spent. As a public man he thought they should encourage any movement that was going to bring money to the County. He thought the country lent itself to tourist development as well as any other country in Europe, and the day would come in this country when they had the tourist traffic developed as it should be, when they could put a tax on tourists as in other countries, but they had to induce them to come to the country first. He was out for economy himself but he thought it was in the interests of everybody that there should be a contribution.

Mr Corish, in supporting the recommendations of the Finance Committee, thought it was apparent that, since the Association had become active, a great many people had been attracted to the country. If the railway and shipping companies had not the traffic that tourists were making, there

would be far more men idle. It had been stated that the Tourist Association could not give them money for the upkeep of roads, but their recommendations were very successful.

Colonel Quin said he was in favour of a contribution. Every man that came to the country had to eat something and they raised the cattle and other things for him and that was certainly good for everyone.

Mr Roche remarked that the tourist traffic tore up the roads and they got no compensation.

Mr Cooney said he thought the beet traffic was also doing a great deal of harm to the roads.

Mr Roche.- The beet question hits several ways, you know.

A poll on the acceptance of the recommendation of the Finance Committee resulted as follows:-

For:- Colonel Gibbon, Colonel Quin, Messrs Armstrong, Brennan, Clince, Colfer Cooney, Corish, Cummins, Doran, Hayes, Jordan, O'Byrne, Shannon, Walsh, McCarthy, Keegan, and Mayler. 18.

Against:- Miss O'Ryan, Messrs Culleton, D'Arcy, Hall, Roche, Smyth and the Chairman. 7.

The Chairman declared the recommendation of the Finance Committee carried.

Sheep Dipping Order.

The following resolution was adopted on a show of hands on the motion of Mr Corish, seconded by Mr Hall:-

"That the persons reported by Sergeant Dwyer at last meeting of the Council be prosecuted for breaches of the Sheep Dipping Order".

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Colonel Quin, ssconded by Mr O'Byrne:-

"That the Minutes of Finance Committee, in respect of meeting held on 17th January, 1929, be and are hereby confirmed".

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr Roche, seconded by Colonel Quin:-

"That the Minutes of Finance Committee, in respect of meeting held on 31st January, 1929, as submitted to this meeting by the Secretary, be considered, except the portion referring to the adoption of the rate which is adjourned to next meeting of the Council":-

The fortnightly meeting of the Finance Committee was held in County Council Chamber, Fortview, Wexford, on 31st January, 1929.

Mr. M. Doyle, Chairman (Presided) also present:-
Messrs J. J. Culleton, T. McCarthy, Sean O'Byrne; M.M. Roche;
James Shannon (V.C.); J. E. Walsh and Colonel Gibbon.

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

The Minutes of last meeting were read and signed.

PAYMENTS.

Treasurer's Advice Note for £2978: 6: 8d was examined and signed.

FIRE IN COUNTY SURVEYOR'S
OFFICE.

The following report was read from County Surveyor:-

"I beg to report that on the evening of the 22nd instant a fire broke out in my General Office at Fortview. At about 9 p.m., it was noticed that smoke was coming from the room, and at once the Civic Guards were noticed who came and also a number of other people, and the fire was got under control. It is impossible to arrive at the cause of the fire. My Clerks had left the Office about 5.30 p.m., and at the time Mr. O'Neill, Assistant Surveyor, and myself were in my office dealing with Pay Forms. At about 6.10 p.m., Mr. O'Neill left my office and went into the General Office merely to get his hat and coat which he had left there, and at once left the building. At this time the stove was out, having been quenched at about 4 p.m., but the gas lights were on as the Caretaker had not yet swept the room. After Mr. O'Neill left the Caretaker was in the room cleaning it out, and apparently left it all right. I have examined the timbers, and do not believe that it was possible for either the stove, or the flues from the lower floor, to have caused the fire. If there was any fire smouldering when the Caretaker was cleaning out the room

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he should have observed same.

"The Insurance Company have been notified and have authorised expenditure for making good structural and other damage, but they repudiate liability for the Insurance Cards and stamps. I have been in communication with the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, and the National Health Commission in regard to having the Workmens' Cards certified as correct. I have submitted a complete list of all the Cards dealt with during the half year period, with particulars of those discharged by being returned to the Workmen, and the number which were in the Office and destroyed."

The County Surveyor said that, in his opinion, the fire should have started from the surface of the floor and not from the flue. It appeared to have been caused by something smouldering for some time.

The damage done was about £35. In addition they would have to pay something to ten men who had helped to extinguish the fire. The most serious loss was the National Health and Unemployment Stamped Insurance Cards and stamps which were in hands. These represented a sum of £574: 5: 11d. As they had in his office an exact record of the number of stamps which had been cancelled and which were in hands they expected to recover the amount from the Insurance Commission.

Mr. O'Byrne asked why were not the cards issued before the date of the fire.

The County Surveyor said they could not have been issued earlier. The men were paid at the Finance Committee of the 17th January; the stamps were purchased on the 18th and the cards for Enniscorthy were then dealt with and issued. There was not time to deal with the others between the 18th and the date the fire occurred, the 22nd. They had an absolute record of all the stamps and were in communication with the Ministry of Industry and Commerce in the matter.

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

"That we return our best thanks to Chief Superintendent McCarthy and the Gardi under his charge for the expeditious manner in which they dealt with outbreak of fire in the office of the County Surveyor on 22nd instant. As we understand that some of their uniforms were damaged by water etc., when engaged in this service we request the Chief Superintendent to furnish any claim which he considers should be dealt with in this connection and which will be forwarded to the Insurance Co., with a recommendation for payment.

"That the ten civilians, whose names have been submitted by the Chief Superintendent to this meeting, be paid a sum of 15/- each in recognition of the assistance which they gave and to cover damage to their clothing &c; the Insurance Co., to be asked to meet this amount, as the prompt measures taken on the occasion prevented the fire from getting hold on the entire building".

ESTIMATE OF RATES FOR GENERAL & SEPARATE CHARGES:
FINANCIAL YEAR 1929-30.

Before considering the figures for General Estimate of Rate, the meeting decided to hear Mr. Barry of the Irish Tourist Association, as to the rate for Tourist development.

Mr. Barry said it was not necessary for him to emphasise the great benefits derived from tourist traffic by practically all sections of the community. It had been estimated that the amount spent last year by tourists was £2,500,000, representing an increase of £400,000 over the previous year. This was the result of publicity and propagands which had been carried out with the support of the public bodies of the country, who contributed about £10,000 for publicity purposes. He asked them to continue this support in the same measure as last year if they were not able to see their way to increase it. The Tourist Association believed that about £75,000 had been spent

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by tourists last year in the County, an increase of about £10,000 on 1927. Last year also the Association had made representations to the Department of Local Government which helped to obtain grants for the improvement of tourist roads. They had taken steps to improve hotel accommodation and appointed a qualified Inspectress. He thought it would be admitted that, during the twelve months, hotels had improved very considerably. He estimated that of £100 taken by a hotel, 75 per cent went to outside people.

The Chairman pointed out that, in Rosslare and in other seaside resorts, owners of hotels were farmers and were able to provide their own vegetables so that the local people obtained practically no benefit.

Colonel Gibbon said, if the Council agreed to the amount of last year's contribution, it would really represent double what they gave owing to the economic depression in the County.

It would not be possible, even if they were willing, to make any increase on last year's figure.

Mr. McCarthy mentioned that the Tourist Association should do what they could to obtain a grant for the improvement of Wexford-Rosslare road, and it was decided that the matter be considered at the meeting of the Roads' Committee.

Colonel Gibbon mentioned that the most useful work the Association could do for Wexford would be to make representations to the Great Western Railway Company to construct a road for motorists to travel over from the end of Rosslare Pier. The present arrangements were hampering tourists owing to cars having to be loaded on the railway. When a man arrived at the pier, he expected that he would be able to drive straight away and not be held up as at present. He did not think it would be a very big engineering job.

The County Surveyor mentioned that the best way for the motor track would be between the rails.

After further discussion, Mr. O'Byrne proposed:-

"That the Finance Committee recommend the County Council to agree to the same amount of tourist rate for the coming year as provided for in last year's estimate!"

Mr. McCarthy seconded.

Mr. Culleton proposed:-

"That, owing to economic stringency, no rate be struck for tourist development for the coming year".

The Chairman seconded.

After further discussion, a show of hands was taken when it was found that three were in favour of the amendment and four against. One member did not vote.

The Chairman declared the amendment lost, and on the original motion being put, on a show of hands, four were in favour and three against.

The Chairman declared the original motion carried.

The meeting then dealt with the figures in the General Estimate from the following tables submitted by the Secretary:-

Estimate County Services 192930.

Expenditure	1929-30	1928-29	Increase	Decrease
	£	£	£	£
Public Works	7483	4566	2917	
Salaries: Secretary's Office	1911	1902	9	
Salaries other Co. Officers:-				
Analyst: Lamplighters &c.	341	326	15	
Retiring allowances & Gratuities	339	339	-	
Cost of Rate Collection	3864	4293		429
Refunds of Irrecoverable Rates	3500	3000	500	
Franchise & Jurors Lists	1656	1693		37
Printing in connection with				
Registration Act ...	449	426	23	
Valluation ...	208	208		
Members Travelling Expenses	210	235		25
University Scholarships	700	700		
Primary Scholarships	830	755	75	
Legal Expenses	308	306	2	
Coroners and Inquests	320	286	34	
Printing & Stationery	170	170		
Postage & Office Requisites	297	275	22	
Advertising Pleasure Resorts	410	412		2
Other Advertising	395	220	175	
Contribution Co. Council General				
Council ...	20	20		
Conveyance of Prisoners	144	65	79	
Weights and Measures	60	45	15	
Food and Drugs	100	110		10
Salaries Court Officials &c.	97	97		
Rents & Expenses of Courthouses	383	370	13	
Library Scheme ...	820	412	408	
Reformatories & Industrial Schools	4590	4285	305	
Courtown Harbour £106				
Rent Old Jail £207	313	313		
Refund to Wexford Urban				
Adjustment Financial				
Relations ...	30	30		
Diseases of Animals Acts,				
Salaries, Veterinary & Sheep				
Dipping Inspectors	677	510	167	
do Other Expenses	532	695		163
Audit Fee £85:Dept Interest				
£1050	1135	1135		
Superannuation allowances -				
ex-Union Officers ...	1603	1773		170
Superannuation allowances -				
Ex-R.D. Council Officers	280	217	63	
Contingencies	750	750		
Money supplied Mental Hospital	21000	20306	694	
Agriculture & Technical Instruction	3323	3338		15
Election Expenses	-	1160		1160
TOTALS	£59248	£55743	£5516	£2011

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The meeting then considered the detailed items making up the County Surveyor's estimate for Public Works.

For the renovation, &c., of Wexford Courthouse, the County Surveyor had included a sum of £2000.

Colonel Gibbon proposed that this item be struck out and that the best arrangements with regard to the Courthouse so as not to raise the money for the repairs this year, be considered by the Council.

Mr. Roche seconded.

Passed.

This item was accordingly struck out.

In connection with proposed repair of Ferrycarrig Bridge, the County Surveyor reported that he had already called the attention of the Council to the closing of the bascule span. There was still some slight movement and the tops of the piles at the opening span were becoming fractured. By postponing its repair this would certainly become worse, if not absolutely dangerous.

Colonel Gibbon proposed and Mr. Roche seconded:-

"That the £450 for proposed work at Ferrycarrig Bridge be struck out of the estimate and, if the Council find later it is necessary to attend to same, that the amount be raised in next year's estimate."

Passed

As regards money included for dredger at Courtown Harbour it was decided that it would be struck out of the estimate at the County Council meeting unless a satisfactory assurance was received from the fishermen that they would bind themselves by legal instrument to work the dredger when necessary.

It was also decided to strike out £50 for making roadway to Carne Pier.

These reduced the County Surveyor's Estimate for Public Works by £3817.

The following items in the County Surveyor's estimate for

for Public Works were then adopted:-

Bridges:-

	£	£
Wexford - Maintenance	1 00	
Repairs	<u>50</u>	150
Ferry carrig - Maintenance		50
Deeps - Maintenance		30
Edermine - Maintenance	£25	
Repairs	<u>£50</u>	75
New Ross - Maintenance	£70	
Caretaking	£50	
Repairs	<u>£150</u>	270
Mountgarrett;-		
Maintenance	£20	
(Roadway)		
Caretaking	<u>£15</u>	35
TOTAL	...	<u>£610</u>

Bridges (Loans) -

Deeps	£278
Mountgarrett	£ 913
Waterford	£435
TOTAL	...
	<u>£1626</u>

Harbours:-

Courtown - Repairs	£50	
Improvement	<u>£375</u>	£425
Poulduff - Repairs		20
Carne - Improvement (Arrears)		200
Kilmore- Repairs	£100	
Dredging	<u>£200</u>	300
Fethard - Repairs		50
Slade - Repairs		50
Duncannon - Repairs		50
Arthurstown - Repairs		50
Ballyhack - Repairs		10
TOTAL	...	<u>£1155</u>

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Courthouses -

Enniscorthy	...	£25
Gorey	...	£25
New Ross	...	£25
General	...	£ 50
TOTAL	...	£125
County Buildings		£ 150
TOTAL	...	£150

Summary:-

<u>Bridges</u> - Ordinary Maintenance and Repairs	£610
Loans	£1626
<u>Harbours</u>	1155
<u>Courthouses</u> & Co. Buildings	275
	£3666

Colonel Gibbon said that, with the system of road contracts extended, and modern means of locomotion, he considered they could do with one Assistant Surveyor less. In fact, to his mind, it would be more satisfactory if they had but four Assistant Surveyors - one for each County Electoral area. If it were absolutely necessary to take on drainage and harbour works an additional one could be taken on. In his opinion, six Assistant Surveyors for 2000 miles of road were absolutely uncalled for.

The County Surveyor disagreed absolutely with Colonel Gibbon. He found the present staff essential and when the Committee of the Council considered the amount of supervision done by the Assistant Surveyors, they should remember that very often for ten or twelve miles of travelling to quarries

and special works the whole day was taken up. The inspection of 2000 miles of roads would certainly mean at least travelling 4000 miles. It was absolutely wrong to believe that Assistant Surveyors had nothing to do but travel by motor all over the County.

Colonel Gibbon mentioned that, in the past, a good deal of the time of the Assistant Surveyors was spent in supervising work on trunk roads which were now put into repair and would not require much supervision.

The Chairman thought it would be better if the suggestion of Colonel Gibbon was considered when a Surveyor resigned or left the service. The Council would then have an opportunity of dealing with the entire question of road supervision.

After further discussion, Colonel Gibbon proposed and Mr. Culleton seconded the following:-

"That we recommend to the County Council that the staff of Assistant Surveyors be reduced by one".

A poll was taken with the following result:-

For:- Messrs Roche, Culleton, Colonel Gibbon and the Chairman...4.

Against:-Messrs McCarthy, Walsh, Shannon and O'Byrne.....4.

The Chairman gave his casting vote in favour of the motion which was accordingly adopted.

All the figures of the General estimate having been gone through in detail, the only reduction made was that in postage and Office Requisites..

Mr. Roche mentioned that agenda papers to members and other stencilled matter issued from the office could be sent under half penny stamp.

The amount included for Separate Charge No.28 (part of transferred balance on Wexford Rural District Charges Account) was reduced from £2390 to £1195.

RATES IN THE £

The rate in the £ on the allocation agreed to by meeting is 8/- in the £ for General charges and Separate Charges are as follows:-

✓

No.	Name of Charge	Area	Rate in £
4	Repayment Arklow Harbour Loan	Barony of Gorey	1½d
20	Expenses, Labourers' Acts	Enniscorthy R.D.	5½d
21	Expenses Labourers' Acts	Gorey R. D.	2½d
22	Expenses Labourers Acts	New Ross R.D.	5½d
23	Expenses Labourers Acts	Wexford R.D.	4d
25	Part of Balance transferred from Enniscorthy R.D.Charges Account	Enniscorthy R.D.	3½d
28	Part of Balance transferred from Wexford R.D.Charges Account	Wexford R.D.	3d
1A	Expenses Public Health Acts	Enniscorthy R.D.	1½d
2A	Lighting Newtownbarry Town	Townlands of Ballinapark & Newtownbarry	5½d
4A	Post Office Act	Oulart Dispensary District	½d
5A	Sewerage	Clonroche Dispensary D.	2d
1B	Sanitary Works & Water Supply Gorey R.D.	Gorey R.D.	1½d
1-100	Public Health Acts	New Ross R.D.	½d
1D	Water Supply Rosslare	Wexford R.D.	1½d
4D	Public Health Acts	Taghmon & Glynn Dispensary D	1½d
7D	Public Health Acts	Bannow Dispensary District	½d
<u>Criminal Injury Decrees:</u>			
226	Decrees of Circuit Judge- Francis W. Bailey	Wexford Urban District.	Included via Demand on Wexford Urban Dist
227	Brigid Kirwan		
228	Thos. O'Hanlon and Vincent O'Hanlon		
229	Crim. Injury Decree Alexander Kinsella; Thos Behan, James Maher	Co. Electoral area of Gorey	¾d
230	Crim. Injury Decree: Wexford Hibernian Association Football Club	Wexford Rural & Urban District District of Wexford in equal parts	¼d (£5:1:3 £5:1:3 included in Demand on Wexford Urban Dist

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No.	Name of Charge	Area	Rate in £
231.	Crim. Injury Decree: Mrs Mary Kate M'Tamney	Electoral Divisions of Drinagh, Killinick, Killscoran, St. Helen's, Tacumshane, Lady's Island, Rosslare and Tomhaggard.	2d

KILMANNOCK DRAINAGE SCHEME.

Proposed by Colonel Gibbon, seconded by Mr. O'Byrne, and adopted:-

"That the County Council be recommended to raise a sum of £83: 7: 10d, drainage rate for Kilmannock District as set out in Charging Order of Office of Public Works".

Colonel Gibbon mentioned that it was most essential that the County Surveyor should consult with the drainage ratepayers of this area as to the necessary maintenance drainage work to be done and its cost. He proposed a resolution to this effect which was seconded by Mr. O'Byrne and adopted.

RATE COLLECTION.

The state of the Rate Collection in respect of amounts collected for first moiety of Rate for financial year 1928-29 was submitted as follows:-

E. J. Murphy 99 per cent; J. J. O'Reilly 97; J. Curtis 96; J. Doyle 94; T. Rowe 94; J. Quirke 94; J. J. Sinnott 93; P. Doyle 92; A. Dunne 92; Sean Gannon 92; M. Deegan 92; P. Donohoe 89; W. Cummins 89; P. Furlong 88; P. O'Byrne 85; T. Sutton 64; M. Kelly 75; M. O'Hanlon 73; (No. 14 District - J. J. O'Reilly and J. J. Sinnott) - 61; No. 5 District (J. Quirke and P. Furlong) 52;

The amount outstanding on this moiety was £8168: 19: 9d and on second moiety £55,540: 15: 8d with £3732 arrears of previous rates.

Letters of explanation for their failure to close Collection on 31st December, 1928, as directed by the Finance Committee were read from the following Collectors:- J. Cummins; W. Cummins; J. Curtis; Deegan, Donohoe, John Doyle; Philip Doyle, A. Dunne; Sean Gannon; E. J. Murphy; J. J. O'Reilly; Quirke, Rowe and Sinnott.

The statements of the Collectors attributed the backward condition of the collection to the following :- Poor prices for live stock; derelict farms; difficulty of setting land, awaiting result of proceedings in Decrees.

The following collectors were summoned to attend the meeting with their books:- Messrs W. Cummins; Furlong; M. Kelly, O'Byrne, O'Hanlon, T. Sutton.

Collector W. Cummins thought he would be able to close his collection by the 19th February (Fair day of Enniscorthy).

Mr. O'Byrne said that they should under normal conditions have 50 per cent of second moiety collected at the moment.

