WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL.

MINUTES

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MEETING HELD ON 14th JANUARY, 1929.

N. J. FRIZELLIE, SECRETARY.

FORTVIEW, WEXFORD.

The monthly meeting of the Wexford County Council was held in Co. Council Chamber, Fortview, Wexford, on 14th January, 1929.

Present:- Mr. Ml. Doyle, Chairman (Presiding); also:-Messrs J. Armstrong, J. Brennan, James Clince, Patrick Colfer, Thomas Cooney, R. Corish, John J. Culleton, John Cummins, T.F. D'Arcy, James Gaul, James Hall, Michael Jordan, W.P. Keegan, Thomas Meyler, Thomas McCarthy, John Murphy, Sean O'Byrne, M. M. Roche, James Shannon, Myles Smyth, James E. Walsh Colonel Quin and Miss O'Ryan.

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.

ROAD WORKS SCHEME.

The meeting considered the amended figures for Road Works Scheme for financial year 192730.

The County Surveyor, in reply to Mr. D. 'Arcy, said he had not made the same proportionate reduction for main roads as for county roads, one reason being because there was more traffic on main roads and also if the Council were not prepared to put a decent price on the main roads, they would lose a considerable sum in Government Grant. The Mileage of the County was divided as follows:-

National Roads		Miles 60	Miles
Trunk Roads Link Roads .Total Main Roads	••••	43 <u>1</u> 194	297쿺
County Roads Thir " Four Total Co	th Class	4315	16733

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This excluded the mileage main roads in Urban Districts. Mr. D'Arcy said that, comparing the figures presented by the County Surveyor at last meeting and those before the Council at the moment, the reduction made by the County Surveyor under

Gross Total

Main Roads was about 29 per cent and under County Roads over 50 per cent. He failed to understand the discrepancy in these two amounts of reduction which he considered unfair.

County Surveyor - If you take the 26000 for spraying work, you will find it is not so far astray. On spraying work we formerly obtained a Government Grant but we were told by the circular from the Local Government Department that we would now have to do it ourselves on a 50 per cent grant. In the circumstances I did not make any reducation in the amount set aside for spraying.

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Mr. D'Arcy maintained that the revision was not a proportionate one, and that they should also consider that seventy miles of main roads had been completed. The third-class roads would deteriorate through want of material. This had been well worked up by somebody.

Mr. Hall - I believe it will kill the contract system tho' this may not have been intended.

The Chairman said he agreed with Mr. D'Arcy that the allocation for the County Roads was not fair. If the grants could be obtained by even expending a lesser sum on the main roads it should be done.

Mr. D'Arcy - Am I right in saying that the grants are paid on a percentage expenditure ?.

Secretary - Provided the Scheme has been agreed to by the Minister. If he does not agree to your scheme you will get nothing .

The Chairman suggested that if there was dissatisfaction with the allocations the estimate should be sent back for further revision.

Mr. Cooney said that if referring back the estimates meant that the County Surveyor would have to reduce the amount for trunk roads it would be unfair. Those roads were in a bad condition and traffic was increasing on them. What would be their state if the amount were reduced further. There were nothing but complaints from farmers about the state of the New Rose Wexford road. Chairman - We never had the farmers here complaining about

it.

Mr. Gooney - It is in a scandalous state. It will be no better than the Sahara if the amounts are reduced again.

Mr. D'Arcy proposed the following resolution: -

"That the sum of £2000 be taken from Main and Trunk Roads and put to the County Roads, amended figures to be apportioned by the County Surveyor".

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Mr. Hall seconded.

Chairman - It seems to me the contract system is out to be killed by the allocation. I think it is only fair that the system should get a trial when it was passed by a majority of the Council.

County Surveyor - I deny I am out to kill the contract system. I acted bona fide in the matter, and these are my recommendations.

Mr. Shannon said the contract system had got a chance and it was an absolute failure. No argument had been advanced to show that there would be a saving of one penny by the adoption of the contract system.

Mr. Keegan asked the County Surveyor if he were of the opinion that the grant for spraying would be forthcoming if the £2,000 were transferred.

County Surveyor - I'll not say that. If you cut out the tarring you will surely lose it.

A poll was taken on Mr. D'Arcy's proposition which resulted as follows:-

For:- Messrs J. Brennan, J. Colloton, T. F. D'Arey, J. Hall, M. J. Jordan, T. Meyler, M. M. Roche, J. Murphy, M. Smith, E. Walsh and the Chairman ... 11

Against: - Messrs J. Armstrong; P. Colfer, T. Cooney, J. Cummins, J. Gaul, W. P. Keegan, T. McCarthy; Sean O'Byrne; J. Shannon; R. Corish; Miss N. O'Ryan ... 11 .

Colonel Quin did not vote and Mr. Clince was not present when poll was taken

Mr. Gaul asked if that were an occasion on which the Chairman could exercise his casting vote.

Chairman - I don't want to take on any unnecessary responsibility.

Mr. Elgee, Solicitor, replying to Mr. Gaul's question said that as far as he knew there was nothing in the Act to prevent the Chairman giving his casting vote on the present occasion.

The Chairman gave his casting vote in favour of Mr.D'Arcy's proposition, which was accordingly carried.

The County Surveyor said there had been an idea prevailing that he was out to damn the contract system. That was not so. What the Council had done was to add £1: 13/- per mile to each contract. A few yards of material one way or other was not going to make a great deal of difference and the Council would lose £800 in the grant by transferring £2000 from Main roads.

Mr, D'Arcy - A stitch in time saves nine.

The following resolution was then proposed by Mr D'Arcy and seconded by Mr Hall:-

"That we allocate the following amounts for Road Maintenance, Road Improvement and Contingencies for financial year, 1929-30, as set out on Road Works Scheme in respect of this period, viz., Main Roads, £23,435, and County Roads, £27,001; total, £50,436".

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A poll was taken with the following result :-

For: - Messrs Brennan, Culleton, Cummins, D'Arcy, Hall, Jordan, Mayler, McCarthy, Murphy, Roche, Smyth, Walsh and the Chairman. 13.

Against:- Messrs Armstrong, Colfer, Cooney, Keegan, Sean O'Byrne, and Shannon. 6.

Declined to vote: - Colonel Quin and Messrs Corish and Gaul. Miss O'Ryan and Mr Clince were not present when poll was taken.

The Chairman declared the motion carried.

Mr D'Arcy moved and Mr Hall seconded the following resolution:-"That all improvement works on County Roads be carried out by contract".

On a poll the following voted for the motion :-

Messrs Brennan, Culleton, D'Arcy, Hall, Jordan, Mayler, Murphy, Roche, Smyth, Walsh, Colonel Quin and the Chairman. 12.

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

Miss O'Ryan and Mr Clince were not present when poll was taken.

The Chairman declared the motion carried.

POULMARLE TURN.

Miss O'Ryan, referring to the County Surveyor's estimate of £20 for the widening of a dangerous corner at Poulmarle Quarry, and erection of a wire fence, said that the people who asked to have

the work done never approved of such an expenditure, and were of the opinion that the work could be done for £3. The County Surveyor had estimated £20 which was ridiculous. She proposed:-

"That the widening of dangerous corner at Poulmarle Quarry be proceeded with, cost to be defrayed from Contingencies Fund". Mr Cummins seconded. Passed.

TURN AT FAHY'S CROSS.

Mr Corish asked if the County Surveyor had made any provision to remove the dangerous rurn at Fahy's Cross.

The County Surveyor replied that a proposal to do the work was passed last year, but nothing was done.

Mr Corish moved that the work be done this year.

Mr Shannon seconded.

Answering the Chairman, the County Surveyor stated he had money available for the work.

Mr Corish's proposition was passed.

CORAGH LANE.

Mr D'Arcy moved the following of which he had given previous notice:-

"That the Wexford County Council take over as a Public Road 495 perches (approximately) of the lane known as Coragh Lane from the Forge, Coragh, to Johnstown Cross".

Mr Armstrong seconded.

Passed, Colonel Quin and Mr Roche dissenting, the former stating they had absolutely no money and he could not see how the County could stand any more roads being taken on.

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MONGLASS LANE.