Collector Furlong said he would not be able to give a closing date. He would get a good deal of money when the payments for sugar beet were available.

The Chairman said that Mr. Furlong should make a special effort to close.

Collector M. Kelly said he was owed over £100 in two instances.

Attention was directed to the amount of arrears., viz., £479 in this collector's district.

He admitted that tho! stock was grazed on a derelict farm he had never made a seizure.

The Chairman said unless Mr. Kelly made a determined effort to close his warrant the Council would be compelled to dispense with his services.

Collector P. F. O'Byrne came before the meeting.

The Chairman pointed out that Mr. O'Byrne had outstanding in arrears £591 which was the largest in any of the

c collection districts..

Collector O'Byrne said that the arrears of rate on B. Bantry Commons and derelict farms would account for £200.

Chairman - If you don't get in the rate or at least try to get it in we will not continue you in office; We can't carry on the Institutions unless the Collectors get in the rates and if you do not carry out your duty we cannot retain you in office.

In reply to Colonel Gibbon, Collector O'Byrne said he had brought nine or ten cases into Court. He was successful in some and in others he had to pay costs.

Collector O'Hanlon said that owing to the district being strange to him, as he was only recently appointed temporary collector, the work in connection with Voters & Jurors and the Small Dwellings Acts, the rate collection got into a backward state. Then a number of people who knew that the books of the former collector had been destroyed were surprised that the Council knew they had not paid their rates.

Chairman - When do you expect you will be able to close? We want the money and in consequence of all that is outstanding we have no money to pay our bills or finance our Institutions. If we can't get the rates we cannot carry on.

Collector O'Hanlon said he could not give a definite date as to when he would be able to close. He was doing his best.

Chairman - You will have to do something better than your best.

Colonel Gibbon - Have you brought any one into Court ?.

Mr. O'Hanlon - No but I expect to shortly.

Collector Sutton said he had a number of derelict farms in his district. All outstanding items were in the hands of his Solicitor. He expected that he would be able to collect only 91 per cent of his warrant; the balance was irrecoverable. He had about £300 of the second moiety collected.

Chairman - You must make a great effort to get in all the money within the next fortnight.

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Under date 25th January, 1929, the Department of Local Government wrote as follows (G.5530/1929 Wexford County) relative to proposed appointment of Rate Collectors for Districts Nos. 5 and 14.:-

"I am directed by the Minister for Local Government and Public Health to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 22nd instant forwarding resolution adopted by the Wexford County Council at their meeting on the 14th instant relative to the appointment of rate collectors for Nos. 5 and 14 District and

I am to state that while the Minister regrets that the Council have not taken the opportunity of reducing the number of collecting districts he is not prepared to raise any objection to their proposal to appoint new collectors for Districts Nos. 5 and 14.

"In addition to the terms of remuneration and security required the advertisement should specify a suitable standard of general education and should indicate that preference will be given to any candidate otherwise suitably qualified with a knowledge of Irish. Appropriate age limits should be mentioned..

"A draft of the advertisement should be submitted for consideration before issue".

After discussion the following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr. O'Byrne, seconded by Mr. Culleton:- "That age limits for Rate Collectors to be appointed for Nos 5 and 14 Districts be fixed at from 21 to 45." "That we point out to the Minister for Local Government that the qualifying examination for the positions covers the following subjects:- Irish, English and Arithmetic".

~~EX-RATE~~ COLLECTOR McCARTHY.

The following under date 25th January, 1929, (G.5531/1929 Fa Wexford Co.) was read from the Department of Local Government:-

"I am directed by the Minister for Local Government and Public Health to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 22nd instant relating to the claim of ex-Collector C. McCarthy for compensation on resignation and I am to state that Mr. C. McCarthy

was removed from Office for his failure to adequately discharge the duties of his Office as Rate Collector. Section 44(3) of the Local Government Act, 1925, accordingly does not apply and the Minister could not consent to any proposal to grant Mr. McCarthy a gratuity".

Mr. John Joyce, Butlerstown, Broadway, applied for refund of rates paid on wireless station and houses at Carne since the date they became vacant.

Referred to Mr. Furlong, Rate Collector for the district, for his observations.

In connection with ratings Nos. 82 £1: 3: 3d; 84 £3: 0: 4d; 33 £3: 10: 5d; 109 £6: 8: 10 and No. 220 £1: 8: 6d in Killinick E.D., for Rate 1927-28 letter was read from Messrs Huggard, Brennan and Godfrey, Solicitors, that the Reps. of Martin Kehoe, the rated occupier had paid the amounts to Mr. C. McCarthy and they would defend any proceedings which might be taken for their recovery.

Under date 22nd January, 1929, Mr. C. McCarthy, Senior, wrote, that he met Mrs Kehoe by appointment in the offices of the Solicitors mentioned. He gave her to understand that without the production of a receipt from his son he could not possibly pay the money but that he would write to his son and if it had been paid he would remit the amount to her or to the Secretary of the County Council.

Mr. McCarthy, Senior, came before the meeting and said that a brother of Mrs Kehoe stated he was present when the money was paid to his son when some conversation about the sale of a pillion for a motor cycle took place. He had written to his son mentioning this incident and if his son definitely stated the money had been paid he would be responsible for it. He might have a letter in a week's time.

It was decided that consideration of the matter be adjourned to next meeting.

Mr. McCarthy also mentioned that tho' both of his sons

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had been working as Rate Collectors for the Council they had not been paid any poundage since January twelve months.

Chairman - We will pay the moment we receive the sanction of the Local Government Department.

MESSRS MOLONEY AND HAWKINS: TEMPORARY CLERKS.

The Local Government Department forwarded letter received from Mr. Henderson, Secretary Local Government Officials Union asking Minister to sanction Messrs Moloney and Hawkins as permanent Officials in accordance with resolution passed by County Council.

Mr. Henderson's letter stated that his Committee had carefully considered the number and duties of the clerical staff, and, even with the possible return of Mr. Richards, Taxation Officer to his former duties, the essential work of the County Council could not be carried out with a smaller clerical staff.

The operation of the Local Government Rates on Small Dwellings Act 1928 was certain to increase the duties of clerical staff.

Mr. Walsh stated he considered this was a matter which should be dealt with by Local Government Department as the Co. Council had already given their decision in the matter. He proposed that the Local Government Department's attention be called to the resolution adopted by County Council on this matter on 11th June, 1928.

This was seconded by Mr. O'Byrne.

Passed.

The Secretary stated he submitted the following Scheme of permanent staff organisation to Local Government Department:-

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Service

Appointed Co.
Accountant in
1911.

T. A. Frizelle - Assistant Secretary and Accountant

Appointed
Clerical
Officer 1899

C. H. Richards - Local Taxation Officer

Appointed
Clerical
Officer 1911

J. H. Cadogan - To act as 1st Clerk and Clerk
in charge of Rates Department.

Temporary
Official for
six years

J. Moloney - Clerk in Accountant's Office.

Temporary
Official for
five years

P. Hawkins - To act as Abstracting Clerk in
Rates Department.

Appointed
Clerical
Officer in
1920

S. Hayes - To keep Road Books and Forms 22;
fill fortnightly Paying Orders,
Treasurer's Advice Notes &c.

Transferred
from R.D.
Council to
County Council

J. J. Fanning - Do do do do and
also superintend temporary staff
engaged in writing up Rate Books
and Rate Collectors' Receipt and
Demand Notes.

Appointed
1923

Miss M. Frizelle - Shorthand-Typist.

Approved on the motion of Mr. O'Byrne, seconded by Mr.
McCarthy.

SOW DRAINAGE DISTRICT.

Under date 23rd January, 1929, the Secretary, Office of
Public Works wrote (195/29) as follows:-

"With reference to previous correspondence, we forward
herewith one sealed and certified copy of our Charging Order
in connection with the expenses incurred in the restoration of
the above named district under the Drainage Maintenance Act 1924,
together with a map of the district showing the improved lands
coloured green, the drainage works marked in red, and the boundar-
ies of the holdings, numbered to correspond with those set forth in
column 2 of the Schedule attached to the Order. A copy of the

Final Award dated 26th April, 1853, is enclosed, Schedule "B" of which sets forth the drainage works to be maintained by the County Council. The names as given in the Schedule of the Charging Order are those of the occupiers of the various holdings. The amounts payable by them in repayment of the cost of the works by half-yearly instalments etc., are shown therein. It is to be understood that the names are those of the occupiers in each case, and where the proprietor is not also the occupier (See sec.7 (2) of the Act), the amount due is collectable by the County Council from the occupier, who, in turn may recover the amount from the proprietor by deducting it from the rent payable by him..

"As you will observe the first instalment becomes due and payable by the proprietors or occupiers to the County Council on the 1st March next and b y the County Council to us on the 1st May following.

"It is important that the Council should arrange for the collection of the charges without delay as the instalment payable to us is subject to poundage at the rate of 1/- in the £ if the amount be not paid within 31 days of the gale day. This is a statutory charge and in no circumstances can poundage be remitted.

"The obligation on the County Council to pay the rent-charge to us is quite independent and separate from the obligation of the drainage ratepayers to pay ~~to~~ the County Council.

"The Secretary to the Trustees is Mr. John Murphy, Coolanickbeg, Cylegate, Enniscorthy, and you should communicate with him and arrange for the transfer of the books etc., of the Trustees to the County Council.

"We are having the Charging Order printed and a copy will be forwarded to you later. Further copies will be supplied if required at a charge of 1/9d each.

"We shall be obliged if you will kindly acknowledge the receipt of the enclosures to this letter."

The Secretary stated that in view of the resolution of

the County Council declining to take over this drainage system hee had submitted the correspondence to Mr. Elgee, Solicitor to the Council, who wrote as follows under date 24th January, 1929:-

"I am in receipt of yours of to-day's date enclosing letter No. 195/29 from the Office of Public Works enclosing Sealed and certified Charging Order and copy of the Final Award of the 26th April, 1853 dealing with the above Drainage District.

"I note from the letter that the Board of Works ask that the first instalment amounting to £131: 12: 2d due on the 1st March next should be paid to the Board of Works on the 1st May following and that they further point out that if the Charge is not then paid it will be subject to a poundage of 1/- in the £ if the amount be not paid within 31 days of the due day.

"I have looked into this matter and cannot see out of what funds the County Council could pay this ²Drainage Charge by the 1st May next, as in their Estimate for last year they have not included this demand, nor made any provision when they struck the Rate, for this payment, and the Council cannot collect the rate from the parties named in the Charging Order until they have struck same and issued Demand Notes for it.

"This Demand should be included in the Estimate for the Rate which the Council is now about to strike. The first date on which they would have funds in hands to meet the claim would be, when the rate for the half year ending the 30th Sept., next is received, as this is the first fund out of which they could possibly make a payment. This being so, I do not think that the Council should pay the instalment demanded at the present time without going further into the matter and explaining the position to the office of Public Works"

Colongl Gibbon referring to a statement made by one of the Trustees at last meeting of the County Council that he had written a letter to the Office of Public Works which had been quoted by Mr. Burke, Parliamentary Secretary, to a deputation

from the Trustees , said he had never written any letter to any official of the Department either officially or unofficially nor did he have any personal communication with any official of the Department in connection with the Sow ~~Brink~~ Drainage Area except when acting on the deputation to the Office of Public Works about a year ago and at which the Trustees for the Sow Drainage area were in attendance. .

After discussion the following resolutions were adopted on the motion of Mr. O'Byrne, seconded by Mr. Shannon:-

"That Mr. Seumas Burke, Parliamentary Secretary, Office of Public Works, be requested to receive the following deputation in connection with Sow Drainage District, in the forenoon of Thursday, 14th instant:- Colonel Gibbon, Messrs M. Jordan, T.D., R. Corish, T.D., and John J. Culleton, County Councillors, with two representatives appointed by the Trustees of the Drainage District! That the County Surveyor accompany the deputation".

"That, in view of the attitude of the Council as regards the taking over of this system, we direct our Secretary not to ask for any books or records in relation thereto until he be instructed to do so by the Council."

BOVINE TUBERCULOSIS ORDER.

Under date 14th January, 1929 the following letter (No. L2414-28) was read from the Department of Agriculture:-

"With reference to the Department's letter of the 3rd Sept. last, and previous correspondence relative to the question of the revision of the rates of remuneration of your Local Authority's Veterinary Inspectors for duties under the Bovine Tuberculosis Order, I have to enquire whether the matter has since been further reconsidered by your Local Authority as was evidently intended, having regard to the decision of the Committee of Agriculture and Technical Instruction at their meeting held on the 3rd September

"In connection with the matter, I have to append the following particulars indicating the number of cases recorded here as having

been dealt with by the individual Inspectors during the nine months ended the 31st ultimo, and to state that the Department will be glad to be favoured at an early date with the views of your Local Authority in regard to the proposed re-adjustment of remuneration:-

<u>Inspector</u>	<u>No. of cases dealt with.</u>
Mr. Taylor	25 cases
" Lynch	12 "
" Hayes	10 "
" Malone	9 "
" Mernagh	Nil. "

The following resolution was proposed by Mr. Shamon, seconded by the Chairman and adopted:-

"That the Finance Committee will be glad to receive from the Department their views as to the fixing of remuneration of Veterinary Surgeons under Bovine Tuberculosis Order".

APPLICATION FOR INCREASE OF SALARY - CORONER, SOUTH WEXFORD.

In connection with his application for increase of salary, consideration of which was adjourned from last meeting, Mr. J. J. Roche, Coroner, South Wexford, wrote, under date 30th January, 1929, that since the Coroners Act 1927, came into force, his work had increased about 250 per cent over 1927 and almost 400 per cent ~~more~~ over 1926. As very little discretion was left to Coroners under this Act, his work was more likely to increase rather than diminish. Since his appointment as deputy Coroner, some 19 years ago, he had travelled many miles in the service of the Council and never received one farthing towards such expenses, while, during a long illness in 1926, he had paid a Deputy from his own pocket. In another County a Coroner, with far less work to do, had his salary increased from £100 to £200 per year. The Street sweepers of Wexford had £130 per year and were supplied free with boots, etc., while the Coroner

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for South Wexford had £100 per year and had to pay all the enormous expenses connected with his office, out of his own pocket, including those of a Deputy.

From a return submitted by Mr. Roche, eight inquests were held in 1925, which would work out at £12: 10/- per inquest. In 1926, seven inquests were held, working out at £14: 5: 8 per inquest. In 1927, eleven inquests were held, working out at £29: 1: 10 per inquest; while in 1928, 27 inquests were held, working out at £3: 14: 0d per inquest.

Mr. Culleton proposed and Mr. Roche seconded:-

"That no alteration be made in the salary of the Coroner for South Wexford".

Passed.

APPLICATION FOR REFERENCE FROM EX-RATE COLLECTOR.

Under date 21st January, 1929, Mr. John J. Kelly, ex-Rate Collector, Sunnybank, Camolin, asked for a reference in connection with his employment as Rate Collector.

It was decided that Mr. Kelly should receive a reference in the following terms:-

"Mr. John J. Kelly, Sunnybank, Camolin, was appointed Rate Collector to the Wexford County Council on the 15th January, 1921. He discharged his duties with satisfaction for a number of years, but for the last two financial periods, as he did not collect the rates to the satisfaction of the Finance Committee, his services were dispensed with".

NEW BUILDINGS LIST.

Application of John O'Gorman, Poulpeasty, Taghmon, in respect of new house for insertion on New Buildings List, was agreed to, a report having been received from Mr. Sutton, Rate Collector for the District, that the house in question was a new two-storey dwelling containing eight rooms.

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DE-RATING OF AGRICULTURAL LAND.

The Chairman initiated a discussion, in view of the meeting of the County Council's General Council, on 1st February, 1929, relative to the de-rating of Agricultural Land.

Various members expressed their individual opinions for and against but no resolution was adopted.

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Fire in County Surveyor's Office.

In reply to a query, the County Surveyor stated he had been in communication with the Ministry concerned, relative to the men, whose cards had been burned, being paid the benefits to which they were entitled. The last thing he asked them was to have his certificate as to the destruction of the cards recognised at the local Employment Exchange so that they could deal with the men affected. He had not had a reply to this suggestion. However, he believed that the matter would be dealt with in a few days.

Kilmannock Drainage Scheme.

Under date, 9th February, 1929, the following report was read from the County Surveyor:-

As directed by the Finance Committee at the meeting held on the 31st ultimo, I visited Kilmannock and made inspection of the drainage area on the 6th instant. Present with me were Mr N J Murphy and Mr O'Neill, parties interested, and Mr O'Neill, Assistant Surveyor, was also present. At the lower reach of the Drainage area several other men met me. It was pointed out to me that, when the farms were bought out, a sum of £400 of the purchase money was ear-marked for the purpose of maintaining the embankment and the sluices, and that this sum is in the hands of Trustees and is invested. It is stated that no expenditure has been made since 1920 so that there must be an accumulation of funds for the maintenance of the embankment. At the present time, I believe the embankment is all right except in the corner near the sluices where some small repairs should be carried out. The sluices are apparently now in good condition, having been made good by the Board of Works as part of the expenditure charged against the local owners, and this is stated to be unfair as there were funds otherwise provided for the work. The local people maintain that the £1100 expended was not an economic proposition as the work could have been done for a considerably smaller amount.

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The area is at present in a fairly good condition but the upper reach from the embankment at the road to the Railway embankment will require to have some maintenance work carried out during the coming Summer. The Railway Company objected to the Board of Works deepening the channel under the culvert as they were afraid of their bridge foundations being undermined, and I am informed that they undertook to do the work themselves, but nothing has been done. I understand that the Trustees of the £400 above-mentioned have not appointed any Caretaker, and this I consider a default. There is a land-owner (William Doherty) adjoining the sluices who pays a high drainage rate for a small holding, and I believe would be a suitable person to put in charge. The County Council should consider whether it be possible to have a member of the Council added to the names of the Trustees of the invested Funds as any neglect on the part of the Trustees may endanger the whole drainage area.

I estimate that an expenditure, during the coming Summer, of £220 would clear the weeds out of the drains and leave the whole in fair condition.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Colonel Gibbon, seconded by Mr Brennan:-

"That, in connection with the Trust Fund of £400 for repair of the Embankment of Kilmannock Drainage Area, the Land Commission and the Office of Public Works be requested to state if this amount should be paid over to the Wexford County Council or the amount of annual interest only, as the Kilmannock Drainage System has been handed over to the Council under the Drainage Maintenance Acts, 1866 and 1894".

Mr Murphy gave notice of motion to consider appointment of Caretaker for Kilmannock Drainage Scheme at next meeting of the Council.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Colonel Quin:-

"That a sum of £20, as recommended in report of County Surveyor, for the maintenance of drains, etc., at Kilmannock Drainage System, be included in amount of Drainage Rate to be levied off the Drainage Ratepayers of the District".

Appointment of Rate Collectors.

It was decided that the Finance Committee should consider the standard of the examination for the position of Rate Collectors.

Mr Mayler proposed and Mr Colfer seconded the following:-

"That age limit for new Rate Collectors for Nos. 5 and 14 Districts be fixed at from 20 to 40".

The Secretary pointed out that no person could be appointed Rate Collector who was under 21 years of age.

After discussion, a resolution to confirm the recommendation of the Finance Committee as to age limit was proposed by Mr O'Byrne, seconded by Mr Roche, and adopted, Mr Mayler dissenting.

It was also decided that the Local Government Department be requested to allow the Council to make a payment (on account) of poundage fees to Messrs C McCarthy and M McCarthy, former Rate Collectors for No 5 District.

Now Drainage Scheme.

The following, under date 8th February, 1929, (2158/29), was read from the Office of Public Works:-

If we understand rightly the provisions of the Drainage Maintenance Act, 1924, the County Council has no power to refuse to take over the Drainage District, but as to this point, if in doubt, they will probably wish to consult the Department of Local Government and Public Health.

A copy of the original Award was sent to the Council on the 23rd ultimo, and we regret we have no copy of the original cross-sections.

As regards the deputation wishing to see the Parliamentary

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Secretary, we enclose for your information a copy of a communication forwarded to Deputy Jordan, relative to the points raised by a former deputation received by Mr Burke in December last. We doubt if any good will accrue from the Parliamentary Secretary seeing another deputation, at any rate unless they explain the particular point they wish to see him about and it turns out to be a new one.

The complaints of the drainage ratepayers have been fully investigated and we are satisfied that they are without foundation.

Copy letter to Mr M Jordan, T.D., was dated 8th February, 1929, No. 383/29. It was as follows:-

" You brought a deputation to see the Parliamentary Secretary Mr Seamus Burke, T.D., on this subject on 5th December, 1928. The deputation desired that further rock-cutting should be carried out in the district, in addition to the work of restoration which has been completed. Mr Burke pointed out that such additional work, if done at all, would have to be done as a new scheme under the Arterial Drainage Act, 1925, and he promised to obtain an estimate of the cost and a report on the proposal. Accordingly, our Chief Drainage Engineer has made an estimate for some extra sinking and side dressing of the Sow above and below Kilmallock Bridge. From his report it appears that it will be possible to make within any reasonable cost a relatively small improvement only along this section of the district. To excavate about 1 to 1½ feet deeper through the rock at Kilmallock Bridge and grade evenly above and below it involves work for about two miles along the Sow, that is, for roughly ¾ mile below and 1¼ miles above the bridge. This work would cost about £1,200 and would probably, if carried out, disappoint the ratepayers along this section. Others less directly interested would ~~not~~ no doubt criticise it as a waste of

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money. The alterations would make little or no real improvement along the very low lands near the upper end of the system where not only is the channel bottom of running and unsatisfactory material liable to silt but it is at the mercy of the rapid discharge from the much steeper reach of the district where it begins at Ballaghkeene Village. The fact is that floods will not be readily drawn from these low lands till a much quicker continuous fall can be got for at least $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 miles below them, the present average inclination being inadequate for efficient drainage on so small a river as the Sow. It would appear that the original main river excavation must have been largely based on, and limited by, the presence of the rock in the Kilmallock area, just as the existence of that rock modified the depths we aimed at when planning our restoration works.

If a new district were made and all the softer parts of the channel were machined out considerably deeper than they are now in order to reduce permanently the water levels along the very low lands it would, we are advised, still be essential to lower the rock bottom to suit at and below Kilmallock Bridge in order to induce a more rapid flow for floods in the outfall.

We should therefore deprecate any proposal to carry out the proposed works under the Act of 1925; but of course if a petition for them is sent to the County Council and transmitted by that body to us it will receive due consideration."

In connection with the letter of Mr Elgee, Solicitor, as to the payment of first instalment of loan to the Office of Public Works in view of the time at which the Rate would be raised, the following under date 31st January, 1929, (1564/29) was read from the Office of Public Works:-

We beg to inform you that, in the case of the Kilmannock Drainage District, the first instalment became due on the 1st May following the date of the issue of the Charging Order and was paid on the 31st of that month. Presumably there should

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be no difficulty in the Council adopting a similar course in this case.

The following, under date 16th January, 1929, was read from Colonel Gibbon:-

I have never written, to my knowledge, a letter, either officially or unofficially, to the Public Works Department, in connection with the Sow Drainage Works. The only conversation I have had with the Public Works Officials was when the Deputation was received about a year ago and at which Representatives of the Sow Drainage Area were represented. I shall be glad if you will kindly endeavour to obtain a copy of the letter which was said to be written by me.

Mr Jordan said he was very sorry he was not present when the deputation from the Sow District attended, as he could have pointed out that what they saw was a copy of the Minutes of a County Council meeting and they took these to have been a letter from Colonel Gibbon. They gathered from the statement that Colonel Gibbon considered the job had been a good one.

Miss O'Ryan said there seemed to be an idea among the Sow Drainage Ratepayers that the Council would let them down.

Colonel Gibbon said there were two points in the question about the Sow Drainage, one regarding the depth of the main drain, and the other the cleaning of the side drains. As regards the main drain, he never said whether the job was a good job or a bad one, but he did say that was a question of fact which could be settled by the County Surveyor taking the necessary levels and, when he had reported, they could ascertain how far the contention, as regards the views put forward by the deputation, had been borne out. So far, the County Surveyor had taken some levels; others, owing to flooding, he had not been able to take. He (Colonel Gibbon) never expressed any opinion one way or the other regarding the main drain. The question of the side drains was one of whether they formed

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portion of the drainage area or were private property of the landlord. A third question was that the Public Works Department finished cleaning the drain three years ago and he suggested that new cleaning be done. As regards his making a statement that the work was satisfactory, on the occasion of the deputation to the Office of Public Works and subsequently, he expressed the opinion that the work was not satisfactory and that the results were not satisfactory. As regards the inspection of the drain, he was the only one who went down through the flooded area. The County Surveyor and the Secretary could bear out that statement. He walked every yard of the flooded area. He strongly supported the case of the people of the drainage area against the Public Works Department, and pointed out that the job was not a good one. He never changed his opinion.

Mr Jordan, referring to the letter addressed to him from the Office of Public Works, said he did not agree with the statement that any work to be done must be carried out under the 1925 Act. He held that any work to be done would be only a continuation of the original work. It seemed to him that the whole difficulty arose over the meaning of the statement "restoring the drainage area to its original state". For some reason the Office of Public Works have not produced the original plans, which were very important and could not be found. They had other records, ^{to show} they contended that they had restored the place to its original state. He disagreed with that contention and one farmer told him that he had picked potatoes on the bank of the river where rushes six feet high were now growing. They also stated that the new work would cost £1,200, which he presumed they based on the amount they already spent which, in his opinion, was money squandered.

The Chairman said they would adhere to their decision not to take over this or any other drainage system in which

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the work carried out by the Board of Works had failed to satisfy the local people.

At a later stage in the meeting, Colonel Gibbon quoted from the Minutes of the County Council and, at the conclusion of his remarks, the Chairman said he considered that the whole matter had been cleared up.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Colonel Quin, seconded by Mr Brennan:-

"That the Minutes of Finance Committee, in respect of Meeting of 31st January, 1929, with the exception of recommendations as to adoption of rate, postponed to next meeting, be and are hereby confirmed."

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DEPUTATION FROM ROAD WORKERS.

The Council decided to hear a deputation from Road Workers after the adjournment.

Previous to resuming, one of the Councillors, Mr D'Arcy, was roughly handled by some members of a collection of about 200 workers who assembled outside the Council Chamber. As the result of the intervention of the members of the deputation and of some of the other workers in the crowd, Mr D'Arcy succeeded in reaching the Council Chamber.

The incident aroused great excitement amongst the workers, and matters looked rather ugly for a time, but following the appeal of Labour members of the Council- Messrs Corish, Shannon, Cooney, and Hayes,- the excitement abated, and other Farmer members were allowed to proceed to the Council Chamber without molestation.

Mr Hayes said that he and other members of the Labour Party were very sorry that Mr D'Arcy had been assaulted and he assured him that the Labour Members did not wish the incident to take place.

Mr D'Arcy said that he did not blame the Labour Members of the Council for what had happened. He quite understood that, where they had a number of men such as had congregated outside, it was very hard to control them.

Mr Shannon said that no ~~more~~ one was more sorry than he was on account of the attack on Mr D'Arcy. Unfortunately, he was not present when the attack took place; if he had been there, he thought he could have averted it.

Mr Cooney said he felt very sorry that any member of the Council should be attacked coming there as a member of the Council. Of course, there were a few hotheads in every crowd that could not be controlled. Of course, Mr D'Arcy would not blame the majority of Labour.

Mr D'Arcy- Not at all.

Mr Cooney said they had to admit that Mr D'Arcy was fighting for his principles as the Labour members were fighting for theirs.

Mr O'Byrne also expressed regret for the attack on Mr D'Arcy.

The following deputation came before the meeting:-

Messrs Francis Purcell (Head Office, Transport Union), P J Fanning, Cullenogue, Gorey, William Boggan, Whiterock, Wexford, Andrew Cleary, Enniscorthy District, Peter Byrne, Camolin, Patrick Lawlor, do.

Mr Purcell said that the deputation had attended on behalf of some 400 roadmen who were about to lose their employment through the reversion from the direct labour system to the contract system. He wished to express their sincere regret for the unfortunate incident that had occurred. The Deputation and himself wished to disassociate themselves entirely from anything in the nature of violence. They were present in order to place their case before the meeting from two aspects. One was the economic aspect. The proposal to revert to the contract system was not, in the opinion of the workers, going to save the ratepayers. It was questionable if the cost of maintenance would be any cheaper but, even if it were, the saving would be offset by the fact that many of the men would sooner or later become a burden on the ratepayers through having to get Home Help. Secondly, it was the feeling of the workers concerned that the step that had been taken by the Council was not so much actuated by the desire to carry out their pledge to the ratepayers in regard to keeping costs low as it was an act of vindictiveness towards the workers, and it would be a pity if that feeling should prevail among a large section of the workers in County Wexford. There was no doubt about it, the men who were going to be disemployed would suffer tremendous hardship. They wanted the Council to consider the humanitarian aspect of the matter. They wanted them to look into the fact that probably a thousand souls would suffer severe hardship and, when that was considered, and in the light of the fact that they were going to gain nothing for the ratepayers, the workers believed that, in the name of all that was good in human nature, the Council should, even at that eleventh hour, draw back and not revert to the contract system. The workers were in a very indignant mood and, of course, that was quite natural. He was sure, if the members

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were in the position of a road worker who was going to lose his employment and have his children hungry, they would feel indignant too.

Mr P J Fanning, on behalf of the Gorey road workers and the Tara Hill carters, submitted the following resolution, which had been adopted at a meeting, held in Tara Hill on 8th February, 1929, on the proposition of Mr Michael Kavanagh, seconded by Mr James ~~Hugh~~ Hughes:-

"That this meeting of the carters of Tara Hill Quarry protest against the action of the County Council in going back to the system of maintaining the roads by contract, a system that was long ago conclusively proved to be destructive to proper road maintenance, and a system that will furthermore entail the dismissal of the road workers who have, during the past five years, under the system of direct labour, brought the County roads into their present improved condition. We protest against the action of the County Council as being equally detrimental to the interests of the ratepayers and the comfort and convenience of the users of the roads, as well as inevitably creating further unemployment and consequent destitution throughout the country, destitution that will mean an additional burden on the rates".

Continuing, Mr Fanning said that, five or six years ago, the Council, recognising the then existing acute unemployment and destitution, as the result probably of war and revolution, adopted direct labour, and it was a great surprise to everyone when, without ^{any} notice whatever, they again reverted to the contract system. There was no mention of the proposed change when the elections were being held some months ago, and it really amounted to a breach of confidence to spring such a surprise on the unfortunate road workers. The assault on Mr D'Arcy was very regrettable but they could understand that as the men were losing their employment they were very sore. Their living was being taken from them and they had nothing to depend on but the work

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of their hands. Mr D'Arcy knew many of the men in the Gorey and Tara Hill districts and he knew there was not a single farmer to give them a day's work when they were discharged. What way would those members who had large families feel if they had to go home to their wives and say they were deprived of the last shilling they had. That was really happening to the men. For the past five or six years there was not the slightest intimation from any councillor that they were going to revert to the contract system, or deprive the road workers of their means of livelihood - in fact all their discussions were directed to the maintenance of the roads by the direct labour system. He thought in all fairness they would all have to agree that the roads had vastly improved. The Council had not reverted to the contract system on the score of saving. They had agreed to the same estimate as last year for the direct labour system, so they were not going to save a farthing. Some of the members had put forward the contention that the carters would not lose anything by the contract system. He, as a carter himself, denied this. Mr Fanning, having given an example to prove that, under the new system, a carter would have practically nothing for his labour and would have to wait for months for his money, went on to ask what was to happen the 500 men who were to be disemployed as it was not possible for them to secure work on the land. What then would they do with these men? It was a more serious matter than they thought. Were they going to turn them out to starve? Some one said they would get the dole, but how long would that keep them? He did not think there was much dole coming to them. He thought the question was one for the Council. After all, they were the custodians of the people, and had not only to spend the rates, but to see that the people were not stricken with famine, and those men would certainly be stricken with famine if, as proposed, the Council refused to continue them in employment. Members of the Council were farmers. He was a farmer himself, and had always supported the farmers and

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had often exchanged blows with the Transport Union, but he was glad to be on the platform with the Union that day to plead for these men. He asked the Council with all the earnestness he could command not to dismiss the poor men. If they did, they would be sorry.

Mr Boggan said the contract system, under which he had worked as a boy, had failed but he hoped those on the opposite benches to the Labour Party in the Council would be prepared to admit that even with abnormal traffic the roads had improved under direct labour. The previous failure of the contract system would be repeated and the roads would go down as no small farmer could afford to pay labour and maintain the roads with present day traffic for the amount of money allowed. The roads could not be properly maintained under the reduced estimate of the County Surveyor and contractors would not be able to do the work. He appealed to the members of the Council to take into consideration the most needy class. Under the direct labour system a considerable number of small farmers got almost half the money for haulage. Now the Council were going to give all the money to the small farmers, and the man who had no means of hauling or of taking contracts was going to be placed on the side of the road with his wife and family, to live for a week on 6/- provided by the rate-payers for one day's work in the County Hospital. He hoped for a little more unity between farmers and labourers eventually, and that they would try to do their best in the interests of the labourers and farmers. He knew small farmers who were not in a satisfactory position, but at the same time an unfortunate worker was in a worse position. With regard to anything that had happened that day, he did his best to prevent it but, if any member of the Council had a loaf on the table, and some one came and grabbed it from his wife and children, he would be very sore, and the men outside thought the majority of the County Council were trying to steal the loaf off their table, which they got by long

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agitation and fighting. He hoped the members of the Council would do their best in the interests of the people of the County and, in doing that, they should not forget the unfortunate worker who had nothing but his two hands with which to earn a living.

Mr Lawlor, who had worked as a carter on the roads, said there were two roads in the Gorey district, to which he had drawn stones during the last three or four years. He could have tendered for those roads and had as good a chance of getting them as McDonald, the man who had got them, but he thought twice on the matter. There was a man who was employed on the roads since direct labour started, and he had nine children. He suggested that it would not look well to see another man taking those two roads from one who, after three months, was finished with the dole. Where was that man going to get work when the three months' dole was over? The eldest of his nine children was aged about ten, and he (Mr Lawlor) did not want to be the man to walk in and take the bread out of his mouth. He believed that it was not the labouring class the Council should strike at. It was the bosses of the country they should strike at, and the farmers of the county and of every county would be quite capable of striking at the bosses, and providing a means of livelihood for themselves and the labourers if they got the labourers/behind them but, surely, with the step they had taken they ^{were} ~~would~~ not going to bring this about

Mr Lawlor then referred at length to the necessity for farmers and labourers to combine to combat the middlemen who were not dealing fairly in the purchase of farm produce and stock.

Mr Purcell said they all realised that the present was a time of frightful economic stress for farmers and workers and, if they could not help each other, they should try to avoid doing their "^{damnedest} ~~damnedness~~" against each other. They should not inflict the misery that unemployment would involve.

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The deputation then withdrew, Messrs Purcell and Fanning thanking the Council for receiving them.

A long discussion then ensued relative to a notice of motion handed in by Mr Shannon to rescind the resolution of the Council reverting to the contract system and to the fact that the motion to revert to this system had not been made through a notice of motion.

Mr Elgee, Solicitor, stated that, when these motions arose, he had given it as his opinion that, according to the Public Bodies Order, it was unnecessary to move the resolution reverting to the contract system on notice of motion. Regarding the notice of motion of Mr Shannon to upset the decision of the Council reverting to the contract system, Mr Elgee held that, as this was not handed in until after the Council had finally confirmed the Road Works Scheme for the year, it was not in order.

Colonel Gibbon said he understood that a certain amount of direct labour would be continued in the quarries and on the trunk and first-class roads. He would like to know what proportion of the direct labour was being dispensed with. As some contracts had not been given out, he presumed the work on these roads would be done by direct labour. He also desired to know the saving that would be effected through the tenders that were accepted in Gorey district.

The County Surveyor said in regard to trunk roads and quarries about 30 per cent would represent employment. He had not gone into the figures and spoke offhand. The county roads were to be done by contract. One half of the roads offered for contract in Gorey were accepted and it was agreed that new tenders be asked for the numbers which were not tendered for, and there might possibly be more forthcoming. The price quoted was in most cases about that allowed. In a few cases, the price was cut - not more than 10 per cent. To do the roads that were not tendered for by direct labour would be difficult because they

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were isolated.

Mr Cooney.- How many men will be unemployed?

County Surveyor.- Three hundred and fifty, I suppose.

Mr Cooney.- Men with families.

Miss O'Ryan, who said that small farmers, big farmers and labourers were alike to her as long as they were good Irishmen and had the necessaries of life, asked for information on certain points, as she gathered from the County Surveyor's statement that all the men stated would be ~~through~~ thrown out of employment would not be unemployed, that some would be absorbed on the main and trunk roads.

The County Surveyor stated that £1902:10:0 was allocated for the roads in Gorey district for which tenders were accepted, and the amount of the tenders was £1827:18:1, a reduction of £74 odd.

Mr Corish asked if there was any member of the Council who could put up a defence for the contract system after the views they had heard from the deputation.

Mr Roche said the reason he brought forward the question of the contract system was that some people in his own locality, very poor men who had been road contractors, had ^{the roads} ~~rights~~ taken from them without any compensation whatever. They had no dole or any other means of livelihood and these men had made a very strong case to get back the roads. They had not enough land to live out of and could not work for anybody else. Since they had lost the roads, they were practically starving. It should be ^{remembered} ~~mentioned~~ that he mentioned ~~that~~ only third and fourth class roads in his proposal to revert to the contract system and said nothing about trunk or main roads.

Mr Hayes asked if some of the former road contractors in Mr F Roche's district did not secure haulage.

Mr Roche replied that some of them did and some of them did not.

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Mr Corish.- Did Mr Roche think that the proposal he made would have such a serious effect on the men who were employed? They had the figures of the County Surveyor.

Mr Roche.- I cannot understand Mr Barry's figures because I cannot say whether all the men are put out of employment.

Mr Cooney.- He told us before it was cheaper to go on with the contract system than with direct labour and now he has abandoned that argument.

Chairman.- He never mentioned anything about the price at all.

Mr Cooney said the man who told him that the small farmer was going to be left without bread and butter was making a mistake, whereas the reversion to the contract system would mean throwing 350 men who had no other means of earning a livelihood out of employment. Where were the farmers who would employ them? There would be no saving as these men would have to be provided with home assistance or in the County Home which would cost a great deal more than they would earn on the roads.

Mr Keegan said he did not believe the contract system would do any good but the direct labour system as it existed required amendment so that every man, whether belonging to the Farmers' or the Labour Union would get an equal share.

Miss O'Ryan said she did not think her colleagues would have supported the contract system if they were aware so many men would be thrown out of employment and advocated that preference would be given to road workers for roads untendered for.

Mr O'Byrne appealed to the Council to reconsider their decision and to continue the system of direct labour which had improved the roads and brought the administration of the County to a high standard which was being adopted by other counties. There was no chance of the money allowed for contracts being exceeded by the direct labour system.

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Chairman.- Will you get the same amount of work done?

Mr O'Byrne.- You have always got far more done.

The County Surveyor stated that £16,000 was allocated for main roads, and £30,000 for county roads, and the amount of labour would be proportionate. Anyone passing over the roads might imagine there were more men employed on the main roads than on the by-roads. ~~Because~~ On the main roads, there was a larger concentration of men per mile. It looked as if there was a bigger proportion of the County money expended.