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

"That the Wexford County Council take over as a Public Road 220 perches of loop road in Monglass to the north of Road No 82 from east turn in Monglass to west turn in Monglass".

Mr McCarthy seconded.

Passed, Colonel Quin and Mr Roche dissenting.

KNOCKDUFF LANE.

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

"That the Wexford County Council take over as a Public Road 540 perches from the Bree Road, No 502, to the Kilgibbon Road, No 493, through Knockduff."

Mr Armstrong seconded.

Passed, Colonel Quin and Mr Roche dissenting.

WEXFORD-ROSSIARE (SLOB) ROAD.

Mr Gaul asked how this matter stood and onen could they expect the road would be completed.

The County Surveyor stated that it was in abeyance until they saw what they would get from the Government during the coming year.

Mr Gaul- It is ridiculous when we laid out a large sum of money on this road, and now we cannot use it. We should get some answer one way or another.

The County Surveyor stated that the Railway Company, by their demands in connection with the level crossing, had added to the cost of construction by about £900.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF FINANCE COMMITTEE.

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Meeting 6th December, 1928.

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

"That the Minutes of Finance Committee of 6th December, 1928, submitted as follows to this meeting be and are hereby confirmed".:-

The fortnightly meeting of Finance Committee was held in County Council Chamber, Wexford, on 6th December, 1928.

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Present:- Messrs. Sean O'Byrne, J.E. Walsh, M.M. Roche, John J. Culleton, John Murphy, James Hall and Thomas McGarthy.

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

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

The Minutes of last meeting were read and signed.

Mr. Shannon then attended and presided for remainder of the meeting.

Treasurer's Advice Note for £3977.0.9 was examined and signed. Rate Collection.

In connection with letter of Local Government Department to Messrs. John J. Kelly and Michael McCarthy, Rate Collectors, under date 17th November, 1928 (G.77294-1928 Loch Garman Fa), asking them to furnish within seven days from 17th November any explanation they might have to offer as to their suspension from office, the following resolution was adopted on the motion of $\tilde{M}r$. Hall, seconded by Mr. Walsh:-

"That in view of the fact that the collection in No. 5 District (Michael McCarthy) and No. 14 District (John J. Kelly) is at present held up the Finance Committee would be glad to have as soon as possible the views of the Minister on any explanation whitch these collectors have offered regarding their suspension from office.

The following shows the percentage of rate for first moiety of Rate for financial year 1928-29 collected up to 6th December, 1928:- E.J. Murphy, 97. J.J. O'Reilly,94. J. Quirke,91. S. Gannon 90. J. Doyle 90. T. Rowe 88. P. Doyle 88. M. Deegan 85. J.J. Sinnott 85. J. Curtis 85. J. Cummins 83. P.O'Byrne 80. T. Sutton 79. P. Donohoe 79. W. Cummins 79. P. Furlong 78. A Dunne 76. M. Kelly 53. M. O'Hanlon 50. Collecting books have not been issued for Districts No. 5 and 14.

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

"That the time for closing first moiety of warrant for year ending31st Markh, 1929 be extended to 31st December, 1928 when all collectable rate must be lodged. That Rate Collectors be informed that no further extension of time will be entertained by the Finance Committee."

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

"That as regards future Rate Collections the Finance Committee recommend the Council to refuse to extend the period for closing of warrant beyond two months from date of close of financial halfyears viz., 30th September and 31st March."

Registration of Voters, 1927-28.

Under date 14th December, 1928 the following was received from Mr. James Quirke, Secretary to County Rate Collectors:-

The County Rate Collectors have requested me to ask you to bring the question of payment of their Registration Fees before the next meeting of your Finance Committee, or the responsible authority. You are aware that above payment is long overdue.

The following resolution was adopted:-

"That the Finance Committee express their surprise that accounts due to Rate Collectors for preparation of Last year's Register of Voters have not been paid to the present. They consider' the latest date on which payment should have been made was 1st July last."

"That copy of this resolution be forwarded to the County Registra

Preparation of Rate Books, and Receipt and

Demand Notes.

It was decided on the motion of Mr. Walsh seconded by Mr. Shannon:-

"That the Secretary be empowered to employ the requisite temporary staff for the purpose of writing up Rate Books, and

Receipt and Demand Note Books for next financial year.

Advertising County Council.

A resolution was adopted asking the three local papers to furnish tenders to cover the advertising of County Council for next year.

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Proposed Committal to Industrial School.

Under date 1st December, letter was read from the District Superintendent, Garda Siochana, Wexford inquiring if a boy named Laurence Quirke, Knottown, Castlebridge who was of a recalcitrant character was committed to Industrial School would the Council defray the expenses of his committal.

It was decided to refer the District Superintendent to Section 76(2) of the Children Act, 1908, under which the expense of conveying the child to Industrial School should be defrayed by the Police Authority.

Mr. John J. Fanning, Assistant County Council Offices.

The following report was read from the Secretary :-

I regret to report that on the 26th November, Mr. John J. Fannin Assistant, County Council offices, was conveyed to the Mental Hospital.

Mr. Walsh proposed and Mr. Shannon seconded the following resolution, which was agreed to :-

"That a further month's leave of absence as from 8th December be granted to Mr. John J. Fanning, Assistant in County Council Offices."

Meeting 20th December, 1928.

The following Minutes of Meeting of Finance Committee held on 20th December, 1928, were submitted:-

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The fortnightly meeting of the Finance Committee was held in County Council Chamber, Wexford on 20th December, 1928.

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Present:- Mr. James Shannon (Vice-Chairman) presiding:also Messrs. Sean O'Byrne, M.M. Roche, James Hall, John J. Culleton, Thomas McCarthy.

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

The Minutes of last meeting were read and signed.

Mr. M. Doyle, Chairman then attended and presided for the rest of the meeting.

Rate Collection.

The state of the collection for first moiety of rate to March, 1929 was submitted as follows:-

E.J. Murphy, 98 per cent. J.J. O'Reilly, 96. J. Doyle 93. J. Quirke 92. T. Nowe 92. S. Gannon 91. P. Doyle 90. J.J.Sinnott 90. J. Curtis 89. M. Deegan 87. J. Cummins 85. P. Furlong 84. P. O'Byrne 83. T. Sutton 82. W. Cummins 81. P. Donohoe 80. A.Dunne 79. M. Kelly 58. M. O'Hanlon 57.

Particulars of arrears of rates to March, 1928 werealso read. Collection District No. 5.

In connection with the proposal that the outstanding arrears and current rate should be collected by Messrs. Quirke (District No. 1) and Furlong (District No. 4) letters were read from Messrs. Charles McCarthy (Senior) Murrintown and J.L.Doyle, 58 North Main Street, Wexford consenting to the recommendation of the Council.

The Manager, National Bank, Wexford wrote under date 14th December that Mr. Patrick Quirke, Ballycross, and Mr. William Quirke, Ballyruan were quite undoubted as sureties for £300.

The Secretary stated that Mr. Quirke was providing Cover Note from Insurance Company for £450.

It was decided that Mr. Quirke proceed with the collection and that Mr. Furlong be requested to submit names of personal

sureties to cover collection in No 5 District with Banker's reference as to same; also cover note for £450 from Insurance Company to cover fidelity guarantee bond in order that his portion of the collection should be proceeded with at once.

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

"That we approve of Mr. Quirke acting as temporary Collector for the following District Electoral Divisions in No. 5 Collection District:- Divinagh, Killinick and Rosslare and Mr. P. Furlong acting as temporary Collector for the following District Electoral Divisions in No.5 District:- Kilscoran, Lady's Island and St. Helen's."

The Committee decided that unless the necessary bonds were arranged for in the case of Mr. Furlong at once they would ask Mr. Quirke to carry out the entire collection in No. 5 District.

An application was read from Mr. C. McCarthy, Senior, for poundage in respect of collections made by his sons Charles, and Michael in No.5 District.

It was decided to inform Mr. McCarthy that the Finance Committee are not in a position to procure sanction to payment of poundage until the collection has been closed.

Undar data No. 14 District.