Colonel Gibbon said he gathered from the County Surveyor's statement that a saving of £74 was effected by the tenders accepted in Gorey or practically 4 per cent of the total amount.

County Surveyor.- One point I would like to make in connection ^{with the} ~~the~~ saving is that it takes into account that the work would be as well done as under direct labour. I say that it will not.

Mr Jordan advocated the appointment of a small Committee of the Council to go into the matter. It was evident any further discussion at that meeting would not get them much further. The demonstration of the workers that day was not in the interests of their claim and, in adopting the attitude they did, they went the wrong way towards a settlement. He did not think it was right to put the Farmers' Party into the position that they were up against labour. They did not want to be up against anybody, and a small Committee of five or six, representing every party on the Council might find a way out. He moved that a Committee be appointed.

Mr Corish seconded the proposition to which he suggested the addendum that all meetings of the Road Tenders' Committees should be suspended.

Replying to the Chairman, Mr Elgee, Solicitor, gave it as his opinion that the scheme was already settled as final and binding on the Council unless the Department might see their

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way to sanction any change which the Council might propose to make. If the Committee were to meet, he suggested that *their* decisions be immediately submitted to the Department.

Chairman.- If it is the wish of the Council, I will put the proposal to the meeting. Mr Elgee has told us his opinion. To my mind, although, it may be an unpopular statement to make everybody has been considered except the ratepayers.

Mr Corish.- I don't think so.

Chairman.- I am stating my opinion. We didn't grumble at your opinion. I am stating that every consideration has been taken with the exception of the ratepayers.

Mr O'Byrne.- I don't think that is so.

Chairman.- That's my opinion. I am saying it is not a popular one. Still I have the courage of my convictions. I have no desire to thwart the Council if it is their will to appoint the Committee, but what I have stated is conscientiously my own opinion. I don't want to cast a slur on any member of the Council in stating that that is my opinion.

Colonel Gibbon said that, by reversion to the contract system, they would have to add the amount the Public Health Board would have to provide for the support of the unemployed men. At 6/- per man, this would mean £5,000 per annum. That was a very serious question. He felt that the saving which was shown by the tenders accepted in Gorey District was not sufficient/ ^{at the moment.} He, however, did not agree with Mr Corish's suggestion that the consideration of tenders should be held up until they had a chance of seeing the result of the tenders in other places. As an amendment he moved that Mr Corish's addendum be not included in Mr Jordan's proposition.

Mr Corish.- What good purpose can be served by opening tenders that are not going to be accepted. If Mr Jordan's intention, which he believed a genuine one, was to have any

good effect, tenders should not be drawn across it. He had an idea there was a feeling in the Council for the preceding half hour to go into the question wholeheartedly and without bias in order to ease the situation. He asked Colonel Gibbon to withdraw his amendment.

Colonel Gibbon replied he voted for Mr Roche's proposition simply and solely on account of the saving it would be to the ratepayers.

Mr Corish.- Can you prove a saving?

Colonel Gibbon.- We have got in a line from Gorey.

Mr Corish.- Supposing you get the same result in Enniscorthy to-morrow, what then will be the position?

Colonel Gibbon.- If I find there is no advantage to the ratepayers in the change, I would be more inclined to allow the direct labour system to continue.

Mr Corish held that even if the tenders amounted to £200 less than the figure allowed for the roads there would not be a saving.

Mr Roche held that, when he moved his motion to revert to the contract system he was voicing the opinion of 75 per cent of the ratepayers and he believed that still.

Mr Mayler seconded Colonel Gibbon's amendment that the road tenders in the other districts be considered. It would be unfair that intending contractors and their sureties should be brought to Enniscorthy on the next day and that no meeting be held. No harm could be done by accepting the tenders as had been done in Gorey.

Mr Corish asked if Colonel Gibbon would accept the suggestion that the tenders be merely opened and no decision arrived at on them until the special Committee proposed by Mr Jordan had reported.

Colonel Gibbon.- I have no objection to that.

Mr McCarthy said that, at the Tenders Committee ^{meeting} Committee at

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at Enniscorthy on the following day, the tenders could be accepted provisionally. Contractors and their sureties would be there and if bonds were not signed to-morrow, in the event of Mr Roche's resolution reverting to the contract system remaining in force, the contractors and their sureties would have to be brought in again which would be a really absurd proceeding.

The Chairman decided to take a show of hands on Mr Jordan's proposition, and twenty voting in favour of it, he declared it carried.

Mr Cummins said he agreed with the resolution as being the only way out of the impasse, but it appeared to him that that course was most illegal, as there was no reason in summoning a body of men with tenders which would not be considered.

Chairman.- We have passed the resolution.

Mr Cummins.- I am only stating my views and I did not want to intervene earlier.

Mr Hall moved that the Committee to be appointed comprise the whole Council; he believed it was work for the whole Council.

Chairman.- The recommendations of the Committee will have to come before the Council, so I think you are quite safe with the Committee.

The following were appointed on the Committee:-

Colonel Quin, Messrs Jordan, Corish, Keegan, Murphy, Hayes, Doyle (Chairman) and Shannon (Vice-Chairman),
to meet on Thursday, 14th February, 1929, at 10.30 a.m., in the County Council Chamber, Wexford.

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GOREY TENDERS COMMITTEE.

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

"That consideration of tenders from Gorey Tenders Committee be adjourned to next meeting of the Council".

APPOINTMENT OF RATE COLLECTOR FOR NO. 21 DISTRICT.

The following motion, of which he had given previous notice, was moved by Mr Murphy, seconded by Mr Colfer, and adopted:-

"That the County Council arrange for the appointment of Rate Collector for No. 21 District, fix remuneration for same, and advertise appointment when sanction has been obtained from Local Government Department".

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr Murphy, seconded by Mr Colfer:-

"That the remuneration to be paid incoming Rate Collector for No.21 District be a poundage rate at 5d in the £, with statutory fees under Electoral Act; that age limits be from 21 to 45. And that the usual examination of candidates in English, Irish and Arithmetic, be held and appointment made at the April meeting of the Council".

The consideration of the remainder of the business, in consequence of the hour, 4.15 p.m.,- many members having to leave to catch a train,- was adjourned to next meeting.

Michael Doyle

WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL.

M I N U T E S

SPECIAL MEETING - 25th FEBRUARY, 1929.

N N. J. FRIZELLE,
SECRETARY.

FORTVIEW,
WEXFORD.

A special meeting of Wexford County Council was held in County Council Chamber, Fortview, Wexford, on 25th February, 1929, for the purpose of agreeing to Rate for General and Separate Charges for financial year 1929-30.

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

The Secretary, the Assistant Secretary, the County Surveyor and Mr. John Elgee, Solicitor, were also in attendance.

The Minutes of last meeting were read and signed.

THE LATE REV. M. O'RYAN, C.C. POULFUR.

The Chairman said that before the proper business of the meeting opened he regretted to say that it devolved on him to propose a vote of sympathy with one of their members, Miss O'Ryan, in the great bereavement which had fallen upon her and her family thro' the tragic and early death of her brother, Father Martin O'Ryan, C.C. Poulfur. He (Chairman) was in close touch with the deceased when he was stationed in Wexford and in Camolin and knew him to be a ripe scholar and a great Churchman; in fact as a Churchman he had few equals in the diocese of Ferns. He (Chairman) knew Father O'Ryan intimately for many years and had been on platforms with him in times gone by. Father O'Ryan had always displayed the attributes of a thorough gentleman. He (Chairman) regretted

deeply that the occasion had arisen for him to propose this vote of condolence with the O'Ryan family and especially with Miss O'Ryan, their fellow member.

Colonel Quin seconded the motion which was spoken to by Messrs O'Byrne, McCarthy, Murphy, Gibbon, the Secretary, the County Surveyor, Mr. Elgee, and was adopted in silence.

MEETING OF ROADS COMMITTEE.

It was decided on the motion of Colonel Quin, seconded by Mr. Hall that the monthly meeting of the Roads' Committee should be held on 11th March at 10.30 a.m.,

RATES FOR GENERAL AND SEPARATE CHARGES FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 1929-30.

The Secretary stated that as directed by last meeting of the County Council he had asked the consent of the Minister for Local Government to allow the Council to agree to Rates for next financial year on 11th March, 1929. Since the Application had been made, the following Circular letter, under date 16th February (G.12465/1929 Ilgh., (F.a.)) had been received from the Department of Local Government:-

"I am directed by the Minister for Local Government and Public Health to state that he has had under consideration representations made to County Councils by the General Council of County Councils to the effect that the adoption of Estimates for the forthcoming financial year should be postponed pending the report of a Committee appointed to enter into negotiations with the Executive Council of the Government for the stated purpose of exploring means to secure an increase in the Agricultural Grant. Such postponement of the adoption of Estimates beyond the 1st March next would involve the concurrence of the Minister in a departure from the requirements of the

Public Bodies Order. The Minister desires me to intimate that he strongly deprecates any delay in the steps requisite to the making of the Rate.

'Councils have already been informed that the Government will provide for the forthcoming financial year an increased Agricultural Grant on the same basis as that allowed for in the current year, namely, £1,198,022 in total amount. It should be clearly understood that this represents the maximum relief admissible from national resources under this head.

The financial embarrassments from which many Councils are being slowly extricated have been due largely to delays in past years in putting into collection the rates needed for actual current outlay. Such delays have in numerous instances involved heavy charges for overdraft interest, and expenditure wholly unproductive. Ratepayers who have not had an opportunity of paying their rates at the due time have consequently been unfairly burdened by their proportion of overdraft interest.

'Even if merits were shown for re-arrangement of liability for local services between Taxpayers and Ratepayers no prospective alteration could be made effective in the forthcoming financial year without serious delay in the preparation or alteration of Rate Books and in the issue of Warrants for Collection. Such delay would still further dislocate local finances and add to liabilities for overdraft interest even assuming that Banks would be willing to lend further and that the Minister would feel justified in sanctioning advances.

'From special attention given to the recorded and published accounts of the proceedings of County Councils the Minister feels that such unsettlement as prevails amongst ratepayers generally may in large part be ascribed to exaggerative and unbalanced statements concerning the burden of rates which are

often permitted at Councils' Meetings and which receive wide-spread publication. During the coming financial year the Minister would recommend that each Council should appoint a small responsible Committee to carefully examine the figures as to the extent of the public services of the County, and to consider in what better manner than at present the ratepayers may be familiarised with the nature of services to which they subscribe by way of rates. It is felt that if the matter be examined in some ~~detail~~ detail a more accurate public opinion can be formed than at present as to the true proportion of rates represented in the annual outgoings of farmers and other ratepayers.

There is reason to believe that less dissatisfaction would be evinced if some of those who are most vocal in their grievances were invited to examine in their personal budgets

- (a) the relative costs of the services to which they contribute as ratepayers at present as compared with, say, 1914, and
- (b) to calculate what percentage of their own expenditure is represented by Rates.

The Minister does not wish it to be inferred that there should be any relaxation in the efforts which have been made jointly by Local Authorities and by the Department to secure all practicable economies. He feels, however, that it is only by reference to the exact facts of the local services and more common knowledge respecting them that local decisions may be averted which would re-act detrimentally on the care of the destitute poor and the sick and that essential revenues may not be unwisely retrenched the outlay of which would effectively diminish inevitable expenditure in the near future.

I am to request that where arrangements have not already been made to secure the making of the rate before the 1st proximo special meetings should be convened before that date".

The Chairman pointed out that the Minister maintained in his letter that if relief through derating were possible he could not promise it this year. He (Chairman) however, did not think from other portions of his letter the Minister possessed a wonderful grasp of local conditions. If he knew something more of conditions in rural districts he would hardly write such a tirade to the Council in the paying of rates. The real deterrent to the paying of rates was that people were unable to pay. If they had the money the rates would be paid as no ratepayer wanted a bailiff or Rate Collector going to his place a second time. The letter of the Minister was more or less compulsory on Councils as he stated that the rate must be made before March 1st. A deputation from the General Council of Co. Councils waited on the Minister for Finance but as to what transpired at the interview the Council had no information beyond a brief reference in the Press. He personally was of the opinion that there would not be any great dislocation created ~~by~~ by deferring the matter till after the meeting of the General Council of Co. Councils on Friday next. He was inclined to agree with the statement that this year they would ^{not} be able to obtain much relief but the Minister alleged several things in his letter which were not the case so far as Wexford County Council was concerned. He wished to reiterate his statement that no arguments used by the Council or any discussion which had taken place were responsible for rates not being paid. He knew a great deal about the conditions that prevailed and he was aware that the non-payment of rates was all due to lack of money.

Colonel Gibbon said he did not think the Minister's letter gave the full picture of the public burdens falling on the ratepayers. In the olden days the rates were very much less. They had not only the rates to look to. They had also Income Tax

which was enormously high. In olden times they had not to pay National Health Insurance. There was also the burden on the employer and the employer's liability insurance. In his case those payments were equivalent to 40 per cent rates. He did not think that the Wexford County Council had been dilatory in the collection of the rates and had never encouraged their non-payment.

Mr. P. Hayes dealing with Col. Gibbon's remarks in regard to National Health insurance pointed out that there was one society in the county which had paid £10,000 in benefits which was a relief to the ratepayers. If the society had not been in existence the people who received the benefits would have to be dealt with by the poor law.

Col. Quin - What Col. Gibbon is saying is we have got to pay them.

Col. Gibbon said his point was that the employers had to meet additional burdens in National Health and Employers' liability insurance.

Mr. Corish contended that the National Health insurance and Employers' liability insurance could not be designated additional burdens as their non-existence would have left the alternative of the recipients entering the County Home.

Mr. T. McCarthy said that the Employers Liability Act was in existence for forty years and the National Health Insurance Act had been in operation for seventeen years, but from Col. Gibbon's statement it would appear as if they were only operating a few years ago.

Replying to a query, the Assistant Secretary stated that the rates on land and buildings in 1914 were 3/6d and 5/1d respectively. The rates to-day were 6/2½d on land and 8/7½d on buildings.

Mr. Keegan - You have to consider the cost of living in 1914.

The Chairman calculated that the rates were to-day treble what they were in 1914. As to the statement of the Minister in his letter if the ratepayers were told how the rates were being spent he (Chairman) did not think that in doing so there would be the least alleviation of the burden on the ratepayers who returned their representatives to the Council and looked to them to disburse the rates and to give the best value for the money.

Mr. Corish said he considered the Minister's letter would do more harm than good as from it it might be inferred that the rates were not being properly spent.

Mr. D'Arcy - We should give a reply to the Minister's letter. We are capable of minding our own business.

Chairman - No, matter what way the County Councils move if it is not the wish of headquarters you might as well be idle. If it is their wish they will agree. If it is not they will turn it down. To my mind we are only a kind of figureheads here. The Minister should have given a chance to the Co. Councils to obtain a reply from their deputation and leave over the matter for another week.

Mr. McCarthy proposed and Col. Quin seconded the following:-

"That the meeting proceed to consider the recommendations of the Finance Committee in respect of meeting held on 31st January, 1929, and agree to making of Rates for General and Separate Charges for next financial year".

Mr. J. Cummins said they should realise that the General Council of County Councils was a most important body no matter what Mr. Mulcahy and those associated with him might think. The General Council of County Councils constituted the direct representatives of the people and they knew more about the feelings of the people and the conditions that prevailed in the country than the Minister. The reason the people were not paying the rates was owing

to their inability. He would not like to tell the people not to pay the rates; they required very little incentive seeing their incapacity to pay. He would, however, remind the Council of the course which should be taken - not to pay their annuities and have them sent across to England. If he were to advocate the non-payment of the rates it would mean inflicting severe hardships on the poor and the stoppage of the Council's liabilities for the maintenance of the County Hospital, the County Home and the Mental Hospital. There was, however, the other means of providing relief which he had advised - the non-payment of the annuities to be sent out of the country.

Col. Quin - Politics.

Chairman - Now Mr. Cummins - Col. Quin - Politics.

Mr. Cummins - There is no politics in it. The only politics in it is that the people are not able to pay.

The Chairman said they had no desire to flout the wishes of the Department and all the Council asked was a small concession - the deferring of the making of the rate for a week or fortnight until they got the reply of the Minister of Finance to the General Council of Co. Councils' deputation. The Council did not really know what transpired at the interview.

Mr. Roche proposed and Mr. Colfer seconded the following amendment:-

"That this Council defers consideration of their Rate Estimate until they have before them the report of the deputation of the General Council of County Councils to the Minister."

The Chairman said he did not want to force his views on the Council but they would not be supporting the General Council and their Representatives if they did not wait for the result of the deputation.

Mr. McCarthy said that while he appreciated the action of the General Council of County Councils they had passed the resolution postponing the agreement to the Rate subject to the approval of the

Minister and he considered they were bound to strike the rate before March 1st as the Minister did not agree to their request.

Mr. Elgee, Solicitor, in reply to query said if the Council did not comply with the requirements of the Minister the latter would probably dissolve the Council. The Council were plainly bound under the Order to agree to their Rates before the first of March. They had asked the Minister to extend the time but he had not seen his way to do so and that being the case it was essential that the Rate should be agreed to before 1st March.

Col. Gibbon stated that the General Council of County Councils should have arranged to call a meeting immediately after their deputation had been with the Minister in order that the Co. Councils would have the information from them before March 1st.

As matters stood the General Council of County Councils had left them somewhat stranded with the alternative of letting them down or contravening the regulations which Councils were supposed to administer. He did not see that they had any option to striking the rate on the information which they had before them.

Mr. Roche - We should show our dissatisfaction with the Minister's letter. I don't think the letter should be treated lightly.

Col. Quinn suggested as a way out that they express their dissatisfaction with the tone of the Minister's letter and state they considered it rather frivolous and that the seriousness of the position had not been considered. They could curse the Minister which perhaps would please Mr. Roche.

Chairman - I think the other way would be a stronger protest than what you suggest.

A poll was taken on Mr. Roche's amendment and the voting resulted:-

For:- Messrs Brennan, Colfer, Colloton, Cummins, D'Arcy, Keegan, Roche, Smyth and the Chairman9
Armstrong

Against:- Messrs Clince, Corish, Doran, Hall, Hayes, Jordan,

Mayler, McCarthy, Murphy, Sean O'Byrne, Shannon, Col. Gibbon,
and Col. Quin.....14.

The amendment was declared lost and Mr. McCarthy's proposition that the rate be agreed ^{to} was put and passed nem.con.

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

RATE ESTIMATE FOR YEAR 1929-30.

The following was then submitted to the meeting by the Secretary:-

"Details of Rate Estimate, recommended by Finance Committee for financial year ending 31st March, 1930, are submitted herewith. Forms 42 and 43 with explanatory Statement have already been forwarded. The allocation for Road Maintenance has already been fixed by County Council at £50436 or £3378 less than last year.

'The Finance Committee have recommended that the number of Assistant Surveyors be reduced by one.

'The County Surveyor's Estimate for Public Works submitted to Finance Committee amounted to £7483. This was reduced by Finance Committee to £3666.

'The Finance Committee have had to make provision for £725 in respect of refunds to Railway Companies owing to reductions in Railway Valuations for last financial year and the reduced valuations being operative in coming year the Council will have to bear the loss of £725 for next year in addition to the £725 refund payable to Railways Company for last year.

'The cost of maintenance of children in Industrial Schools has increased from £4285 to £4590. The allocation under this head shows an increase each year and is caused through the increase in the number of children in the Institutions.

' A sum of £410 has been included by Finance Committee for advertising Tourist Resorts.

'Details of the allocation for the various items in the Co. Services Accounts for 1928-29 and 1929-30 are attached.

The Demand of Mental Hospital Committee shows an increase of £694 over last year! "

The following Table gives particulars of the Demand of the Health Board under the various headings:-

Board of Health Demand 1929-30

	Demand of Board of Health for 1929-30	Demand of Board of Health for 1928-29	Increase	Decrease
	£	£	£	£
Board of Assistance				
General	55610	50000	5610	
Repayment Loans	2422	2423		1
	58032	52423	5610	1

	Demand of Board of Health for 1929-30.	Demand of Board of Health for 1928-29	Increase	Decrease
	£	£	£	£
Board of Health				
General	-	1085	-	1085
Joint District	2801	1330	1471	
Separate Charges	9167	12109		2942
	11968	14524	1471	4027
Gross Totals	70000	66947	7081	4028

The Demands of the Health Board were passed by Finance Committee.

The Finance Committee spent considerable time in determining the figures for all services and although increased amounts have to be raised for a number of services the meeting considered that, owing to the depressed state of Agricultural Conditions they could not be justified in striking a higher rate than last year. On amended allocations agreed to by Finance Committee the rates in the £ show a reduction on last year's figures and are as follows:-

Rates On Land.

		<u>1928-29</u>	<u>1929-30</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
		s : d	s : d	d
Enniscorthy -	General	5 : 6 $\frac{1}{4}$	5 : 7	
	Separate	1 : 1 $\frac{1}{4}$	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	
	Total	6 : 7 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 : 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	2
Gorey	General	5 : 6 $\frac{1}{4}$	5 : 7	
	Separate	6 $\frac{3}{4}$	5	
	Total	6 : 1	6 : 0	1
New Ross	General	5 : 6 $\frac{1}{4}$	5 : 7	
	Separate	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	
	Total	6 : 5 $\frac{3}{4}$	6 : 1 $\frac{1}{4}$	4
Wexford	General	5 : 6 $\frac{1}{4}$	5 : 7	
	Separate	10 $\frac{3}{4}$	8 $\frac{1}{4}$	
	Total	6 : 5	6 : 3 $\frac{1}{4}$	1 $\frac{3}{4}$
Average		6 : 4 $\frac{3}{4}$	6 : 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{4}$

Rates on Buildings

		<u>1928-29</u>	<u>1929-30</u>	<u>Decrease</u>
		s : d	s : d	d
Enniscorthy -	General	7 : 11	8 : 0	
	Separate	1 : 1 $\frac{1}{4}$	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	
	Total	9 : 0 $\frac{1}{4}$	8 : 10 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{3}{4}$
Gorey -	General	7 : 11	8 : 0	
	Separate	6 $\frac{3}{4}$	5	
	Total	8 : 5 $\frac{3}{4}$	8 : 5	$\frac{3}{4}$
New Ross	General	7 : 11	8 : 0	
	Separate	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	
	Total	8 : 10 $\frac{1}{2}$	8 : 6 $\frac{1}{4}$	4 $\frac{1}{4}$
Wexford -	General	7 : 11	8 : 0	
	Separate	10 $\frac{3}{4}$	8 $\frac{1}{4}$	
	Total	8 : 9 $\frac{3}{4}$	8 : 8 $\frac{1}{4}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Average		8 : 9 $\frac{1}{2}$	8 : 7 $\frac{1}{2}$	2

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Estimate County Services 1929-30.

Expenditure	1929-30	1928-29	Increase	Decrease
	£	£	£	£
Public Works	3666	4566		900
Salaries: Secretary's Office	1911	1902	9	
Salaries other Co. Officers:-				
Analysts: Lamplighters, &c	341	326	15	
Retiring allowances & Gratuities	339	339		
Cost of Rate Collection	3864	4293		429
Refunds of Irrecoverable Rates	3500	3000	500	
Franchise & Jurors Lists	1656	1693		37
Printing in connection with				
Registration Act...	449	426	23	
Valuation	208	208		
Members Travelling Expenses	210	235		25
University Scholarships	700	700		
Primary Scholarships	830	755	75	
Legal Expenses	308	306	2	
Coroners & Inquests	320	286	34	
Printing and Stationery	170	170		
Postage & Office Requisites	275	275		
Advertising Pleasure Resorts	410	412		2
Other advertising	395	220	175	
Contribution County Councils				
General Council	20	20		
Conveyance of Prisoners	144	65	79	
Weights and Measures	60	45	15	
Food and Drugs	100	110		10
Salaries Court Officials &c	97	97		
Rents & Expenses of Courthouses	383	370	13	
Library Scheme	820	412	408	
Reformatories & Industrial				
Schools	4590	4285	305	
Courtown Harbour £106: Rent				
Old Jail £207	313	313		
Refund to Wexford Urban				
Adjustment Financial Relations	30	30		
Diseases of Animals Acts:-				
Salaries, Veterinary & Sheep	1209	1205	4	
Dipping Inspectors: do other				
Expenses				
Audit Fee £85: Department				
Interest £1050	1135	1135		
Superannuation Allowances Ex-				
R.D. Council Officers	280	217	63	
Contingencies	750	750		
Money supplied to Mental				
Hospital	21000	20306	694	
Agriculture & Technical				
Instruction	3323	3338		15
Superannuation allowances -				
Ex-Union Officers	1603	1773		170
Election Expenses	-	1160		1160
TOTALS	£55409	£55743	£2414	£2748

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The Minutes of Finance Committee for 31st January, 1929, in relation to the Rate Estimate for financial year for 1929-30 were then read for the meeting. They appear on County Council Minutes of 11th February, 1929.

The following resolution was proposed by Mr. Hall, seconded by Mr. McCarthy:- "That the Minutes of Finance Committee Meeting of 31st January, 1929, in so far as same deal with the estimate of Rate for forthcoming financial year be received and considered"

Assistant Surveyors

The Chairman said that as regards the proposal of Col. Gibbon that the Co. Survey staff should be reduced by one he thought it would be well for the Council to discuss the motion in conjunction with the following notice of motion given by Mr. D'Arcy:-

"Should any Assistant Surveyor in this County leave his employment by any reason (resign or go out on pension or otherwise), that this County Council divide the area vacated by such Surveyor between the remaining Assistant Surveyors without any increase in salary. Further that the number of Assistant Surveyors should not exceed four for the County".

Col. Gibbon said he had brought forward his motion at previous annual meetings for considering the Estimate of Rates for the year. Assistant Surveyors owing to modern means of locomotion were now able to get about far more rapidly than in olden times, certain of their main roads had been completed and the supervision on them would not be very heavy and where work was being carried out on main roads the workers and the machinery were concentrated and a reduced amount of supervision only was necessary. With the modern system of road maintenance a surveyor should be able to handle a larger number of the

roads than he used to be able to handle in the past with a bicycle. With regard to Mr. D'Arcy's proposition, if the Council were agreed that a new Surveyor would not be necessary when a vacancy occurred, perhaps in five or ten years, surely they should make a reduction in the staff now. He had no fault to find with the Assistant Surveyors. He was only referring to the matter on principle in the interests of the ratepayers in general. They had got to cut down expenses.

Mr. D'Arcy - Col. Gibbon's motion is that we dismiss a man. We have six men, and how are we going to decide on the man to dismiss ?.

Mr. Cummins said he would like Mr. Elgee's opinion as to whether they could carry out Colonel Gibbon's motion at all.

Mr. Elgee - I would not like to give an opinion off-hand on such a large subject as that. I am not in a position to say off-hand if the Council have power to dismiss a Surveyor.

In reply to Mr. Corish, Mr. Elgee said he did not think Colonel Gibbon's motion could be discussed without notice.

Mr. Shannon suggested that Colonel Gibbon should withhold his motion until next meeting.

Colonel Gibbon said he was quite agreeable to withhold his proposition and allow Mr. Elgee to consider it. Mr. D'Arcy's motion, it appeared to him, might be operative during the life of the present Council, but it did not commit any subsequent Council to any action in the matter.

It was decided that Col. Gibbon's proposal be adjourned until Mr. Elgee had decided if it were necessary to give notice of motion to allow of its consideration.

Mr. D'Arcy, in moving his motion, said he had considered the law on the matter very carefully, and he had found out that if they dismissed a man they would have to pension him anyhow, so that the saving on the rates would be very immaterial, in his opinion. The

real intention of the motion was to get back to the system of some years ago when they had four district Surveyors for the County. Where work on a large scale was being done on a road the ganger supervised the work and materially relieved the responsibility of the Surveyor.

Mr. Brennan seconded Mr. D'Arcy's motion.

Mr. Corish said that on behalf of the Labour Party, he wanted to express himself as being absolutely against the motion. He considered it was only window-dressing, and that the amount of money saved would not be commensurate with the amount of efficiency lost to the Council. He understood that each Surveyor had an average of 330 miles of road to look after, and he thought if they asked a man to do any more and expected efficiency they would not get efficiency.

Mr. D'Arcy - They did 500 miles ~~more~~ before with a bicycle or a horse.

Mr. Corish - Yes, but did they do it ?. Supposing this resolution was carried could the Council insist on the remaining Surveyors taking on extra work without extra remuneration ?.

Mr. Elgee said he did not think they could until the terms and conditions of their appointments were revised, and unless they agreed to take on the work without extra remuneration.

Mr. Shannon said that if they superannuated a man they might have to give him two-thirds of his salary - it depended on the length of service. He believed a man would be worth the other third for his supervision.

Colonel Gibbon said that Mr. Elgee had stated that they could not get out of giving increased money to anyone for increased work without reconsidering the whole matter. If the Secretary had some extra work were they to take up the question that he was to get increased remuneration, or if the County Surveyor had increased work - drainage work for instance - would they have to consider the whole matter ?.

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County Surveyor - No, but you have to pay fees.

A poll on Mr. D'Arcy's motion resulted as follows:-

For:- Colonel Gibbon; Colonel Quin, Messrs Brennan, Colloton,
D'Arcy, Hall, Jordan, Mayler, Murphy, Roche, Smyth and the
Chairman.....12.
Against:- Messrs Corish, Armstrong, Clinee, Colfer, Cooney,
Cummins, Doran, Hayes, Keegan, McCarthy, O'Byrne, Shannon
and Walsh.....13.

Mr. D'Arcy's motion was accordingly defeated.

PREPARATION OF REGISTER OF ELECTORS.

Mr. D'Arcy moved and Mr. Murphy seconded the following
resolution:- "That the Government be requested to arrange for
the preparation of Voters' Lists every second year only."

A poll was taken on the resolution with the following
result:- For:- Messrs Brennan, Colloton, Cummins; D'Arcy; Doran;
Gibbon, Hall, Jordan, Keegan, Mayler; McCarthy, Murphy, O'Byrne,
Quin, Roche, Smyth, Walsh and the Chairman.....18
Against:- Messrs Armstrong, Clinee, Colfer, Cooney, Corish,
Hayes and Shannon.....7.

The Chairman declared the resolution carried.

The Chairman then called attention to the amounts due
the Council by the Urban Districts; particularly Wexford. The
members of the Council generally were not aware of the amounts
in question.

The Assistant Secretary stated that to the 31st March
next Enniscorthy Urban District owed £1841; New Ross £2301 and
Wexford £10,152. The latter had had considerable trouble with
Rate Collectors.

Mr. Corish said it could not be said the Wexford Corporation
were to blame as four Rate Collectors had gone wrong within the
past three or four years. They had made application to the
Local Government Department to allow them to raise the money to

pay over to the County Council and they were prepared to do this.

The Chairman said it should be realised that it was not the liabilities of the County Council that made the overdraft so large; the Urban bodies were responsible for a very considerable amount of it and they should make an effort to get their finances into a better state.

Mr. McCarthy said that Enniscorthy Urban was not backward and had arranged to pay two instalments of their demand as soon as possible.

Col. Gibbon said the amount due by the Urban Districts was responsible for £800 annual interest.

Mr. Walsh said that New Ross Urban was doing the best they could but they had had trouble with a Rate Collector. Courtown Harbour.

Mr. Elgee submitted Undertaking in writing given by 16 fishermen of Courtown Harbour to work grab dredger in the event of same being provided or forfeit a sum of £6 for each occasion on which the dredger is necessary to be worked and they neglect or refuse to work it.

The Undertaking was regarded as satisfactory and it was decided that it should be forwarded to the Department of Fisheries for their inspection.

The following proposed by Colonel Quin, seconded by the Chairman, was passed:-

"That the Minutes of Finance Committee in respect of meeting held on 31st January, 1929, in so far as same relate to matters connected with Estimate of Rates for General and Separate Charges be confirmed, except recommendation to abolish the position of one Assistant Surveyor which is adjourned to next meeting of the Council".

After further discussion the following resolution was adopted on the motion of Col. Quin, seconded by Mr. O'Byrne:-

"That we approve and confirm the figures in regard to rates for financial year 1929-30, as recommended by Special meeting of Finance Committee, held on 31st January, 1929. That rate for General charges for financial year 1929-30 (in conformity with particulars appearing on Form 42) be and is hereby agreed to at 8/- in the £. That holders of agricultural land receive a rebate on valuation of said land, representing a poundage rate of 2/5d in the £, being the difference between the poundage rate represented by agricultural grant, viz., 3/2 $\frac{3}{4}$ d and poundage rate for amount of repayment of loan under Relief of Rates Agricultural Land, viz., 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ d in the £, leaving the net general rate payable on agricultural land at 5/7d in the £. That in the event of any further measure of relief for Rates on agricultural land being forthcoming the appropriate amount be allowed in the Rates applotments.

"That rates for separate charges for financial year 1929-30 (in conformity with particulars appearing on Form 43), as presented to this meeting be also agreed to. That the following amounts be fixed as the sums to be demanded from the three Urban Districts of the County:-

Enniscorthy	£2576 : 11 : 3
New Ross	£2280 : 15 : 5
Wexford	£5645 : 18 : 5.

"That drainage rate for Kilmannock Drainage District, as set out in charging order issued by the Office of Public Works, Dublin, and signed and sealed on behalf of that body by their Secretary, on the 19th January, 1927, be agreed to, and that the several amounts be levied on the persons whose names are set out on schedule of said charging order, and we hereby direct that said amounts be collected apart from the poor rate and independently of same. That a sum of £20 be also levied on the persons whose names are set out in said schedule, same being necessary for works of maintenance as per report of County

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Surveyor".

The Chairman said they were not including any Rate for Sow Drainage as the Council had decided not to take over the system until the Drainage Ratepayers were satisfied.

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CONTRACT AND DIRECT LABOUR SYSTEMS.

The following report of Special Committee was
submitted:-

WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL.

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A meeting of the Special Committee appointed by the County Council at their meeting of 11th February, 1929, to consider the manner of Road Maintenance, was held in County Council Chamber, Wexford, on 14th February, 1929.

Present:- Mr. James Sharmon, V.C., presiding; also Messrs M. Jordan, R. Corish, W. P. Keegan, P. Hayes and J. Murphy.

The Secretary, the Assistant Secretary and County Surveyor were also in attendance.

Letters of apology for non-attendance were read from the Chairman who was ill and Colonel Quin who had been under the impression that the meeting would not be held until the following day and had in consequence made other arrangements.

The Committee examined the allocation for maintenance of third and fourth class roads and compared the amount with the tenders for these roads which had been provisionally accepted in Gorey and Enniscorthy.

The County Surveyor submitted the following statement showing the saving by tenders provisionally accepted in Gorey and Enniscorthy for third and fourth class roads respectively.

Third Class Roads: Gorey District and Enniscorthy District.

	No. of Roads for Tender.	Allowed	No. Taken	Taken at	Saving	No. not Taken	Amount of Contracts untendered for
Gorey	124	£3299	60	£1413: 5/-	£61:15/-	64	£1824
Enniscorthy	212	£6730	97	£3122:10/-	152:10/-	115	£3455
	336	£10029	157	£4535:15/-	£214: 5/-	179	£5279

Fourth Class Roads: Gorey District and Enniscorthy District.

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	No. of Roads for Tender.	Allowed	No. Taken	Taken at	Saving	No. not Taken	Amount for Contracts Untendered for
Gorey	19	£418: 0:0	14	£299:15:0	£2:15: 0	5	£115:10:0
Enniscorthy	72	£1317:10:0	36	£689: 7:3	£41: 2: 9	34	£587: 0:0
	91	£1735:10:0	52	£989: 2:3	£43:17: 9	39	£702:10:0

The following recommendations were unanimously agreed to:-

1. That tenders provisionally accepted in Gorey and Enniscorthy should not be ratified by the Council except in so far as they deal with roads included in list to be prepared by County Surveyor in accordance with instructions set out in No.4 recommendation.
2. That contractors provisionally accepted for third class roads should be offered the haulage work for the roads for which they tendered provided they hold in each case not more than 20 statute acres of arable land.
3. That fourth class roads untendered for be offered Contractors whose provisionally accepted tenders for third class roads are not confirmed by the Council and subject to their holding in each case not more than 20 statute acres of arable land.
4. That the County Surveyor prepare list of third class roads which in his opinion could be more suitably dealt with under contract system than by direct labour. The number of these appears to be about ten per cent of all the third class roads.
5. That meeting of Tenders Committees for New Ross and Wexford Districts be adjourned until after next meeting of the County Council and that advertisement to this effect be published in next issue of the local papers.
6. That this Committee request the County Council to allow them to function for some time longer in order that they have opportunities of examining the manner in which road maintenance is carried out and furnish report thereon to the Council.

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Mr. Shannon proposed and Mr. Cummins seconded the following resolution:- "That the recommendations of Special Roads Committee, in respect of meeting held on 14th February, 1929, be and are hereby confirmed."

Mr. Jordan said that the Farmers' Party held a meeting that day to consider the matter of the Committee's report, and had decided to reject the recommendations of the Committee; and agreed that, instead, they should let the contracts given stand, and allow all the rest to go to direct labour. He thought it had been decided in Gorey that any roads not tendered for should be re-advertised, but his party had decided that for either the Enniscorthy or Gorey areas no roads be further advertised for contracts. With regard to No. 3 on the list of the recommendations of the Committee, he, personally, was not aware that that recommendation was going to be included. That question was raised by Mr. Keegan, and they had a fairly long debate on it, but he thought the matter was left over more or less to be debated by the County Council. It would be very easy to find a man with 50 or 60 acres of land as badly off as a man with twenty acres, and also they would be up against the difficulty of deciding what was arable land. With regard to the request at the end of the Committee's recommendations he thought it was very important that this Committee, or some other Committee, should function to examine the whole system of road maintenance from top to bottom.

Mr. Keegan held that it would be a shame to give a contract to a man who held 50 or 60 acres of land. He should be able to make a living from his farm and should not be allowed to compete with the man who was going out on the road with pick and shovel to earn a day's wages. If Mr. Jordan changed his opinion he (Mr. Keegan) had not done so.

Mr. Jordan said it was not a question of changing his opinion. He placed the matter before his party, and he had made

a statement of what exactly happened. 26

The Chairman said he thought what Mr. Jordan had stated was more favourable to direct labour than even the recommended scheme, because certainly a larger amount of money would go to direct labour than under the recommendations. The contracts that were in now, according to Mr. Jordan's proposition, would stand, and that would apply to the two districts for which contracts had not yet been opened. Contracts that were tendered for would have to be accepted. Moreover, he thought they were acting legally according to what Mr. Elgee advised them the last day. He did not see that direct labour was going to lose anything in the face of what Mr. Jordan referred to. They advertised contracts, and got contractors for a certain amount, and he believed that they should deal fairly with those men and give them the contracts. By dealing with them they were not taking anything from direct labour. They were giving them on direct labour more because they were giving them fourth class roads that they could readvertise, and for that matter they could readvertise third class roads if they stuck to the resolution of the Council. He was not present at the Committee Meeting. He was ill, but it was a question whether he would have attended in any case. They passed a scheme legally and constitutionally as far as contracts were concerned, and he did not think they had anything to go back on. If a crowd choose to come there and tried to terrorise the Council, he believed they would be justified in sticking harder to their contract system. Could they not send a deputation? When the farmers were in the minority on the Council why did they not organise a crowd of rate-payers to come to the Council and discuss the questions so forcibly put on them by the majority of the Council. He thought they were dealing extraordinarily fair with direct labour when they offered them the biggest end of the money. That was the reason he wished to support Mr. Jordan's suggestion. He certainly would not vote for the recommendation of the Committee.