Under date 18th December, \$928 Mr. John J. O'Reilly, Collector wrote submitting the names of the following as personal securities in connection with the work of collection which he had been appointed to carry out in certain Electoral Divisions in above District:- Messrs. Alexand Kinsella, Main Street, Gorey and Mr. Myles Webb, Main Street, Gorey.forxwixem

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

"That we approve of Messrs. Alexander Minsella, Main Street, Gorey and Myles Webb, Main Street, Gorey as sureties for Mr.

O'Reilly provided satisfactory reference from Banker is forthcoming.

Mr. J.J. Sinnott, Rate Collector wrote under date 18th December, 1928 forwarding the names of Andrew Wafer, Ballygarrett, Clonevan and John Wafer of same place as personal sureties for the work of collection which he had been appointed to carry out in District No. 14 in conjunction with Mr. J.J. O'Reilly.

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

"That we approve of Andrew and John Wafer, Ballygarret, Clonevan being accepted as personal sureties for Mr. John J. Sinnott, in respect of work which he has been appointed to carry out in dollection district No. 14 subject to satisfactory Banker's reference in respect of proposed personal securities being forthcoming."

Under date 17th December, 1928 the Depart of Local Government wrote (G.86375/1928 Loch Garman Fa) that the Minister was prepared to agree to any reasonable arrangements for the collection of the rates in Nos.5 and 14 Districts by existing collectors of the Council who were regarded as suitable. When the Division of the Districts was definitely made particulars could be submitted to the Department for formal sanction to the **issn** appointment of the temporary Collectors to Nos 5 and 14 Districts. "The Security" the letter concluded "should bear an adequate proportion to the total amount of the warrants and bonds should be mentioned when sanction is being sought."

Ex-Collector Cleary.

Under date 12th December, 1928 the Department for Local Government wrote G.82138/1928 LochGarman Fa) asknowledging the resolution of the Finance Committee of 22nd November and stating that it was noted that the sum of £24.1.3d fees in respect of Voters Lists due to Ex-Collector Cleary had been lodged to the credit of the Council. The Minister, however, did not approciate

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that poundage fees should be paid.

No order was made.

Vacancies for Nos. 5 and 14 Collection Districts.

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In connnection with above the meeting, in of standing order No. 59, discussed the question of filling vacancies for Rate Collectors in these districts but decided to refer the whole matter to the Council for consideration.

Collection District No. 15.

Under date 19th December, 1928 the following was read from Mr. Art Dunne, collector for above district:-

The two men whose names I submitted as my personal sureties Messers. Michael Ryan and Maurice Condon, are not prepared to sign a joint and several bond for £200 though they are agreeable to go security for £100 each and have furnished bankeris references for that amount. Would it be possible for you to arrange the bond for two securities of £100 each, as I am uhable to get sureties who can furnish bankers references. I can, however, get two men who are known to some of the County Council as solvent to the amount required though they cannot get banker's references. If you could admit them in conjunction with Messrs. Ryan and Condon it might satisfy the demands of Local Government Board. They are Peter Murphy, Courtnacuddy, Enniscorthy and Denis Condon, Courtnacuddy, Enniscorthy,

Trusting above will meet the requirements of case.

It was decided that Mr. Elgeen Solicitor to the County Council communicates with the proposed securities and explain to them their exact liability under a joint and several Rate Collector bond.

Holdingat Newtown, Clonevan.

Under date 17th December, 1928 Messrs. Huggsrd, Brennan and Godfrey, Solicitors, Wexford wrote asking that their application for remission of rates on holding at Newtown, Clonevan should be again submitted to the Council. They stated that the case was one

of great hardship as owing to no fault whatever of their client the holding wad remained derelict. The real owner was a minor and unless the Council made some concession in the case there would be practically nothing left after the sale of the farm.

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The following resolution was adopted :-

"That the Finance Committee cannot see their way to alter their decision as regards the application for remission of rates on holding at Newtown, Clonevan.

Rate Collector M.M. Kelly.

In reference to Collection in M.M. Kelly's district the called Assistant Secretary stated he had/the attention of collector M. Kelly and Mr. Jasper Whitty (Deputy Checker) to items which had not been lodged by Collector, and in respect of which official receißts could not be produced by Collector. Portiom of the items totalling £28.17.11 were immediately admitted and lodged by Collector when he had been questioned about them at the County Council Offices. A number of other receipts not accounted for were stated by Collector to be in respect of irrecoverable items the receipts for which were mislaid and in the event of him not being able to find them he would lodge the amount thereof and make application to the County Council for refund. The following letter was read from Mr. Jasper Whitty, Deputy Checker:-

The items questioned for above Collector are marked irrecoverable. He is looking up receipts and if he cannot find them he had promised to lodge the amounts and apply to County Council for refund.

The other items lodged since occurred through a mistake, which will not occur again.

The following resolution was adopted :-

"That Mr. Jasper Whitty be informed they he must be more careful in future in carrying out his duties as official Rate Cherker."

"That Collector M.M. Kelly be instructed to exercise greater

A over official rate receipts which are the property of the County Council."

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Housing Acts.

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Under date 7th December, 1928 the Department of Local Governmen wrote (G.84585/1928 (Pc)-Ilgh) that the normal period for the completion remains and public utility societies to qualify for State Grants under Various Housing Acts had been extended to 17th October, 1929 in all cases in which the reconstruction of houses was begun not later than 1st April, 1929.

Application Advance - Register of Electors.

Under date 15th December, 1928 an application was received from Mr. J.N? Scallan, Registration officer for an advance of £1,000 to meet the expenses of the seventh Register in course of prepatation.

It was decided to adjourn the application in view of the condition of the finances of the Council.

County Library Service - Accounts.

Under date 11th December, 1928 the Depart/of LocalGovernment wrote (G,85639/1928 Ilgh Pf) that prior to 1925 Library Committees could not be vested with the power of making payments or of borrowin and in consequence these functions were carried out by the appointing authorities. Section 58 of the Local Government Act of 1925 gives to County Councils much wider powers of devolving functions and the Minister for Local Government suggested that it would simplify the procedure and reduce the labour and responsibility of their own officers if the power of making direct payments were vested in the Library Committee, the latter being required to render halfyearly abstracts of accounts duly certified approvided by the Public Bodies Order. These abstracts could be inforporated in the accounts of the County Council for audit therewith.

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

"That as recommended by Local Government Department the County

Library Committee be vested with powers of expenditure as from 1st April, 1929. That in the event of County Council agreeing to this recommendation the County Library Committee carry out the procedure as regards the rendering of accounts etc. as set out in

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Public Bodies Order and as referred to in Circular letter of Department of Local Government Gilth December, 1929 G.85638/1928 Ilgh Pf).

Continuance of Overdraft of County Council.

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

"That the Department of Local Government be requested to sanction present overdraft of £40,000 up to 31st March, 1928."

Local Authorities (Officersand Employees) Act 1926.

The Clerk to the select Committee wrote that the Committee had been set up to inquire and report whether having regard to the experience gained in the working of the above Act any amendment therein was desirable. Public Bodies concerned could make any representations they considered advisable by way of memorandum to the Committee.

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

"We recommend the County Council to agree to the following for submission to Select Committee Dail Eireann enquiring into the working of Local Authorities (Officers and Employees) Act 1926:-

- Names of all qualified candidates for positions to be submitted to the appointing authotity.
- 2. Machinery to be devised by panel or otherwise to have the period of filling vacancies cut down to a minimum. The County Wexford owing to offices remaining open for an undue period has lost £500 or £600 in payment of Officers' Substitutes.
- 3. We consider that when an applicant has paid fee in connection with particular position he or she should not be called upon to pay any further fee in connection with any further examinion for a similar post.

Advertising.

Tenders for County Advertising for year 1929 at £135 each were read from "The People" "Free Press" and "Eche" newspapers plus Election and Road Contract advertising which would be charged at 6d. per single column line per insertion.

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

"We recommend the County Council to accept tender of Local Newspapers for County Council Advertising for 1929 at £135 per annum in each case, on condition that the newspapers are prepared to insert all ordinary advertisements as last year and form 2/ of Public Bodies Order 1925 as regards Road Contracts. There will be no County Council Elections next year so that no question of Election Advertising can arise for the period.

Printing Rate Books.