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Mr. Shannon - Hardly anyone expected that you would. How will direct labour be affected in, for instance, the Enniscorthy area? You have a large number of third class roads tendered for in that area, which will upset altogether the direct labour scheme there. I suppose a similar thing will happen in Gorey area.

Mr. D'Arcy said that not half the third class roads were tendered for in Gorey, and less than half in Enniscorthy. Half the fourth class roads were tendered for in Enniscorthy, and two-thirds in Gorey.

Mr. Shannon said that he wished to support the findings of the Committee because the Committee was set up by the Council he might say unanimously. He knew that the Chairman did not fall in with it. That Committee went into every detail of the working of the direct labour scheme and the contract system, and they thought they were going the best they possibly could for both parties and they were backing up a well organised scheme of direct labour, a scheme which might have some little defects, but not sufficient to account for the sweeping change over as proposed in Mr. Roche's motion. Mr. Roche had proposed that they should go back to the contract system, a system which had been proved five or six years ago to be a perfect failure. The roads could not be kept up by contract then, and now there was probably a hundred or a hundred and fifty per cent more tonnage on the roads. It was strange if they did not stand by the findings of the Committee. He was going to stand by them at all events.

Mr. Keegan said he knew some men who held two or three contracts. He wanted to know if that was fair?

Mr. Colloton said he did not think Mr Roche's proposition was sprung on the Farmers' Party. Anyone who canvassed at the last election would know that the ratepayers were anxious to go back to the contract system. The other system was costly and

inefficient.

County Surveyor - I hope your contractors will do as good work as we did under direct labour.

Chairman - I think the County Surveyor should be quite neutral in this matter.

Mr. Colloton - Certainly.

Mr. Cooney - He is only giving his opinions.

Chairman - Yes; but we didn't ask for his opinions. Why should he come along at a time like this with his views ?. I ask him to remain in order until the discussion is over or until he is called upon.

Mr. Corish - I think the system has been attacked and the County Surveyor has a perfect right to defend it.

Mr. Cooney - If the County Surveyor remained silent under the attack made upon the system I would say he would be dumb.

Mr. D'Arcy said that no one could deny that direct labour was the best system that could be in vogue, but it was too costly for the County. In 1918 the supervision of the roads cost £1,000, but in 1929 they cost £7,027.

Mr. Cummins ~~say~~ spoke in support of the recommendations of the Committee. He held there would be no saving in relation to the contracts taken at Gorey and Enniscorthy as the best of the roads had been taken and the worst of them left on the hands of the County Surveyor.

Mr. O'Byrne said he remembered dealing with contracts and he remembered that they had to pay a very large amount from time to time for sudden damage orders to the contractors. They would have the sudden damage orders again when they had contractors while under direct labour they were all done under the proposals.

Chairman - Out of contingencies.

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Mr. D'Arcy - There was £2,000 for contingencies.

Mr. O'Byrne - I submit that contingencies were never used for that purpose, and besides every shilling saved was used for the removal of dangerous corners all over the county all out of the maintenance grant. In future with the contract system the contractor will naturally and justly put that money in his pocket, and it won't come back for corners. You are not saving, and I appeal to you to pass the recommendations of the Committee you appointed.

Mr. Corish said the least they could expect from the last meeting of the Council was a statement from the Chairman or some other member of the Farmers' party that when they were setting up the Committee they did not mean anything, because after all he thought that was what they could infer from the statement the Chairman made to-day. The Chairman stated he had been ill and had also told them he had no intention of attending. He (Mr. Corish) thought that that was an important matter and a statement that notice should be taken of by the Council. It would have been far better and straighter for the majority of the Council to have said they did not intend to take the recommendations of the Committee seriously. He had asked for the appointment of a majority of Farmers' representatives on the Committee as he recognised it would be absolutely futile for the Labour Party to be in a majority and expect to carry at the Council any recommendations to which the Committee would agree. He had been much struck at the harmony that prevailed at the Committee meeting and was surprised at Mr. Jordan and Mr. Murphy turning away from its decisions but he knew that party pressure could be brought to bear. He thought that New Ross and Wexford districts were to be left intact as far as direct labour was concerned but the Chairman had stated that New Ross and Wexford were to be treated in the same way as Gorey.

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He believed they were not doing the best thing they could do and should do in the interests of the ratepayers generally. In his opinion they were going to leave the workers and ratepayers in a worse position at the end of the year than they were in now. Even if they saved £214, in his opinion they would be called upon to pay at least £2,000 in home help before the year was out. If they were not satisfied with the Committee's report he appealed to them to let the Committee meet again and if the farmer members proposed were not prepared to attend they could appoint two members in their stead.

Colonel Quin said he had been told, by other members of the Council, that the meeting of the Committee was to be held on a Friday, and he made a solemn promise to attend a meeting in Dublin on the day on which the Committee meeting was held. He had made every arrangement to be present at the meeting on Friday. He would attend any time he could attend.

Mr. Jordan said that Mr. Corish had referred to Mr. Murphy and himself turning round. He (Mr. Jordan) stated quite clearly at the Committee meeting that anything they did there was subject to their party. So far as they were concerned there was no question of turning round.

Mr. Murphy said that when he attended the Committee Meeting he certainly agreed that he would do his best to find a way out of the situation, but he was under the impression that he stated fairly and plainly that anything he did was subject to the sanction of his party. Mr. Jordan and he went there to do their best and they did do their best but of course they were only units of their party.

A poll on Mr. Shannon's proposition resulted as follows:-
For:- Messrs Corish, Armstrong, Clinee, Colfer, Cooney, Cummins, Hayes, Keegan, McCarthy, O'Byrne and Shannon11.

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Against:- Colonel Quin, Colonel Gibbon, Messrs Brennan, Colloton, D'Arcy, Doran, Hall, Jordan, Mayler, Murphy, Roche, Smith, Walsh, and the Chairman14.

Accordingly, Mr. Shannon's proposition was declared defeated.

After further discussion Mr. Jordan moved and Colonel Quin seconded the following resolution:- "That we confirm the Road Contracts, etc., already received through Gorey and Enniscorthy Tenders' Committees. That meetings of the Tenders Committees for New Ross and Wexford for consideration of tenders already received be arranged for at this meeting. That all roads untendered for at any of the four District Tenders Committee Meetings be given in charge of the County Surveyor with a direction that the work thereon shall be carried out by direct labour. "

A poll was taken on the motion with the following result:-
For:- Messrs Brennan, Colloton, Cummins, D'Arcy, Doran, Gibbon, Hall, Jordan, Meyler, McCarthy, Murphy, Quin, Roche, Smyth, Walsh and the Chairman16.

Against:- No vote.

Did not vote:- Messrs Armstrong, Clinee, Cooney, Corish, Hayes, Sean O'Byrne and Shannon7.

Messrs Colfer and Keegan were not present when the vote was taken.

The Chairman declared the motion carried.

TENDERS COMMITTEES

It was decided that the adjourned Tenders Committee meetings be held as follows:- New Ross at Courthouse on Thursday, 7th March at 10.30 a.m., ; Wexford County Council Chamber, Fortview, on Saturday, 9th March at 10.30 a.m.

FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES.

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

"That the Minutes of Finance Committee in respect of
meeting of 14th February, as submitted by the Secretary, as
follows, be received and considered":-

The fortnightly meeting of the Finance Committee of Wexford County Council was held in County Council Chamber, Fortview, Wexford, on 14th February, 1929.

Present:- Mr. James Shannon (V.C.) presiding; also Messrs Sean O'Byrne, James Hall, John Murphy, John Culleton and T. McCarthy.

The Chairman was absent owing to illness.

The Secretary, the Assistant Secretary, the County Surveyor and Mr. Elgee, Solicitor, were in attendance.

The Minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed.

PAYMENTS.

Treasurer's Advice Note for £1709: 1: 7d was examined and signed.

RATE COLLECTION.

The following gives the percentage of amounts of first moiety of current rate collected to 14th February, 1929:-

E. J. Murphy 99 per cent; J. J. O'Reilly 98; J. Curtis 96; J. Doyle 95; A. Dunne 95; T. Rowe 94; J. Quirke 94; J.J. Sinnott 93; P. Doyle 93; M. Deegan 92; S. Gannon 92; P. Donohoe 89; W. Cummins 89; J. Cummins 88; P. Furlong 88; P.O'Byrne 86 T. Sutton 85; M. Kelly 79; J. J. O'Reilly and J.J. Sinnott (No.14 District) 77; M. O'Hanlon 75; J. Quirke and P. J. Furlong (No.5 District) 58.

The percentage of amounts of second moiety for current rate collected to 14th February, 1929 is as follows:-

S. Gannon 26; J. Quirke and P. Furlong (No.5 District) 23; E. J. Murphy 22; J. Quirke 22; M. Kelly 20; W. Cummins 16; A. Dunne 15; P. Furlong 14; J. Doyle 13; M. Deegan 13; J. Curtis 13; T. Rowe 12; Sinnott 12; Sutton 11; O'Reilly 11; J. Cummins 11; J. J. O'Reilly and J. J. Sinnott (No.14 District) 11; P. O'Byrne 7; P. Donohoe 5;

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P Doyle 5; M. O'Hanlon 2.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr. O'Byrne, seconded by Mr. Murphy:- "That Rate Collectors who fail by the 27th February, 1929, to lodge at least 40 per cent of second moiety of their current rate collection be suspended from duty and their books taken up? The Finance Committee wish Collectors to recognise that their decision in this matter will be rigidly enforced."

It was pointed out that in respect of current rate the amount outstanding on first moiety was £7108 and on second £52765 a total of £59873. The total arrears outstanding amounted to £3960: 11: 9d.

Under date 13th February, 1929, the following letter relative to the rates of Mr. Nicholas Sinnott, Millview, Bridgetown, was read from Messrs M. J. O'Connor & Co., Solicitors, Wexford:-

"Mr. Sinnott owes up to the end of March next a sum of £52: 17: 9 for rates.

'He has carried a composition of 2/- in the £. as regards his ordinary creditors, and a sale of all his stock and chattels barely realized sufficient to pay the composition. Now the rates being a preferential charge must of course be paid in full, and for the purpose of discharging the rates it will be necessary for him to let the lands for grazing and tillage for the current year.

'What he proposes to do is to pay half the amount of the rates by the end of March, and the remaining half in August, if the Co. Council are agreeable.

'Of course if a settlement on these lines cannot be arranged, the lands can't be let, and will consequently remain derelict, so that neither the County Council nor anybody else will get anything out of it.

'We shall be glad if you will kindly put the matter before the Finance Committee Meeting to-morrow and let us hear from you'".

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It was decided that the Rate Collector obtain an authorization from Mr. Sinnott to the Auctioneer to pay the rates when the latter is paid for the grazing. The Finance Committee will raise no objection to the proposal in the letter of Messrs O'Connor & Co., provided this authorization is forthcoming.

SOW DRAINAGE DISTRICT.

The following, under date 11th February (2370/29) was read from the Office of Public Works:- "Your letter of 8th instant. We beg to refer you to our letter of the 8th instant and to state that the Parliamentary Secretary does not consider that any good could come of the deputation unless the circumstance^s referred to in paragraph 3 arise (viz unless the proposed deputation explained the particular point they wished to see the Parliamentary Secretary about and that it turned out to be a new one).

No action was taken.

ILLNESS OF MR. J.J. FANNING: CLERICAL ASSISTANT.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr. O'Byrne, seconded by the Chairman:- "That Mr. John J. Fanning, Clerical Assistant in County Council Offices, be granted ~~x~~ further leave up to end of February, 1929."

RATING OF NEW BUILDINGS ORDER.

Application was received from Mr Joseph J. O'Neill, Kilmannock, Campile, for inclusion of his holding on New Buildings List.

Adjourned to next meeting, the Secretary in the meantime, to obtain report from Rate Collector for ~~the~~ the district, as to the nature of repair and reconstruction to the premises carried out by Mr. O'Neill.

3/6

EXAMINATION FOR RATE COLLECTORS.

In connection with a question raised at County Council meeting of 11th February, 1929, as to the standard of examination for the position of Rate Collector, the meeting considered carefully the papers which had been set for the last examination in Irish, English and Arithmetic and came to the conclusion that the standard was quite fair and that the papers presented no difficulty to a person ~~of~~ who would be expected to fill the position of Rate Collector.

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Rate Collection.

In regard to recommendation of Finance Committee the following resolution was adopted on the motion of Colonel Gibbon, seconded by Col. Quin:-

"That full power be given to the Finance Committee to deal with Rate Collection as circumstances may arise and as the Committee may consider desirable"

Illness of Mr. Fanning.

In view of Report from Dr. Kennedy. R.M.S. Mental Hospital, Enniscorthy, the following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr. O'Byrne, seconded by Mr. D'Arcy:- "That the Minister for Local Government be requested to sanction a further month's sick leave being granted to Mr. J.J.Fanning, Clerical Assistant Co. Council, as from 1st March, 1929, in view of report of Dr. Kennedy, R.M.S., Mental Hospital."

Examination Papers Rate Collector.

The Secretary submitted examination papers for Rate Collector and after some discussion the following resolution was agreed to on the motion of Mr. Hall, seconded by Mr. McCarthy:-

"That Rev. Br. Markey, Christian Schools, Wexford, be requested when setting next examination papers for Rate Collectors, to adhere to the standard of papers set by him for examination held in June, 1928".

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr. Hall, seconded by Mr. McCarthy:- "That the Minutes of Finance Committee, in respect of meeting held on 14th February, 1929, be and are hereby confirmed"

ROADS COMMITTEE MINUTES.

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

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Roads' Committee in respect of meeting held on 4th February,
1929, be received and considered":-

The monthly meeting of the Roads' Committee was held in County Council Chamber, Fortview, Wexford, on 4th February, 1929. 29

Present:- Mr. M. Doyle, Chairman, (presiding); also Messrs P. Colfer, R. Corish, John J. Culleton, T.F. D'Arcy; James Hall; P. Hayes, M. Jordan, W. P. Keegan, T.J. Mayler; Sean O'Byrne; D. Somers; J. Shannon, M. Smyth and Colonel Quin.

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

The Minutes of last meeting were read and signed.

COUNTY SURVEYOR'S REPORT.

The following monthly report was submitted by the County Surveyor:-

"On the night of the 22nd ultimo a fire occurred in my office and I have already reported the matter to the Finance Committee

I have found it necessary to move my General Office temporarily to the Old Jail Premises, and am arranging to have repairs carried out.

"As directed by the Council I have invited offers for working the County Quarries by Piece Work. In only a few instances, up to the present, have I received applications from men to carry out the whole work from the start, that is, quarrying as well as breaking. I have started Piece work in Carrigbyrne Quarry, and as soon as a quarry is in a condition to do so, I shall be able to start in the others. In a number of quarries I have already started handbreaking work, but I believe the men will get a very poor wage for the work.

"I have a letter from the Civil Guard Authorities informing me that it will be some time before the weighbridge at Tarahill can be tested, but as we are not selling material over it this is immaterial.

"I have had application to use Tarahill material in part on the Grant work on Gorey-Courtown Road, and with your approval,

I am satisfied to use this material, as well as Gorey Hill. 40
I ask for authority to advertise for hauliers in connection with this work, and shall submit names to the local Councillors for selection, as already directed by the County Council.

"Recently I inspected the Streets of Taghmon with reference to the damage done by the sewerage works carried out by the Health Board, and I have been in communication with the Secretary of the Health Board in regard to this matter.

"On the 24th ultimo I made special inspection of Mountgarrett Bridge with reference to the approach road on the Wexford side, and also with reference to the work which the Council themselves will carry out in dealing with the obstructing corner. I have arranged this matter, and the Contractor is to move his plant at once so that I can put the work in hands. The erection of the steel work of the opening span is now in progress, and fairly advanced. The forms for the decking on the Wexford side are practically complete, and the reinforcement is being put in.

"I have written to Mr. N. J. Murphy, representing the late Kilmannock Drainage Committee making appointment for an inspection of the work on Wednesday next, and have asked him to notify all the local parties interested. I shall, subsequent to my visit, be in a position to estimate for any work that may be necessary during the coming year.

"On the 30th ultimo in company with Mr. Ennis, Assistant Surveyor, I inspected the lane leading to Curraghduff Quarry with a view to having repairs carried out as directed by the County Council. If this lane is to be properly repaired it will cost a considerable sum, and I do not consider that our haulage over the lane is, to any extent, responsible for its bad condition. There were never sufficient or proper side drains on this road, and recently the local people have absolutely neglected them, with the result that the ~~ax~~ lane is badly water-torn. If the lane is to be maintained I consider it

should be taken up as a County Road.

"During the last couple of weeks I have gone into reports with the Assistant Surveyors in regard to existing contract roads, and have dealt with payments on Form 22, which will be submitted to the County Council on the 11th instant. A number of Contractors have proved defaulters, and I ask for authority to proceed against them at the District Court, or to carry out the work myself whichever may be the better way of dealing with the Defaulter. I submit list of the Defaulters.

"The fire in my Office has considerably interfered with the preparation of the sheets and specifications for the proposed contracts on third class roads, but I now have this work practically completed. The very large number of roads to be tendered for has entailed heavy work, as usually there would only be about one-third of the number out in any particular year.

"I submit list of allocations from the Contingencies Fund and ask for approval of same."

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

Handbreaking in Quarries.

In connection with reference in County Surveyor's report to this matter letter was read from Mr. McCarthy, M.C.C., under date 1st February, 1929, apologising for being unable to attend the meeting as he had to go to Dublin. Had he been present he intended mentioning the case of the men employed handbreaking material in Cherryorchard Quarry. These men, for a full week's work, were able to earn only 14/6d to 17/6d. He could not say if anything could be done but he was sure it was never the intention of the County Council that men should give a full week's work for so low a wage.

The County Surveyor said that the men were unable to break

a cubic yard per day.

At the request of Mr. Keegan the terms and conditions governing the employment of men engaged at piece work in quarries were read for the meeting.

Mr. Keegan said that anybody with commonsense could see that the meaning of the document was to say to hand labour "clear off". It looked as if the men were going into a penal settlement to work and not into a quarry.

The Chairman said he thought the agreement was quite fair and, in his opinion, there was no reason at all for Mr. Keegan's extravagant remarks.

Mr. Keegan - I never agreed that stones could be broken for 6/- a cubic yard. The County Surveyor was never able to produce stones by machinery at that figure.

County Surveyor. - The Council distinctly passed a resolution that quarry work including quarrying breaking and the complete preparation of material should be done in as many quarries as possible at 6/- per cubic yard and for breaking material already quarried at 3/6d a cubic yard. I have a number of applications for this class of work but very few from groups of men to do all the work from the start, as their wage works out at a very small thing.

Chairman - What are they making at 3/6d per yard for the breaking ?.

County Surveyor - They are not making £1 per week. In Ryland they are not making 12/-.

Mr. Hall said that a lot of men who had broken stones for years were, he understood, complaining they were not getting a chance while new hands were being taken on.

The County Surveyor said that was not the case. He sent forms to everyone that applied and said we would not put anyone out as they could not be making distinctions.

Mr. Keegan said that all the County Surveyor could pay the men employed at breaking in Gorey Hill Quarry was 2/10d^s per cubic yard. ^{He fell in with Mr. Hall's} views that certain

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men were not given a chance while others had been taken on. One in Gorey Hill never broke stones before and one or two never did any work at any time. All the County Surveyor could give in Gorey Hill for the actual breaking was 2/10d per cubic yard.

County Surveyor - No. Sir - We certainly did pay 2/10d when we started but at that time there was a resolution of the Council that the men should be paid at the same rate as for machinery breaking which was 2/10d. At a subsequent meeting that figure was altered and it was agreed that 3/3d would be about the average price of machine breaking. The Council said they would not tie themselves down for a couple of pence and fixed the price at 3/6d per cubic yard which was the established figure for hand breaking now.

Colonel Quin - Does it cost more by hand than by machine.?

County Surveyor - It does.

Colonel Quin - I think it is a very dangerous thing to relieve unemployment at the expense of the ratepayers. The County Council are absolutely sympathetic with the unemployed but it is not our duty to deal with them.

Mr. Treanor, Assistant Surveyor for Gorey District, said the men working at Gorey Hill were not agreeable to work for 3/6d per cubic yard. The six men employed there produced 26 cubic yards for the past week and when they found this out they would not break any more.

The County Surveyor said one of the complaints of the men was that they were not allowed to break the stuff into little heaps and they did not want to move it into one principal depot which was necessary.

Mr. Keegan said he would be prepared to give a guarantee that the men would provide all the material for the Gorey-Courtown road at 7/6d per yard.

Mr. Treanor - These men have 1000 cubic yards to break before the first of March and I don't know how they are going to do it.

to do it.

Mr. Keegan then proposed that the County Surveyor advertise for men for breaking material in Gorey Hill Quarry at 3/6d per cubic yard.

Mr. D'Arcy seconded the motion which was adopted.
Tara Hill Material.

With reference to the recommendation of the County Surveyor that portion of the material for Gorey-Courtown road be taken from Tara Hill Quarry it was mentioned that the Council had already agreed that the necessary Material in this instance should be got from Gorey Hill Quarry.

Mr. D'Arcy, in view of the fact that the work on this road should be completed by May owing to the subsequent Tourist traffic, and the improbability of being able to secure all the material from Gorey Hill quarry, gave notice of motion, for County Council meeting on 11th February, that portion of the material be obtained from Tara Hill Quarry.
Curraghduff Quarry.

The following report was read from Mr. Ennis, Assistant Surveyor:-

"There are some complaints about the state of the lane-way leading past this quarry. There are four or five farmers living on it, and eight or ten more who have a right of way over it to the mountain. They allege that the lane has been damaged by the drawing down of the rough stone from the quarry.

"I have seen the place. The injury is caused entirely by water, the surface being badly torn. Apparently the users of the lane gave up minding it almost entirely as soon as we started the quarry. We only use it for a few months during the Summer, and it would not seem right that we should do more than repair the damage to the surface. I offered these people sufficient material to fill the centre if they would spread it, and do the drainage during the Winter. They will, however, do nothing. There is now a suggestion to have it
~~brought in as a~~

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brought in as a County Road! .

The County Surveyor said that the roadway was completely torn up by water owing to lack of attention to the side drains. The local people would not do anything and thought they could force the Co. Council to do the whole work.

Mr. Jordan said the County Surveyor was not correct in stating that it was the haulage over the road which was partly accountable for its present condition. It was the machinery of the Council when going over the lane that pushed in the sides and choked the drains.

County Surveyor - The breaker was up there about 12 years *ago* but not since. He denied it was the machinery of the County Council which did the damage. The water was deliberately turned down the lane instead of going (as in the past) through the gateways. There might possibly be one place at which the breaker might have done some damage but the present condition of the place was due to the neglect of the local people in not maintaining the drains.

Mr. Hall considered that Mr. Ennis's report showed that a very good offer had been made the local people.

Mr. Jordan considered it was perfectly useless to put material on the lane until the water was taken off.

After further discussion Mr. Jordan said that the Roads' Inspection Committee might see the place on their next tour of inspection and this suggestion was agreed to.

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

"That the report of the County Surveyor - subject to any amendments made in regard to same by this meeting - be and is hereby adopted".

CARNE PIER.

The County Surveyor submitted letter from Mr. M. J. O'Connor, Solicitor, Wexford, under date 31st December, 1929, thanking the

County Council, the County Surveyor and Mr. Birthistle, Assistant Surveyor, for the work of restoration of Carne Pier. At present, however, the way to the pier was barred by two gates and this defect should be remedied by a roadway to the pier. Messrs Joyce were prepared to dedicate to the public the necessary land for the purpose. This had been estimated to cost £50.

The County Surveyor stated that the Finance Committee had struck out of the Public Works Estimate, at their last meeting, the £50 which had been included to construct this roadway.

No Order.

COURTOWN HARBOUR DISCHARGING BOAT &c.

A report was received from the Harbour Master of Courtown that the local Committee had recommended that the discharging boat and the old boat carriage should be repaired. About £6 spent on the former would keep her afloat for a very long time.

It was decided to advertise for tenders for repair of discharging boat. As regards the boat carriage the County Surveyor said he had arranged it should be inspected by the Machinery Overseer as they had a lot of odds and ends of pitch pine out of Wexford Bridge which could be used for the boat carriage and in this way they would be able to effect the repair very cheaply. He would submit definite figures later on.

CUTTING OF HEDGES.

Reports were submitted from the Assistant Surveyors that the following had failed to comply with notices to cut hedges:-

Edward Penn, Ballynabanogue, Ballywilliam.

Mrs A. Browne, Ballynabola.

J. W. Fletcher, Raheenduff, Foulksmills.

Mrs A. Murphy, Hollymount, Castlebridge.

Capt. Harvey, Bromley, Kyle.

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Paul Roche, Barmoney, Bree.

Miss Walker, Tykillen, Kyle.

Nicholas Browne, Church Street, Enniscorthy.

Capt. G. Maher, Ballinkee, Ballymurrin.

Mrs Jordan, Oylegate.

Richard Doyle, Minahow, Oulart; also report as to failure of John Moran, Ballybrack, Foulksmills, to clean out drain.

It was decided that the Assistant Surveyors concerned should interview the persons named and endeavour to induce them to comply with the law.

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

"That, in the event of the persons reported to this meeting neglecting or refusing to comply with notices to trim hedges, and in the case of John Moran to clean out drain, Mr. Elgee, Solicitor, be instructed to institute Court proceedings in order to have the work carried out."

APPLICATION FOR SITE FOR HALL AT BALLYHACK.

Under date 22nd January, 1929, Mr. John Walsh, Hon., Sec., Ballyhack Literary and Athletic Association, applied for a site to erect a Hall on the North West side of Ballyhack Street. The Association was chiefly composed of young fishermen from the village.

Mr. Corish proposed and Mr. Colfer seconded the following resolution:-

"That the application of Ballyhack Literary and Athletic Association, for site for village Hall, be agreed to."

After some discussion this motion was withdrawn and the following proposed by Mr. Shannon, seconded by Colonel Quin, was adopted:-

"That the application of Ballyhack Literary and Athletic Association be referred to next meeting of the County Council."

COMPLAINT BY BUS OWNER OF ROAD MATERIAL.

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The following, under date 26th January, 1929, was read from Mr. T. Fitzpatrick, Enniskerry Garage:-

"You will see from the enclosed specimens of road material which are spread out along the road between Enniscorthy and Ballycanew via Oulart and also between Inch and Arklow, via Coolgreany, that a great many of the pieces of stone are almost as sharp as broken glass. I am sure you are not aware of the tremendously serious consequences of running a bus over carpets of these chippings mile after mile of the road. They penetrate the tyre and work their way right into the tube in a single journey. These tyres cost 18 guineas each and there are six of them on the bus. It thus involves a very probable loss of £104 worth of tyres for every trip and of course this is absolutely impossible. Surely it is not necessary and not advantageous to spread this kind of material along the road especially without a steam roller. The larger stones cut the tyre to bits on an average of once a fortnight but these small stones cut all the tyres to pieces at once. You can pick up a dozen of them embedded in each tyre in ten yards.

"Can you possibly do anything for me in the matter as the losses I am incurring whilst these remain are appalling ?."

County Surveyor - We can only use chippings of this sort for repairing roads. The specimens sent seemed to come from a depot. It is the only way we can repair roads.

It was decided to furnish Mr. Fitzpatrick with the opinion of the County Surveyor.

IRISH B.P. COMPANY AND NEW BUILDINGS.

Letter, under date 4th December and Drawings sent by the Irish B.P. Company, Ltd., 11-13 O'Connell Street, Dublin, (Box 18), as to proposed erection of buildings, storage tanks etc., on land the property of Messrs J. Donohoe Ltd., at Templeshannon, Enniscorthy, outside the Urban District, was read.

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The County Surveyor said the Company proposed to erect an eight foot galvanised iron fence along the footpath. He (County Surveyor) considered this would interfere with the view.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr. D'Arcy, seconded by Colonel Quin:-

"That we recommend the Council not to enter objection to erection of proposed buildings etc., at Templeshannon, Enniscorthy, provided the Irish B.P. Company move their fence at least one yard from the footpath."

FORD-OF-LYNG.

Mr. Elgee, Solicitor, submitted letter from Mr. Fergus O'Connor, B.L., re above.

After discussion it was decided that Mr. Elgee be empowered to employ Mr. Overend, K.C., and Mr. F. O'Connor, B.L., to deal with the points raised in Mr. O'Connor's letter, after consultation with the County Surveyor. Also that Mr. Elgee report the result of said consultation and receive further instructions.

WEXFORD-ROSSLARE ROAD.

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

"That the Department of Local Government be requested to set aside from any grants to be devoted this year to improvement of tourist roads, a sum of £3,000 for Wexford-Rosslare Road. This sum is urgently needed at the moment to place the road in a condition which will be suitable for the traffic of modern vehicles. That the Tourist Association be requested to urge the Local Government Department to comply with this request, as the Association must recognise its absolute necessity".

DEFAULTING ROAD CONTRACTORS.

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

"That the County Surveyor be directed to proceed against the following road contractors and their sureties for neglect in carrying out necessary work or that he takes up the various roads under the 54 Section of the Grant Jury of 1836, which - ever course he considers most advisable:-

- 169E Joseph Hyland, Coolgarrow, Enniscorthy.
- 170E. Joseph Hyland, Coolgarrow, Enniscorthy.
- 173E. Joseph Hyland, Coolgarrow, Enniscorthy.
- 152E. James Kenny, Effernogue, Ferns.
- 72E James Kenny, Corragh, Bunelody.
- 176E William McGill, Ballingowan, Blackwater.
- 182E William McGill, Ballingowan, Blackwater.
- 177E James Rossiter, Tubberlamina, Blackwater.
- 178E James O'Brien, Ballytarsna, Oulart.
- 191E Owen Murphy, Knocknasilloge, Blackwater.
- 202E Richard Ormonde, Inch, Blackwater.
- 253E Michael Foley, Killanne
- 269E John Leonard, Moneytucker, Caim.
- 270E John Leonard, Moneytucker, Caim.
- 275E John Leonard, Moneytucker, Caim.
- 78G James Hughes, Clones, Castletown.
- 40G William Byrne, Annagh Gap, Inch.
- 63G Patrick Higgins, Parkbawn, Gorey.
- 156W Edward Furlong, Knocktown, Duncormack.
- 183W Thomas Dunne, Sleadagh, Murrintown.
- 287R James Tobin, Monamolin.
- 65R James Tobin, Monamolin.
- 134R John Carroll, Assagart, Foulksmills.
- 264R John Carroll, Assagart, Foulksmills.
- 153R Thomas Cleary, Coolcliffe, Foulksmills.
- 288R Patrick Kennedy, Ballyvergin, Foulksmills.

289R Patrick Kennedy, Ballyvergin, Foulksmills.

CONTINGENCIES FUND.

The following Allocation of amounts in Contingencies Fund, recommended by the County Surveyor, were approved, on the motion of Mr. O'Byrne, seconded by Mr. D'Arcy:-

Main Roads - Balance £721: 8: 3

Allocation:- 4G £60; 13G £90; 16G £50; 1E £100;
2E £50; 34E £50; 19E-21E £80; 46E £20; 12R £100;
5W £120. Total £ 720.

County Roads - Balance £671: 0: 0d

Allocation:- G.B. £35; D. £45; F £30. E.B. £40;
F.£40; H.£35; I. £40; J. £35; L. £40; K.£45; R.C.£50;
D.£50; F.£40; W.B. £30; C.£40; E.£40; K.£35

Total £670 0: 0d

Public Works

Balance £857: 0: 0.

New Ross Bridge £50.

Courthouses £20.

Co. Buildings £25.

INJURY TO PONY TRAP &c.

Under date 17th December, 1928, Mr. E. Gethings, Monart, Enniscorthy, wrote claiming £5 compensation for injury to pony trap and delph. He stated that on the 13th December, when driving along Ballyminane road (Ballindaggin) he got fired out and the trap was injured and delph broken owing to a heap of stones. The contractor of the road is William Doran, Mohurry.

Mr. Ennis, Assistant Surveyor, said that he was talking to Mr. Gethings who told him if he got 10/- to cover the cost of the delph which had been broken he would be well satisfied. There was a small depot of about four yards out but the road was very narrow and the heap projected a bit too far out.

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

"That the letter of Mr. Edward Gethings, under date 17th December, 1928, and claiming £5 for injury to pony trap and broken delph be referred to Wm. Doran, ~~Kilgarry~~ Mohurphy., Road Contractor!"

TARA HILL LANE.

Under date 9th January, 1929, Mr. John Walsh, Tara Hill, Gorey, wrote that the people concerned who were using this lane had agreed to do the necessary trimming on the land as required.

The following wrote that they agreed to help with horses and cars so far as it was in their power in connection with the repair of this lane:- Peter Noctor (Kilcavan); John Whelan; Denis Doyle; James Kilty; Michael Kavanagh; P. J. Fanning; Wm. Warren; Denis Allen T.D., and Peter Noctor (Ballymack).

Mr. O'Byrne proposed and Mr. Keegan seconded:- "We recommend the County Council to accept the guarantees given to this meeting as regards local assistance in connection with the repair of Tara Hill Lane".

Passed.

DANGEROUS CORNER ON KILNAHUE(GOREY) ROAD.

Under date 30th January, 1929, a long letter was read from Mr. T. E. Ireton, Creagh, Gorey, complaining of the action of the County Council in not having dangerous corner on above road removed. He said that when some one else was killed at this corner (one life having been already lost at this spot) the Council would be rushing to lock the stable door when the horse was gone. It was not a big job and would cost only £5 or £6 which might be the means of saving lives there because as he had already pointed out there was room only for two wheelbarrows to pass and ^{if} two carts met ~~one~~ one should back some distance to enable the other to pass.

It was decided to inform Mr. Ireton that the matter would have to be adjourned until the finances of the Council permitted and until all dangerous corners which had been scheduled for easement had been dealt with.

GENERAL MATTERS.

Mr. Smyth complained of the flooding of Newtown (Clonevan) Road all through the Winter months. He was at a funeral there on the previous evening and the hearse had to go through three or four feet of water. Three houses on the road were actually isolated on account of the flooding.

The County Surveyor said the flooding was caused owing to the fact that the Cahore drainage system was a quagmire in consequence of no attention for a considerable time past. Until the drainage outlet was improved nothing could be done for the road. To raise it would cost about £150.

Colonel Quin pointed out that when the Council had considered this matter on a previous occasion they were told proceedings would have to be taken in the High Court and it might cost thousands.

Mr. Corish said that the matter of Cahore Drainage was well in hand. The five T.D.'s for the County had been with the Board of Works, the Minister for Agriculture and the Parliamentary Secretary for the Land Commission, two or three times within the last two months.

Mr. Hayes called attention to the constant flooding of the road between Rathangan Cross and Gibberpatrick on the road to Duncormack at the bridge of "Ravis Tree". The owner of the land would allow the Council to have the place cleaned out. There was a second road at Scar also subject to flooding. The river ran alongside the road for about 50 yards and overflowed very often for that length.

The County Surveyor said that as far as he understood the

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County Council had no power to compel a person to clean up a natural running stream.

It was decided that Mr. Kehoe (Assistant Surveyor) inspect the two roads complained of and report to next meeting of the Roads' Committee.

Mr. Shannon said the residents of Chapel (Clonroche District) had asked him to bring to the attention of the Roads' Committee the necessity of having a dangerous corner there taken away.

It was decided that Mr. Cullen, Assistant Surveyor for the district, should inspect the place and report to next meeting of the Roads' Committee.

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Application site Hall at Ballyhack.

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

"That the Council consent to the erection of Village Hall on North West side of Ballyhack Street, subject to the site receiving approval of County Surveyor and to an Undertaking that the Hall be removed on three months' notice in writing served by County Council".

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr. O'Byrne, seconded by Mr. Culleton:- "That the Minutes of Roads' Committee, in respect of meeting held on 4th February, 1929, be and are hereby confirmed. "

GOREY TENDERS COMMITTEE.

The following report of above Committee was submitted.:-

GOREY TENDERS COMMITTEE MEETING - 5th Feb., 1929

Meeting of Gorey Tenders Committee was held in Court-house, Gorey, on 5th February.

Present:- Messrs Sean O'Byrne, James Hall, Timothy F. D'Arcy; James Armstrong, Myles Smyth and Colonel Quin.

The County Surveyor, Assistant Surveyors Ennis and Treanor, and Assistant Secretary were in attendance.

On the motion of Mr. D'Arcy, seconded by Mr. Smyth the Chair was taken by Colonel Quin.

Before tenders were considered Mr. Sean O'Byrne stated he wished to protest against the taking of Road work from men who had nothing and giving it to men who had something. Some of the contractors had not very much but at least they had some other means of earning a livelihood while the roadworkers from whom the work was being taken had no other means of support.

The Chairman stated that any discussion on this matter was out of order as the function of Tenders Committee was to consider the tenders received. The manner in which road work was to be carried out was a matter for the County Council.

The following letter was read from Mr. Patrick Kinsella, Market Square, Gorey:-

"Will you please inform the Road Board Committee that I am withdrawing all Tenders in my name and much oblige"

List of Tenders received and approved are set out on attached forms.

In the case of Special work No. 213 for rebuilding of 99 feet of retaining wall and erection of parapet wall and extension of gullet 5 feet in Poulshone two tenders were received one from Laurence Doyle, Ballyduff, Killena, Gorey at £88 and one from Edward McDonald, Kilbora, Camolin at £95.

In the tender form of Laurence Doyle no sureties were mentioned but the following letter was received from him:-

"In making out my tender for Special Works Contract at

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Poulshone I think I forgot to fill in the names of my sureties until I had sent it away. I hope you will be so good as to overlook the omission. The sureties are:- Wm. Cousins, Ballycale, Gorey: Thomas Whelan, Farmer, Ballyduff.

Edward McDonald stated he objected to the acceptance of tender of Laurence Doyle on the grounds (1) That tender was late (2) That no sureties were mentioned on tender form.

It was pointed out to McDonald that Doyle's tender was received in time but he persisted in stating that tender was late.

The meeting decided (Messrs D'Arcy and Smyth dissenting) to accept the tender of Laurence Doyle at £88. Mr. McDonald was notified by Chairman that if he had an objection to make to the Committee's decision he could do so at County Council meeting.

The Chairman announced that, in accordance with decision of Roads' Committee of County Council, all untendered Roads would be readvertised.

John Fortune, Ballyoughna, Contractor, accepted for Road No.349 did not sign bond for contract. He stated that he had decided not to take this contract. No other tender had been received for this road. Fortune completed bonds for Contract No.343.

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The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr. O'Byrne, seconded by Mr. D'Arcy:- "That the Minutes of Gorey Tenders' Committee be received and considered".

The following resolution was, after discussion, proposed by Mr. D'Arcy, seconded by Mr. Smyth and adopted:- "That the Minutes of Gorey Tenders' Committee be and are hereby confirmed except penultimate paragraph recommending the re-advertising of roads untendered for which is governed by the decision of the Council that no further tender for road maintenance be invited".

ENNISCORTHY TENDERS COMMITTEE.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Col. Quin:- "That the Minutes of Enniscorthy Tenders Committee ~~be~~ submitted as follows by the Secretary be received and considered:-

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ENNISCORTHY TENDERS COMMITTEE.