The only tender received for printing Rate Books for 1929-30 was from "The People" at £14.2.6d.

This tender was accepted on the motion of Mr. O'Byrne, seconded by Mr. McCarthy.

Printing Abstracts of Accounts.

The only tender received for the printing of 80 copies of two halfyearly abstracts of accounts was from the "Free Press" at £11.11.0.

This was accepted on the motion of Mr. O'Byrne, seconded by Mr. McCarthy.

Payments.

Treasurer's Advice Note for £4925.1.9d. was examined and signed.

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

"That the Minutes of Finance Committee in respect of Meeting held on 20th December, 1928, be received and considered :-<u>Local Authorities (Officers & Employees) Act, 1926</u>.

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In the course of a discussion in connection with this matter the Chairman said he was a member of the County Council and of other public bodies longer than many of them and he never knew of any corruption in appointments that were made in the County. He did not say that there might be something of a corruptive nature elsewhere, but as far as County Wexford was concerned he never knew a man to get even a glass of whiskey as far as an appointment was concerned.

Mr. Keegan, concurring with the Chairman, said that speaking from twenty-one years' experience of public bodies he did not know of a single instance in which the finger of scorn could be pointed in regard to an appointment. The best applicants always got the positions. Mr. Keegan proposed that the Act be scrapped.

Mr. D'Arcy seconded.

Miss O'Ryan proposed: - "That the recommendations of Finance Committee as to amendments in Local Authorities (Officers and Employees) Act, 1926, be confirmed."

Mr. Cummins seconded.

The other members were not present when poll was taken.

The Chairman declared the motion lost.

Miss O'Ryan's proposal confirming the recommendations of the Finance Committee was then put and passed <u>nem.con</u>.

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The following resolution was then adopted on the motion of Mr. O'Byrne, seconded by Mr. D'Arcy:- "That the Minutes of Finance Committee in respect of Meeting held on 20th Dec., 1928, be and are hereby confirmed".

Meeting 3rd January, 1929.

The following Minutes of Finance Committeee in respect of meeting of Finance Committee held on 3rd January, 1929, were submitted:-

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The fortnightly Meeting of the Finance Committee was held in the County Council Chamber, Wexford on 3rd January 1929 present :- Messrs M Doyle, Chairman, presiding

Messrs James Shannon V C Thos McCarthy, Sean O'Byrne M M Roche J E Walsh and John J Culleton

The Secretary, the Assistant Secretary, the County Surveyor and Mr Elgee, Solr., were also present

The Minutes of last meeting were read and signed

Payments

Treasurer's Advice Mix Note for £2890 : 19 : 11d was examined and signed

Rate Collection

The following shows the amount of first moisty of Rate for year 1928 29 collected to 3rd January 1929 :- J J O'Reilly 99 per cent : J Quirke 99 : E J Murphy 98 : J J Sinnott 97 : John Doyle 94 : S Gannon 94 : T Rowe 92 : J Curtis 92 : P Doyle 90 : M Deegan 89 : Joseph Cummins 87 : P Furlong 85 : W Cummins 84 : P. O'Byrne 84 : P Donohoe 83 : T Sutton 83 : A Dunne 83 : M M Kelly 61 : M O'Hanlon 61 : J Quirke (No 5) 9 : P Furlong do Nil J J O'Reilly (No 14) 2. 31 and J J Sinnott do (No 14) 2. 16

It was decided to refer Rate Collectors to the resolution of Finance Committee of 6th Dec 1928 which directed that all collectable rate should be lodged by 31st of that month and that no extension of time for closing the collection after that date would be entertained

The Finance Committee, will, at their next meeting, deal with the cases of all Collectors © WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL ARCHIVES who have not complied with this instruction

Removal <u>of Rate Collectors</u> from Office Under date 19th Dec 1928 sealed order (No 86056 / 1928) removing Mr J J Kelly, Sunnybank, Camolin from his office as Rate Collector for No 14 District was read from the Minister for Local Government

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Sealed Order under date 19 December 1928 G 86055 / 1928) removing Mr Charles McCarthy Murrintown, Wexford, from his office as Rate Collector for No 5 District was read from the Minister for Local Government

Under date 2nd January 1929, Messrs Huggard, Brennan and Godfrey Solicitors, Wexford, wrote that Mr Charles McCarthy had asked them to pleace before the Co Council his resignation of the position of Poor Rate Collector owing to the condition of his health as had already been certified. Mr McCarthy asked the Council to kindly provide for the pension to which he was entitled

It was decided to refer this letter to Mr Elgee Solr., to the Council for his advice

Bonds for Collectors

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr O'Byrne seconded by the Chairman :- " That as satisfactory bank references have been produced on behalf of Mr Raymond Doyle, Broadway, and James Pettit Ballycushlane, Broadway, they be accepted as personal sureties for Mr Philip Furlong for the additional work of Rate Collection in No 5 district

Mr L Tierney 7 Paradise Row, Wexford, wrote as agent for New Ireland Assurance Company Ltd that Mr Furlong had paid 24 10s for fidelity guarantee bond of £450 and cover note would issue

at once

It was decided that Mr Furlong should begin the work of collection in his portion of No 5 district at once .

Reductions of Valuations

The Secretary reported that as a result of reductions in valuations made in railways whose systems ran through the County Wexford there would be a loss of 2725 per annum in rates taking the figures for the current rate as the basis for calculation

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr Sean O'Byrne seconded by Mr Walsh :-" That the Commissioner of Valuation be requested to state the principle upon which he acted in reducing the valuation of railway premises, lines etc in this County, also if it be necessary to lodge notice of appeal to the Circuit Court in each individual case of reduction "

" That the various County Councils in An Saorstat be asked to state what steps they intend taking as regards appeals against the decision of the Commissioner of Valuation in this matter "

" That Mr O'Byrne, M C C be requested to raise this question at the meeting of the Executive Committee of the General Council of County Councils to be held on 11 January 1929 "

" That Mr Elgee, Solr., consider the advisability of lodging notices of appeal against the decision of the Commissioner of Valuation in all Railway cases "

Advertisigg Contract

Letters were read from the Managers of the "People" "Free Press" and "Echo" newspapers agreeing to accept the proposals of the Finance © WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL ARCHIVES Committee to insert all ordinary advertisements as last year including Form 21 of Public Bodies Order 1925- for the ensuing twelvemenths at £135 in each case. The Managers of the "Free Press " and " Eche " pointed cut that for last year's advertising 26

calculating at the rate for public bodies the amount would have been 2200. They asked this to be borne in mind and that advertisements be curtailed as much as possible.

The following resclution was adopted on the motion of Mr O'Byrne seconded by Mr Walsh :- " That as regards acceptance of advertising contract with local newspapers the Finance Committee, while adhering to the recommendation made to the County Council, at their meeting on 20th December 1928, cannot see their way to accept any arrangement which woulds mean any curtailment of their ordinary advertisements. That copies of this resolution be furnished the Managers of the " Free Press"and " Echo" newspapers

Co Library Committee Accounts

Under date 31st December, 1928, Miss Connolly, Librarian, Co Library Committee, wrote that at a meeting of the latter on 29th December it was unanimously agreed that the control of Library Finance should be taken over by them in accordance with the suggestions from Local Government Department in their letter of hith December 1928, and subject to the sanction of the County Council

Illness of Mr John J Fanning

It was reported that the condition of Mr John J Fanning, clerical assistant in Co Council Offices (at present in Mental Home Enniscorthy) was improving

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr O'Byrne seconded by Mr Walsh :-" That Mr John J Fanning, Clerical Assistant Co Council Offices be granted a further month's sick leave as from 8th January 1929

Sow Drainage system

Under date 2nd January 1929 letter (G 82530- 1928 Ilgh B. C. T.) was received from the Department of Local Government transmitting copy of scaled order (dated 28th December 1928) made in pursuance of section 3 of the Drainage Maintenance Act, 1924, by the Minister for Local Government and Public Health in exercise of his powers under section 20 of the Local Govt Act, XXXX 1898, transferring the business of the Sow Drainage District to the Wexford County Council.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of the Chairman seconded by Mr Culleton :-" That we recommend the County Council to refuse to take over maintenance of the Bow Drainage system This Council has, on several occasions pointed out to the Office of Fublic Works that it would decline to take over any drainage system in respect of which the Office of Works had carried out renovation or repair which had not met with the approval of the Drustees or Drainage ratepayers . We believe that in the present instance the ratepayers concerned are most dissatisfied with the work which has been carried out, and we further believe there is every justification for such dissatisfaction

Ford of Lyng

In reply to Mr O'Byrne, Mr Elgee, said that the case in connection with flooding at the Ford © WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL ARCHIVES

Lyng was at present before Counsel for his opinion

Weights and Measures Acts

Under date 20th Dec 1928 the Power Section of the Department of Industry and Commerce wrote that tenders for measuring instrument standards for the testing of petrol pumps by Inspectors of Weights and Measures had been considered by them The best design submitted was that of Messrs Miller and Co Church St Dublin at £39 10s, per set of five standards ranging from one to five gallons, and it was satisfactory to note that the tender for this design was the lowest received. A condition had been agreed to that no instrument would be accepted or paid for unless verified and stamped on behalf of the Minister for use as a standard, while a guarantee had been given that every part of the instrument would be of Irish workmanship. The Minister was accept ing the tender for a number of County and Borough Councils and if it was desired that a set for Wexford County Council should be included in the contract a notification to that effect should be sent to the office of the Ministry and Commerce not later than 2 12 January 1929

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Wr O(Byrne seconded by Mr Walsh :- "That we approve of the Ministry for Industry and Commerce accepting on behalf of the Wexford Co Council tender of Messrs Daniel Willer and Co., Church Street, Dublin, for supply of set of five standards ranging from one to five gallons for the testing of petrol pumps, amount £39 108

Rating of New Buildings Order

An application under above was received from John O'Gorman, Poulpeasty, Taghmon, and adjourned to next © WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL ARCHIVES

meeting of the Committee for the report of the Rate Collector for the District

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Sow Drainage

Th Connection with recommendations of Finance Committee the following under date 9th January, 1929 (G.1707/1929 Ilgh.B.C.T), was read from the Department of Local Government:-

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"I am directed by the Minister for Local Government and Public Health to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 5th instant transmitting resolution of the Finance Committee of the Wexford County Council recommending the County Council to refuse to take over the maintenance of the Sow Drainage System, and I am to draw attention to Section 3 of the Drainage Maintenance Act, 1925, which makes the transfer of a Drainage District to the County Council compulsory where any work under the Act has been executed?

The following was read from the Secretary and Trustees of the Drainage System: -:-

"It has come to our knowledge that the Sow Drainage Area is about to be handed over to the control of the County Council.

'In view of the statements made by Mr. Burke, Minister, Board of Works, to a deputation from the Trustees of above area, we are amazed at this action.

'Mr. Burke was forced to admit, the self-evident fact, that the land is flooded and therefore the restoration work was not satisfactorily carried out.

'He promised to go into the matter and let the deputation have the result. We have had no communication from the Board of Works.

'At the interview, Mr. Olley, Engineer, Board of Works, persisted in stating, that the rock at Kilmallock bridge was the impediment and the cause of the flooding.

'This, in our opinion, is only an attempt to confuse the issue and to cloak the neglect and incompetency of those in charge or connected with the restoration work.

'The rock at Kilmallock bridge has not grown since 1853 when original work was completed.

'In view of the admissions made by Mr. Burke, and that the area has not been restored to its original state, and that a poor return was secured for the amount of money expended, we consider our protests fully justified.

'We are not attempting to shirk any of our just liabilities in the matter re loan or maintenance rate.

'But we hold it is not just to saddle the rate-payers of the Sow District with the cost of this restoration work which is practically a failure and we mean to resist this imposition by every means at our disposal.

'We again demand the production of a copy of the original Plan - showing - depths, widths, levels, etc., -

'We also beg to state that the Deputation was surprised to learn from Mr. Burke that Mr. Gibbon, M.C.C., Wexford, had written to the Board of Works, praising the work carried out in the Sow Drainage area and that Mr. Burke could claim, that he, Mr. Gibbon, had come over to the side of The Board of Works.

'Comment on such action on the part of Mr. Gibbon, M.C.C., is unnecessary, but whatever may have been the object of said member. Wexford County Council, it certainly was not in the interests of the ratepayers concerned. '".

Mr. W. Mernagh and Mr. W. Gahan, two of the Trustees, came before the Council.

With reference to the letter from Colonel Gibbon referred to in the statement from the Trustees Mr. Mernagh said that Mr. Burke produced the letter to the deputation and said that tho' Colonel Gibbon was very much against the Board of Works two years ago he had now come over to their side. The deputation explained to the Minister that their grievance was that the river had not

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been restored to its original state. Mr. Burke said it was according to the Board's Engineer. The deputation asked him to produce the figures of the original depths and levels in support of his statement. Mr. Burke asked what proof had they of their statement and they said the only proof was that when the river was sunk it dried out the land but when the work which was supposed to restore the system to its original condition was finished it left the land in a swamp .. Mr. Burke admitted the river was not doing its work. He sent for Mr. Olley to know what was the cause. Mr. Olley replied that it was the rock at Kilmallock. However that rock was always there. Mr. Burke promised to go into the whole thing and the trustees expected to hear from him but there had been no letter up to the present. The deputation pointed out to him that, if the land were to remain in its present condition, it would not be worth the amount of the rate as the water would be on it for six or eight months of the year. Mr. Burke asked if the rock were removed would it take the water from the wet land. The deputation told him they could not give a definite reply.

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Mr. Gahan - He appeared to be anxious to do something to meet the deputation.

Chairman - Then the Local Government Department throw it on us by sealed order to collect an impossible levy.

Mr. Mernagh - At the Conference with Mr. Burke, there was something mentioned about getting a grant under the 1924 Act to remove this rock. The Minister seemed to be anxious to do something and said he would go into the whole thing.

The County Surveyor mentioned that, when he got the longitudinal sections from the office of Public Works, he was directed by the Council.to take levels. He did this in the lower reaches but could not follow the levels right up owing to the depth of water. He was always confused about this matter because

undoubtedly the local people believed the system was not at all in its original condition after the recent work had been carried out and anyone would see for himself the place was simply a swamp. Taking the levels on the longitudinal sections as far as he could go and plotting and taking out what was an ideal section, working out from the rock, the longitudinal section was, as near as he would ascertain, correct. However, he could not reconcile that with the fact that 60 or 70 years ago, when the work was originally done it gave satisfaction and nobody complained with its condition and. The only conclusion he could arrive at was that the cross sectional area had been reduced and, in the renovation work, instead of restoring the drains with square bottom and side slopes, they had "dished" the bottom considerably reducing the volume of water. Until, however, they had the Original cross sections, it would not be possible to ascertain how the original work had been carried out and compare it with the recent work.

Chairman - From the statement of the County Surveyor, the work appears to be practically useless. This is good ground for the Council not to take over the system - in fact, it should be sufficient argument of itself.

Mr. Mernagh said that the Minister had admitted that the drains had not been cleaned out as they should have been.

After some further discussion, Mr. Shannon proposed and Mr. Olince seconded, the following resolution which was adopted :-

"That Mr. Burke, Parliamentary Secretary to Office of Public Works, be requested to furnish this Council, for their information, with copy of letter of Colonel Gibbon referred to by him at the Conference at the Office of Public Works between him and the trustees of the Sow Drainage System".

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

"That the Office of Public Works be requested to furnish this Council with copy of the Original Map and of the Original cross-sections in connection with the Sow Drainage Area".

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

"That, in view of the statements made by Messrs Mernagh and Gahan, members of a deputation from the Trustees of the Sow Drainage Area, as to interview with Mr. Burke, Parliamentary Secretary to the Office of Public Works, we request the latter to inform this Council what he intends doing to meet the complaints of the Trustees as promised by him",

"That we request our T.D.'s to have placed before An Dail the action of the Office of Public Works in handing over to County Councils Drainage Systems in respect of which Drainage Ratepayers are not satisfied with the restoration work carried out by the Office of Public Works".

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

"That the Minutes of Finance Committee, in respect of meeting held on 3rd January, 1929, be and are hereby confirmed"

FORD OF LYNG.