Meeting of Enniscorthy Tenders Committee was held in
C Courthouse, Enniscorthy, on Tuesday, 12th February, 1928.

Present:- Mr. T. McCarthy, presiding; also Messrs J.
S Shannon, M. Jordan and J. Clinee.

Before the consideration of the tenders received the
C Chairman announced that tenders would be only provisionally
accepted by the Tenders' Committee.

Before any tender became effective it would have to be
r ratified by the County Council.

The acceptance of Tenders by Tenders Committee was only
p provisional.

Withdrawal of Tenders.

A letter was received from Mr. Peter Cummins, Ballinastraw,
Cl Clonegal, withdrawing all tenders in his name.

A list of Tenders provisionally accepted by Tenders
CoCommittee is included on Form 20 herewith.

Contractor provisionally accepted for No.313 and 314
PaPatrick Walsh, Ballyorley, Ferns, did not appear with his
susureties to sign Bond at conclusion of Meeting.

James Slevin, Caim, Surety for proposed Contractors for
ththe following roads did not attend to sign bonds. Contractors
ststated Surety would attend at County Council Office by the 18th
FeFebruary but he did not do so.

<u>Road No.</u>	<u>Contractor.</u>
256	Myles Slevin.
257	do
382	do
385	do
387	James Browne, Kiltrea
389	James Borwne, do.

Philip Murphy, Knockreigh, surety for proposed Contractor
fofor No.489 Contractor Edward Maddock.
506 " do
507 " do
509 " do.

didid not attend to sign bond. Contractor stated surety would

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attend County Council Office to sign bond but has not done so.

John Gallagher, Verona, Surety for proposed Contractor for Road No.388 (James Hall, Templescoby) did not attend at Wexford to sign bond although Contractor stated he would do so.

A Tender for Road No.249 was received from John Doyle, Wheelagower, Ballindaggin, at £46: 10: 0d (Sureties Patrick Doyle, Coolree and James Lawler, Coolree). This tender was not in Enniscorthy Tender Box. There was no mention on envelope enclosing tender as to its containing a road tender for Enniscorthy.

As tender was received in time at County Council office it is now submitted to County Council for consideration there being no tender for this Road at Tenders' Committee Meeting.

For Road No.563 two Tenders were received one from Thomas O'Brien, Glenteigue at £28 and one from Joseph Cullen, Ballyrannell at £29.

It was decided to refer the Tenders to County Council as both O'Brien and Cullen had been provisionally accepted for a number of Roads.

LATE TENDERS.

A number of late Tenders received were not dealt with it being decided to refer them to County Council Meeting.

After discussion the following resolution was adopted on the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Colonel Gibbon and adopted:- "That in cases of accepted Contracts for roads in which bonds have not been completed by this date, contract be cancelled and works given in charge of County Surveyor. This ruling is to apply to Roads 256; 257; 313; 314; 382; 385; 387; 388; 389; 489; 506; 507; 509. That tender of John Doyle, Wheelagower (Road 249) be accepted as through an error it had been placed in wrong tender box. As regards Road 563 we are of opinion that Thomas O'Brien, Glenteigue and Joseph Cullen, Ballyrannell have in charge as many roads as they can efficiently look after and in consequence we decline to accept either as Contractor for Road 563 which is placed in charge of County Surveyor for a year.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr. Corish, seconded by Mr. Hall:- "That no late tenders for Roads received in connection with meetings of Tenders Committees be considered"

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

"That Minutes of Enniscorthy Tenders' Committee as submitted to this meeting be and are hereby confirmed".

NOTICES OF MOTION.

Gorey Courtown Road

The following motion of which he had given previous notice was moved by Mr. D'Arcy seconded by Col. Quin and adopted:-

"That portion of the material - amount to be fixed by County Surveyor - for improvement of Gorey Courtown Road be taken from Tara Hill Quarry".

State Assistance for Farmers.

Mr. Roche moved the following of which he had given previous notice:-

"That we, the members of Wexford County Council do hereby ask the Government to consider immediately the position of ratepayers in the Saorstat. The Council has reduced expenditure in every manner possible but the reduction thus obtained is altogether inadequate to meet the burden of taxation. Under present uneconomic conditions nothing but State assistance could possibly prove effective. A tax could be imposed say on foreign bacon and the proceeds turned in the direction of the above-named. Also many other articles which may be home manufactured could be dealt with likewise, and the revenue also made to assist the ratepayers. Also that we approach the Government on the matter of having State protection extended to the farmers as regards home produce. At the present time many products grown on the farm are sold by the retailers at from 50 to 100% profit. This has the effect of hitting both producer and consumer to an enormous extent. Whereas if a reasonable profit were charged it would greatly assist both parties mentioned".

Mr. Roche said he had brought forward his motion by way of suggestion to point out ^{to} the Government the condition in which the Ratepayers were at the present. It was quite evident that very many of them were unable to pay their rates. Within the past week protection had been given the woollen industry and it would be no harm if a similar experiment was applied to agriculture. The agricultural producer should have some idea of what he was going to get for his produce and the exorbitant profits of dealers should be abolished. These were killing trade.

Mr. McCarthy said that Mr. Roche in his remarks had referred

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to protection for Irish bacon. The question of protection was one into which a County Council should not go or for that matter any similar public body. They were not sufficiently well versed in the pros and cons of the protection problem to give an accurate expression of opinion. It was a very complex question and most of them had only read speeches or newspaper articles and would very likely be swayed by those. They had not gone into the question/^{at}any depth and were not in a position to give a really sound opinion on it.

Mr. Roche said that Mr. McCarthy misunderstood the motion which had been put down to try and help the ratepayers by drawing the attention of the Government to the sad condition of the ratepayers of the County. It is not by any means a political motion.

Col. Gibbon pointed out that the people who had secured protection for the woollen industry had appeared before the Tariff Commission and made a successful case for a tariff. The Farmers' Union had decided against tariffs but there was nothing to prevent any unofficial body of farmers to go before the Tariff Commission and make their case for a tariff. But until some farmers were prepared to do this the Council were wasting their time talking about the matter.

After further discussion Mr. Roche agreed that all words after the word "effective" appearing in line 7 of motion as appearing on the agenda paper should be deleted.

The motion as amended was seconded by Mr. Hall and adopted.
Publishing Names of Defaulting Land Annuitants.

The following motion of which he had given previous notice stood in the name of Mr. Roche:- "That the resolution of the Council as to publication of list of defaulting Land Annuitants be rescinded".

Mr. Culleton seconded.

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Mr. Elgee mentioned that there was a case of libel for the publication of names of defaulting annuitants at present before the High Court.

Col. Quin proposed and Mr. O'Byrne seconded the following resolution:- "That notice of motion as to rescinding the resolution of Co. Council to publish names of defaulting Land Annuitants be adjourned for three months or until such time as High Court decision as to legality of such action be available".

Mr. O'Byrne seconded

A poll was taken with the following result:-

For the amendment adjourning the motion:- Messrs Armstrong, Cline, Cooney, Corish, Hall, Hayes, McCarthy, O'Byrne, Quin, and Shannon.....10.

Against:- Messrs Brennan, Colloton, D'Arcy, Doran, Gibbon, Jordan, Mayler, Murphy, Roche, Smyth, Walsh and the Chairman.....12.

The Chairman declared the amendment lost. Mr. Roche's motion was then put and passed nem.con.

Kilmannock Drainage System.

The following motion of which he had given previous notice stood in the name of Mr. Murphy:-

"To consider appointment of caretaker for Kilmannock Drainage system and if agreed to appoint caretaker"

Mr. Murphy asked the Council to agree to the postponement of his motion for the present and the meeting consented.

Mr. Murphy then proposed:- "That we ask the Land Commission to set aside a sufficient sum of money for the purpose of maintaining the embankment of Drainage System before the Kilmannock, Power, Haughton, and Ryland Estates are vested in the tenants.

'That a copy of this resolution be sent to the T.D.'s for

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the County.

Compensation for Destroyed Insurance Stamps.

Mr. Hayes called attention to the hardship which the men - who had been employed by the Council and were at present disengaged - were under in not being able to secure unemployment benefit in consequence of the fact that the Ministry for Industry and Commerce would not recognise the certificate of the County Surveyor as to the stamps which had been destroyed in the fire. He proposed:- "That if arrangements are not made by Friday, 1st March for the Department of Industry & Commerce to recognise the certificate of County Surveyor in the cases of men who are entitled to Unemployment benefit the County Surveyor arrange to start the men concerned at some work."

Mr. Keegan seconded.

Passed.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr. McCarthy, seconded by Mr. Shannon:-

"That Messrs Corish and Jordan, T.D. members of this Council be requested to wait on the Department of Industry and Commerce with a view to securing a settlement of amount for destroyed stamps for National Health and Unemployment Insurance".

DREDGING.

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Kilmore Harbour.

The following letter, under date 15th February, 1929, (D/73/1), was read from the Secretary, Department of Fisheries:-

"With reference to your communication of the 22nd ultimo, forwarding resolution of the Wexford County Council to the effect that it will be expected that the Dredger would work on all tides should the dredging at Kilmore be carried out by the Office of Public Works, I am directed by the Minister for Lands and Fisheries to state that the Commissioners of Public Works intimate that the Harbour at Kilmore almost dries out at low water spring tides and the depth to be attained by dredging will only be 4' below low water spring tides so that the dredger will be able to work for a few hours only at the times of high water each day. If, however, night tides are worked the wages account would be greater than normal. It would be necessary to fix a tidal rate of wages for the entire crew and the additional cost over the regular rate would have to be charged to the work as overtime. Furthermore, if night tides were to be worked, the dredging, owing to the exposure of the place, would necessarily have to be carried out in the Summer months when conditions would be expected to be the most favourable.

It is thought well to bring these considerations to the notice of the County Council so that they may clearly understand the difficulty of working at Kilmore with economy.

I am to inquire whether the County Council is still willing to contribute at least a moiety (say £200) of the total cost involved should the dredging be carried out by the Commissioners of Public Works".

The following resolution was adopted, nem. con., on the motion of Colonel Gibbon, seconded by Mr Corish:-

"That the Department of Fisheries be informed that the Wexford County Council agree to pay a sum of £200 towards the cost of dredging Kilmore Harbour on condition that the harbour be dredged to a depth of at least 4 feet at low water as suggested and subject to agreement between the County Surveyor and the Department's Engineer as to the area over which this depth of at least 4 feet is to be obtained and also as to the position at which the dredged material is to be dumped so as to avoid the danger of its silting back into the harbour".

Mr Corish proposed and Mr Roche seconded the following which was agreed to after discussion:-

"That the County Surveyor be empowered to employ a representative of the Council - fisherman or longshoreman - acquainted with the set of the tides who would remain on board the Dredger of the Office of Public Works when dredging is being carried out and who would report as directed to the County Surveyor as to the progress of the work".

The County Surveyor stated he would check the levels at the Harbour prior to the start of the work

CAMBLIN EMBANKMENT, PROPOSED DRAINAGE DISTRICT.

Under date 15th February, 1929, the following (18689/28) was read from the Office of Public Works:-

"Having considered the resolution of the Wexford County Council and the petition transmitted to us in respect of the formation of the above-named drainage district under the Arterial Drainage Act, 1925, together with the reports of the persons appointed by us to report on the proposals contained in the petition, we are of opinion that the circumstances are not such as to justify the preparation of a detailed drainage scheme or the constitution of a separate drainage district.

"The reason on which our decision is based is that the scheme is quite uneconomic and could not be carried out without

imposing an unduly heavy burden on the finances of the County. We understand from your letter dated the 8th September last that it is not the wish of the affected occupiers that the scheme should proceed".

The Secretary stated he had reported to the Council a considerable time back that this scheme had been abandoned by the promoters.

FORD OF LYNG.

Under date 4th February, 1929, (1073/29), the following was read from the Office of Public Works:-

"With reference to your Council's inquiry as to what action we propose to take to enforce the law to compel the proprietors of the South Slob who infringed, by flooding, the rights of the owners of the adjoining land, we desire to point out that this is a matter in which we have no jurisdiction and is therefore one in which we cannot interfere. We understand that your Council are about to institute legal proceedings against the owners of the Slob Lands in respect of the damage alleged to have been caused to the public road by flooding owing to failure on the part of the owners to keep the drain east of the town-land of Rathdowney in good working order. In the circumstances it appears to us a case in which the owners of the flooded lands might consult their Solicitor and be guided by his advice in the matter.

2. As regards the concluding paragraph of the resolution, as you are aware, only two existing drainage districts have so far been transferred to the Council for management (i.e., the Sow and Kilmannock Drainage Districts). Both of these districts were constituted under the Act, 5 & 6 Vic. cap. 89. We enclose a copy of Section 120 of that Act which sets forth the duties and powers of the Trustees in respect of the maintenance of

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drainage works in their district. In the case of a new district, constituted under the Arterial Drainage Act of 1925, Sec. 19 confers on a Council the duty and power of maintaining the drainage works in proper efficient working order, whilst under Sec. 30 they are given powers to make bye-laws for this purpose. As regards the statement that an Inspector recently ~~inspected~~ visited the locality, so far as we are aware, none of our officials has made any inspection of or report upon the district since January of 1928; the general effect of that officer's report was given to you in our letter of 12th June, 1928."

The Chairman said the land owners concerned would be prepared to co-operate with the Council and to contribute financially but not to a large extent.

It was decided to refer the letter from the Office of Public Works to Mr Elgee, Solicitor, for presentation at consultation with Counsel in the matter on 27th February, 1929.

OVERGROUND TELEGRAPHIC LINE, KILTEALY.

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

"That this Council consents to the erection of overground telegraphic line from Cross Roads, Kiltelaly, near School, to Cross Roads, Kiltelaly, near Catholic Church, on condition that situation of poles receives the approval of the County Surveyor".

REPAIR OF CRACKS IN CONCRETE ROAD, WEXFORD-ENNISCORTHY.

The County Surveyor submitted the following from the Pioneer Road Construction Company, under date 11th February, 1929, and which was regarded as satisfactory:-

"We are in receipt of your letter of the 9th instant, and note that a few more cracks have appeared on the road since the date of our joint inspection.

"You are right in assuming that we will attend to these cracks when we are making good the defects that we noted previously.

"We are awaiting the advent of fair weather to make all these good, and to attend to the joints along the road and, as we pointed out before, we are agreeable to extend the period of maintenance until these matters are all attended to."

PROPOSALS FOR WORKS.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr Walsh, seconded by Mr Culleton:-

"That the several Proposals for the Maintenance of Roads and Works, etc., appearing on Form 20, as submitted to this meeting, be and are hereby approved, subject to the modifications and other orders noted thereon and initialled by the Chairman".

PROPOSALS FOR PAYMENT.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr Walsh, seconded by Mr Culleton:-

"That the several Proposals for Payment, including proposals on Form 22, certified by the County Surveyor, in respect of Road Contracts, etc., be and are hereby approved, subject to the modifications and other orders noted thereon and initialled by the Chairman".

OLD AGE PENSION SUB-COMMITTEE NO 7.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr Walsh, seconded by Mr Mayler:-

"That, as recommended by Old Age Pension Sub-Committee No 7, Rev. Thomas Cleary, P.P., New Ross, be appointed a member of said Sub-Committee, vice Monsignor Rossiter, P.P., deceased".

COUNTY LIBRARY SERVICE.

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

"That Rev. Dr. Browne, St Peter's College, Wexford, be appointed a member of Wexford Rural Library Committee, vice Very Rev W F Murphy, President, St Peter's College, Wexford, resigned".

CINEMATOGRAPH ACT.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr Roche, seconded by Mr Culleton:-

"That Sergeant James O'Reilly, 1560, Kilmore Quay, and Sergeant T B Dunleavy, 2299, Bridgetown, be appointed Inspectors under the Cinematograph Act, 1909, for their respective sub-districts, vice Sergeant Patrick Quinlivan, 95, and Sergeant James Dowd, 2214, respectively, transferred".

UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME.

Under date 29th January, 1929, the following was read from the Registrar, National University of Ireland:-

"I beg to inform you that the Senate, at its last meeting, adopted the following resolutions, and directed me to request you to lay them before your Council at its next meeting:-

(i) That the County Councils and County Borough Councils be requested to consult with one of the Constituent Colleges before drafting Regulations for University Scholarships.

(ii) That, in the opinion of the Senate, it would be advisable to make the Scholarships tenable for four years, as has already been done in some Counties, to enable the holders when necessary to complete their professional qualifications.

(iii) That it is suggested that the Regulations should be such as to allow the amounts allocated to Scholars to be increased in the case of poorer Students, who are in many cases practically dependent on their Scholarships".

The Secretary mentioned that, as regards (i), the draft scheme was sent each year to the Academic Council of the National University for their approval.

As regards (ii), it was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Mr Culleton, and adopted:-

"That the County Wexford University Scholarship Scheme provides for an extension to four years in particular instances, and this Council cannot see its way to allow a four years' course indiscriminately to all University Scholarship Holders".

In connection with (iii), the following resolution was adopted on the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr Culleton:-

"This Council considers that £70 per annum, allowed for each University Scholarship, is adequate".

CARETAKER OF GOREY UNION BUILDINGS.

Under date 31st January, 1929, a letter was read from the County Board of Health, stating that Dr W O'Connor, Tuberculosis Medical Officer, recommended that Thomas Lawlor, the Caretaker of the Gorey Union Buildings, be given the Board-room to live in. Lawlor was at present living in the Registry Office of the Old Union, the bedroom being formerly the Strong

Closet. Lawlor's wife had died of consumption. The Board recommended the County Council to accede to the request of the Tuberculosis Medical Officer.

Agreed to, on the motion of Mr Corish, seconded by Mr Jordan.

STREET TRADING.

Under date 7th February, 1929, letter was read from the Town Clerk, Wexford, stating that Wexford Corporation were unanimously of the opinion that legislation should be introduced, with as little delay as possible, to cope with the undoubted abuse of hawkers trading ⁱⁿ the streets, as Wexford Town suffered in a marked degree from the presence of such hawkers who occupied the most prominent part of the Main Street on fair days and market days to the detriment of local traders.

Resolutions were submitted from Enniscorthy and New Ross Urban District Councils, calling on the Minister for Local Government and Public Health to introduce legislation for the purpose of putting a stop to the trading done by travelling hawkers and second-hand clothes dealers or to empower local authorities to charge these people a substantial fee for licence for the privilege of trading within their area, as at present these hawkers constituted a serious menace to business people who paid heavy rates and rents.

Proposed by Mr Corish, seconded by Mr Walsh, and adopted, Mr Cooney dissenting:-

"That the replies from the three Urban Districts of the County, relative to street trading by hawkers, etc., be forwarded to the County Councils' General Council, and that the Secretary to this body be informed that the County Council agree with the views therein expressed".

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ANALYST'S REPORT.

Report of Analyst for the quarter ended 31st December, 1928, was submitted to the meeting. The total number of samples analysed was 153, made up of 90 samples of Foods and 63 samples of drugs, the number adulterated being- Butter, 1; Sausages, 1; Drugs, 3.

MAIN ROADS AS NATIONAL ROADS.

Resolution, received from Wicklow County Council, stating that the repair and maintenance of Main Roads in each County should be accepted as a national question to be shouldered by the Government, etc., was referred to the Roads Committee for consideration.

IMPRISONMENT OF MR E DE VALERA, T D, M P.

A resolution was read from Kilkenny Corporation, requesting the Executive Council to demand the immediate release by the Northern Government of Mr E De Valera, T D, M P, Leader of the Opposition in Dail Eireann, and adequate satisfaction for the gross outrage on national feeling, public decency and tolerance.

No action was taken.

DE-RATING OF AGRICULTURAL LAND.

A resolution was received from Kerry County Council, requesting the Dail, in view of the prevailing depression in Agriculture, the chief industry of the State, to give their immediate and earnest consideration to devising a scheme for the de-rating of agricultural land.

Adopted on the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr Roche.

M. Doyle