In reply to Mr. O'Byrne, Mr. Elgee said that he had not yet received Counsel's opinion as regards proceedings to obviate the flooding at the Fore of Lyng. The delay was occasioned probably by the Christmas Holidays.

The Chairman said they should not allow this present Spring to slip over without some attempt being made to have the work carried out. The people there had been suffering from this flooding for over a quarter of a century.

APPLICATION FOR LOCAL INQUIRY RE MOTOR TRAFFIC, WEXFORD URBAN DISTRICT, & CLOSING OF ROSSLARE ROAD.

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Under date 1st January, 1929, letter (R/RV/32) was read from the Department of Local Government (Roads), asking to be informed whether it was proposed to close Main Street, Wexford, to all heavy motor cars (as defined by Article 2 of the Heavy Motor Car (Ireland) Order, 1905) or only to heavy motor cars used for the conveyance of goods. It was assumed that the application relating to the road adjoining Rosslare Coastguard Station was for an Order prohibiting the driving of all mechanically propelled vehicles on the road in question. The Department further asked to be supplied with a map, an exact description of the two portions of road concerned, and a full statement of the grounds (which must in each case come within Section 7(4) of the Roads Act, 1920) on which the applications were made. On receipt of the required information, the Minister for Local Government would indicate to the Council the form of the resolution they should pass in the matter.

The Secretary stated that a copy of the letter from the Local Government Department had been furnished to the Wexford Corporation and considered by them on the 7th January, 1929. A communication was received from the Town Clerk, Wexford, under date 8th January, 1929, stating that the wish of the Corporation was that all motor traffic, both heavy and light, should be diverted from the Main Street to the Quays except when they were required in any part of the Main Street for loading or unloading goods, etc.; and, further, that all heavy motor cars, as defined by Article 2 of the Heavy Motor Car (Ireland) Order, 1905, should be compelled to use the Quays on Saturday nights. The reasons which impelled the Corporation to ask for an Inquiry were:-

(1) That the Main Street is so narrow in parts, being only
10 feet 8 inches wide in one part and 11 feet 8 inches in another,

that the present motor traffic passing along it may, at any time, gause a very serious accident.

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(2) That, as there is an alternative route which is parallel to the Main Street, namely, the Quays, the surface of which has been recently conc**reted**, and the uniform width of which is 30 feet, no hardship would accrue to motorists using this route when merely passing through the town.

(3) That the Main Street is so densely overcrowded by pedestrians on Saturday nights that the passage of heavy motor vehicles through it constitutes a grave danger to life and limb.

Mr Corish proposed :-

"That we fall in with the views of Wexford Corporation as regards motor traffic in Main Street, Wexford, and forward their views to the Department of Local Government".

Mr Gaul seconded.

On the motion being put to the meeting, Colonel Quin and Mr Roche dissented.

A show of hands was subsequently taken when it was found that 21 were in favour of the motion and two against. Mr Clince was not present when the show of hands was taken.

The Chairman declared the motion carried.

As regards the closing of Rosslare Road, the following was read from Messrs Thomas James, Philip Wickham and Stephen Crowe, who reside on the road:-

"The undersigned desire to draw your attention to the dangerous condition of a portion of the public road from Ballybro Bridge to Rosslare Strand village. The present condition of the road can be traced to the acts of your servants and contractors to your Council.

"In the first place, thousands of loads of shingle have been carted from the base of this road on the sea shore and used for road material, which, we presume, was passed by your Road

Surveyor who, no doubt, never questioned where the material came from although it has been so carted for years.

Secondly, the contractors, who laid the sewerage and water pipes, trenched the road and drained the water from the trenches down the bank thereby carrying away the only means we and our visitors had of reaching the shore.

We respectfully ask you to instruct your Surveyor to inspect this road and have the necessary work carried out as soon as possible to make it a safe thoroughfare. We are of the opinion that a considerable sum of money would be required in the near future to do this work if it is now neglected. We also feel that it is unnecessary to state that this road is the one used by motorists coming from Ballygeary to Rosslare Strand, and also a favourite walk for visitors who stay during the season.

We would feel very much obliged for an early reply as we consider the reply received from you to our previous letter on the subject unsatisfactory".

The Chairman stated that the County Surveyor and himself saw this road about a week ago and they did not believe it was "curable" without immense outlay and going back into the land. He saw no outlook except to close it to vehicular traffic. Some of the people complaining drew stuff over this road to build their houses but, in his opinion, they would not be interfered with for a very long time.

It was decided to forward map map and particulars, etc., to the Department of Local Government when received from the County Surveyor who stated he had the matter in hands.

GOREY-COURTOWN ROAD.

Under date 10th January, 1929, the Department of Local Government (Roads) wrote (R/RG/32/B) and that the Minister for Local Government had approved of the scheme for the improvement of the Gorey-Courtown road, proposed to be carried out by the Wexford County Council under the grant of £1,000. The conditions regarding men to be employed attached to previous grants applied to this Grant.

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

"That the material for Gorey-Courtown Road be obtained from Gorey Hill Quarry and broken by hand".

MEETINGS OF TENDERS COMMITTEES.

It was decided, on the motion of Mr O'Byrne, seconded by Mr Hall, that the four Tenders Committees should meet as follows:-Gorey-Tuesday, 5th Feb., 1929, at 10.30 a.m., at Gorey Courthouse. Enniscorthy-Tuesday, 12th Feb., 1929, at 10.30 a.m., at

Enniscorthy Courthouse.

New Ross- Tuesday, 19th Feb., 1929, at 10.30 a.m., at New Ross Courthouse.

Wexford-Tuesday, 26th Feb., 1929, at 10.30 a.m., at County Council Chamber, Fortview, Wexford.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Mr Shannon handed in notice of motion, for consideration at meeting of County Council on 11th February, 1929, to rescind the resolution of the Council, deciding that third-class roads should be worked by contract, and proposing that the work on these roads should be carried out by direct labour.

It was decided to refer this motion to Mr Elgee, Solicitor, for his opinion and, in the event of his advising that the notice of motion is in order, dates of meetings of Tenders Committees, agreed to above, must be adjusted.

GOREY-ENNISCORF HY ROAD.

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Mr P Higgins, Parkbawn, Secretary, Gorey Executive of the Farmers' Union, forwarded the following resolution from the Camplin Branch:-

"That we, as users of the main road, Gorey to Endiscorthy, beg to draw the attention of the County Council to the slippery condition of it at present and the resulting danger to horse traffic. To our own knowledge, there have been 8 accidents between Gorey and Camolin within the past few weeks, resulting in serious bodily injury to persons, and property through broken shafts and injured horses. We, as large ratepayers, claim that we are entitled to have this road put in safe condition for our horse traffic, and we respectfully request the County Council to take immediate steps to do so, as anyone driving this road under present conditions, is liable to serious injury or worse. We suggest that screenings should be spread for a distance of 5 feet at each side of road, leaving centre for motor traffic".

Mr Higgins stated, in his own communication that his Executive had passed the following resolution relative to the complaint from Camolin Branch:-

"That we, the members of the Gorey Executive, are in entire sympathy with the Camolin resolution, and we respectfully ask the County Council to see what they can do in the matter to prevent accidents in future."

Colonel Quin stated they should sympathise with the farmers concerned in the matter. At the meeting of the Gorey Executive he had pointed out that it would be impossible to put screenings over twenty miles of road.

Mr Armstrong complained that parts of the road from Enniscorthy to Bunclody were impassable for horse traffic.

Mr Smyth pointed out that several large ratepayers in the

Courtown district had been with him, protesting against the proposal to repair the Gorey-Courtown Road in the same manner as the road from Gorey to Enniscorthy. They stated, if this were done, they would not be able to bring in their corn.

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After further discussion, the County Surveyor stated he would try and provide some screenings for the steepest places which was about all that could be done in the matter.

COURTOWN HARBOUR.

Under date 5th January, 1929, the following letter, No D/5/2, was read from the Department of Fisheries:-

Adverting to your communication of the 3rd October last, relative to works of improvement proposed by the Werford County Council at Courtown Harbour, I am directed by the Minister for Lands and Fisheries to state that he has had carefully examined the report and estimate furnished by the County Surveyor in this matter and he finds the following difficulties in making a case to the Minister for Finance for a contribution from State funds towards the cost of the work contemplated by the Council.

The price, £480, set down for new gates and sluices, is presumably based on the assumption that some of the existing material can be made use of, otherwise the Minister, from the advice he has received, is doubtful that the price mentioned would provide gates and sluices of a sufficiently durable nature.

The Minister notes that, while £450 is set down as an estimate for the provision of a grab dredger on rails, the County Surveyor has not yet settled with the makers as to the most satisfactory type of machine. Apart, however, from prime cost, the Minister is satisfied that the working of such a crane of grab by hand will be both slow and laborious, and he is, therefore, very doubtfull that the necessary labour will, as hoped by the Council, be given freely in the future by the local fishermen. On this point he

would be glad to learn in what way the Council would propose to bind the local fishermen to such an undertaking. Obviously, unless he could be definitely assured that the crane would be worked regularly in future as required, he could not consider recommending a grant towards the initial cost.

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I am, accordingly, to ask for the observations of the Council on these points before the matter is further considered.

The Secretary stated that the County Surveyor had made the following reply under date 9th January, 1929:-

I am in receipt of your letter of the 7th instant enclosing copy of letter from the Department of Fisheries under date 5th instant.

In regard to the Gates I have carefully gone into this matter and estimated them out in detail. I purpose modifying existing design of gate to some extent, but generally maintaining form of alignment. Of course, I purpose using as much of the existing iron work as possible, but I have provided for new straps and bolts, etc., at the joints. My revised Estimate for the Gates including their erection I put down at £507:15:0, and I believe this will be sufficient for the job.

In regard to Grab Dredger 4 have gone fully into this with Messrs Priestman, and have quotation from them for an eight owt. portable hand propelled Grab Dredger at £238. This dredger will be mounted on under carriage, fitted with road wheels and horse shafts, and if necessary, can be moved from one side of the Channel to the other. The operating radius of the dredger will be twenty-seven feet, and will work to a depth of eighteen feet below the Pier level. It will be noted that the increased cost on revised Estimate for the gates is more than balanced by the saving on the Grab Dredger. Of course, it is a different question giving a guarantee that the Grab will be worked by the local Fishermen. It was decided that the representatives on the County Council

from Gorey Electoral Area convene a meeting of fishermen of Courtown Harbour to ascertain from them what guarantee they were prepared to sign regarding the working of Grab Dredger.

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Mr Keegan proposed on behalf of the Courtown people, their best thanks to the County Council and their officers- the County Surveyor, the County Secretary, and Mr Treanor, Senior Assistant Surveyor, for the help they had given in connection with improvements at Courtown Harbour.

Mr D'Aroy seconded. Passed.

KILMORE HARBOUR.

The following, under date 11th January, 1929, No D/73/1, relative to above, was received from the Secretary of the Department of Fisheries:-

With reference to your communication of the 14th November last, regarding the proposed dredging operations at Kilmore Harbour, I am directed to state that, having given careful consideration to the suggestion that the proposed State contribution would continue to be available should the Wenford County Council undertake the work with a Dragline or Grab Dredger, the purchase of which they have in contemplation in connection with arterial drainage works, etc., the Minister for Lands and Fisheries regrets that he finds himself unable to recommend a grant is such circumstances as he is advised that the work in question could not be carried out efficiently by means of a Dredger of the type under reference.

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

The County Surveyor stated that Messrs Priestman's representative had seen Kilmore and he was satisfied that a Grabline Dredger would be able to do suitable work there. He (County Surveyor) also

held that opinion and was personally in favour of a Grabline Dredger being obtained.

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Proposed by Mr Roche, seconded by Mr McCarthy, and adopted:-"That, in the event of the drager from the Office of Public Works being employed for dredging at Kilmore, it is expected that work will be carried out on all tides as, in consequence of the crew of this dredger working for fixed hours on the last occasion, a very small amount of work was carried out which was entirely incommensurate with the amount of money allocated".

LATE MR P J O'NEILL, ENNISCORTHY.

The Chairman stated that, since their last meeting, one of their members, Mr Jordan, had sustained a bereavement in his family circle by the death of his brother-in-law, Mr P J O'Neill, Emmiscorthy, and he (Chairman) had melancholy pleasure in proposing a vote of condolence, on behalf of the Gounty Council, with Mr Jordan. He (Chairman) had the pleasure of knowing Mr O'Neill and there was no more popular gentleman in the town of Emmiscorthy. He (Chairman) sat with Mr O'Neill's father who was for many years a most respected member of the County Council, and everybody was sorry that the occastion arose for the present resolution.

Mr McCarthy seconded the motion. Certainly, there was no more popular man in Enniscorthy and his death came as a shock to everybody who knew him.

The resolution was adopted in silence.

Mr Jordan said it was a great solace to him to have the sympathy of his fellow-members, as it would be to Mr O'Neill's family, on the death of Mr O'Neill. He had lost, apart from being his brother-in-law, a very good friend.

VACANCIES FOR RATE COLLECTORS .

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The following notice of motion stood in the name of Mr P Hayes:-"That the County Council agree to the appointments of Rate Collectors for Nos. 5 and 14 Districts, fix remuneration for same, and arrange for advertising appointments when sanction of Minister for Local Government has been received".

The Secretary stated that Mr Hayes was unwell and confined to bed. /

Mr Mayler, by permission of the meeting, moved the motion standing in the name of Mr Hayes.

Mr Hall seconded. Passed.

Mr D'Arcy moved :-

"That the poundage to be paid incoming Collectors for Nos. 5 and 14 Districts be at the rate of 5d in the \mathcal{E} , with any statutory fees to which they are entitled. That the amount of personal bond be in the sum of £400 with fidelity guarantee bond of £900".

Colonel Quin seconded. Passed.

On the motion of Colonel Quin, seconded by Mr Murphy, the following resolution was adopted :-

"That, in connection with appointment of Rate Collectors to this Council in the future, any person, who has already passed qualifying examination, be not asked to again submit to examination".

Mr Murphy gave notice that he would move the following motion at the meeting of the County Council on 11th February, 1929 :-

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

LAND ANNUITIES.

Mr Cummins moved the following of which he had given previous

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"That the Land Commission be asked to state the total amount of annuities in connection with Land Purchase Acts for which tenant purchasers in Co. Wexford are responsible annually and the amount of arrears of such annuities to the latest available date".

Miss O'Ryan seconded. Passed.

Mr Cooney said that, in the County Kilkenny, the names of defaulting annuitants were published. He suggested that a lot of people would pay to keep their names out of the Press. He knew big people that drove in limousine cars and followed the hunt, and they owed annuities.

Mr Murphy .- I don't know them.

Colonel Quin .- There aren't many limousines in this County.

Mr Keegan said that, under the present system, it was very hard for some people to pay lend annuities or rates. Plenty of people lived for years by setting their land but now, if they were in arrears, no one would take their land because stock might be seized. That meant that they could not set their land and they had no money to work it. There might be people too lazy to work it, but there were plenty of people who had to set their land and, unless they paid up to the last farthing, it was impossible for them to set it. He thought people should be given an opportunity to pay a little every year, and let them set their land.

Mr Murphy.- I know several instances where a farm is derelict and the occupier or owner wishes to set it. I know well enough that stock is liable to be seized, but I know that, where representations were made to the Land Commission, they agreed to take part of the money made on the setting of the land to go against the back rent.

I know of two or three instances where they were very agreeable, and

it is generally only in cases where a fellow won't lead or drive that you have this trouble. I know that in several instances they agreed that the rates be paid out of the money, and they took whatever was over to go against the back rent. I think, after all, that was very fair. Whenever I had anything to do with the making of the representations I found them very fair.

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After further discussion, Mr Corish proposed :-

"That list of defaulting annuitants be supplied each member of the Council".

Mr Hall seconded.

A poll was taken with the following result:-

For- Colonel Quin, Messrs Armstrong, Colfer, Cooney, Corish, Cummins, D'Arcy, Gaul, Hall, Keegan, O'Byrne, McCarthy, Shannon, and Smyth. 14.

Against- Miss O'Ryan, Messrs Brennan, Culleton, Jordan, Mayler, Murphy, Roche, Walsh, and the Chairman. 9.

The proposition was declared carried.

At a later stage of the meeting, Mr Roche said he would hand in notice of motion not to have the list published. When they were elected they were sent there to give the people a hand to get them out of their difficulties, and not to expose them. They would not help them by making a public disgrace of them.

RAILWAY VALUATION AFPEALS.

In connection with this matter, the following letter was read from the Valuation Department, under date 5th January, 1929, No 2,901,036 - 8/M;-

In reply to your letter of the 4th instant, I am directed by the Commissioner of Valuation to state, for the information of your Council, the following details relating to the Valuation of Railways:-

1. The Valuation of Railways has been based on the profits of the

undertakings, the Net Receipts thereof being subject to deductions in respect of the renewal of the permanent way, the tenant's capital sunk in rolling stock, etc.

2. The serious falling off in the net receipts of the various Railway Companies which, in some cases, had almost entirely disappeared, made it necessary to reconsider the Valuations on the Undertakings, some of which had been unaltered for some years. 3. The application to the greatly reduced Net Receipts of the formula giving the deductions already referred to, based on greatly increased costs of labour and materials, would have resulted in a Nil Valuation in most cases and it, therefore, became necessary to negotiate an agreement with the Railway Companies for a temporary suspension of these deductions and the adoption of a formula which would provide for the continuing in the Valuation Lists of a Valuation representing an equitable proportion of the Net Receipts. 4. The Railway Companies in accepting an arrangement which places as a Valuation of the principal Railways a sum equivalent to between 30% and 40% of the Net Receipts, stipulated that in the event of an appeal being taken against the Valuation thus arrived at they would be released from the agreement and would possess all the rights which the old formula gave them under several judicial decisions. The significance of this reservation would doubtless be appreciated by your Council.

5. The following figures indicate the serious change in the financial position of Railway Undertakings:-

Net Receipts :-

Year 1913

<u>Average of 3 years</u> <u>1925 - 27</u> £544,453

273,914

Great Southern Railways £1,110,769 Great Northern Railway 442,808

I am to add that in the event of an appeal being lodged by your Council it would suffice if it is lodged against the Valuation of the Railway Undertaking within the County, and such appeal will be subject to the consent of the Department of Local Government

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and Public Health.

Under date 8th January, 1929, the Minister for Local Government (G 2003/29, Ilgh. (Fa)), wrote, stating that an appeal against the valuation of Railways as now fixed would not be in the public interest. The Minister deemed it right to intimate that he could not consider the circumstances would warrant this course.being taken and would consequently feel precluded from giving the sanction required by a Local Authority before making such an appeal.

The Secretary stated that, as directed by the Finance Committee, he had communicated with the various County Councils in An Saorstat and found that in a number of Counties the decision of the Commissioner of Valuation in Railway cases had not been considered. Several Counties had decided not to appeal while Tirconaill had lodged an appeal.

Under date 12th January, 1929, letter was read from the Secretary to the County Councils' General Council that the question was considered by the Executive Committee of the General Council on the llth January, 1929, and the Committee was unanimously of opinion that no useful purpose could be effected by appealing against the decision of the Commissioner of Valuation.

The Chairman considered the action of the Minister for Local Government very high-handed. The agricultural community could come come in and put as good a case for reduction of their valuations as the Railways did and, in such an event, the Minister would more than likely allow Bublic Bodies to appeal. The receipts for agricultural products since 1916 had decreased by certainly more than half but the agricultural community were to get no consideration whatever. The Railway Companies, in many instances through their own thickheadedness, lost their trade and, until competition became fierce, they refused to reduce their prices. If they had done so at an earlier stage, they would not be so badly off as they were to-day. It was quite unfair to saddle the rest of the community with the

Railway losses and, as he stated, it was most high-handed on the part of the Minister to refuse to allow the Council to appeal.

Miss O'Ryan proposed :-

"That we take steps to dispute the ruling of the Minister for Local Government in this matter".

Mr D'Arcy seconded.

It was pointed out that, according to the instructions under the Valuation Acts, no County or Urban Council can appeal to the Circuit Court without obtaining the previous sanction of the Minister for Local Government and, in consequence of this statement, Miss O'Ryan's motion was withdrawn.

Mr O'By me proposed :-

"That we protest in the strongest possible manner against the action of the Minister for Local Government in refusing to allow this Council to appeal in the case of the Railway Valuations. That our T D's be asked to raise the question in An Dail at the first available opportunity in the hope that the Government will be as lenient towards the agricultural community (on whose behalf an appeal will be shortly forthcoming) as they have been with the Railway Companies".

Mr D'Arcy seconded. Passed.

GRANT FOR MENTAL HOSPITAL.

The Chairman said he wished to mention that a meeting of the Mental Hospitals Executive was held last week and it was expected that the Government Capitation Grant would be increased. As they were aware, at present they only received 3s 9d, and the Committee was out for fighting for half maintenance cost if possible. They were making a firm stand and hoped to impress upon the Government that this should be done. If the contribution from the ratepayers had been treated on the same lines as the Capitation Grant, the Mental Hospitals would be closed. The T D's were to be invited to the next meeting in order to get their concentrated opinion to have **© WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL ARCHIVES** the grant restored to what it was previously

ANNUAL RATE ESTIMATE.

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Correspondence was received from the Department of Local Government, under date 7th January, 1929, No P 90720/28, Loch Garman (Pb), agreeing to the County Board of Health and Public Assistance considering their Estimate on 21st January, 1929.

It was decided that the figures for Rate Estimate be considered by Finance Committee at their meeting on 31st January, 1929, and by the County Council at next monthly meeting on 11th February, 1929.

SANCTION TO OVERDRAFT.

Under date 7th January, 1929, letter No G.1071/1928, Loch Garman, was read from the Department of Local Government, stating that the Minister sanctioned a continuance to the 31st March next of overdraft not exceeding £40,000. Interest might be paid thereon at the agreed rate.

AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS.

Under date 11th December, 1928, letter No A.S.84639/28, Emmiscorthy M.H., the Department of Local Government forwarded report of Auditor on his audit of the accounts of Emmiscorthy Mental Hospital for the four half years ended 51st March, 1928. The Auditor had certified that the Committee of Management was entitled to receive £5016:6:8 in respect of Capitation Grant for patients maintained in the Institution during the year ended 31st March, 1928; and £193:6:8 in respect of the maintenance of Oriminal Lunatics.

Under date 8th January, 1929, letter No A.S.90941/28, Loch Garman, the Department of Local Government forwarded report of Auditor on his audit of the accounts of the Wexford Board of Health and Public Assistance for the two half years ended 31st March 1928.

PLANS OF OLD JAIL.

The County Surveyor submitted plans for the conversion of old Jail for Courthouse and County Council Offices.

It was decided on the motion of Mr Culleton, seconded by Colonel Quin, that the plans be submitted to the Department of Finance and, in the event of their approval or if they required further particulars as to cost, etc., the County Surveyor be empowered to employ a Quantities Surveyor at a cost not exceeding 22 per cent on amount of estimate.

MR CHARLES MCCARTHY, LATE POOR RATE COLLEDTOR.

Mr Elgee, Solicitor to the County Council, wrote under date 8th January, 1929, as follows:-

I am in receipt of yours as to the above, and have looked into the Local Government Act of 1925 dealing with the subject of superannuation, and I find that by Section 42 of the Act of 1925 a Pensionable Officer is defined as :- (a) One who devotes the whole of his time to the service of one or more local bodies.

Section 44, sub-sec.3, provides that a local body shall, with the consent of the Minister, grant to a Pensionable Officer in their employment, whose service is less than ten years and who ceases to hold his office in such circumstances that if his service were not less than ten years an allowance could have been granted to him unde the foregoing sub-section, a gratuity not greater than one-sixthes of his yearly salary and emoluments for each completed year of his service.

Charles McCarthy was appointed as Collector in the year 1921 so that he has only 7 years' service, and this being so, that what he would be entitled to would be a gratuity calculated at the rate of one-sixthese of his yearly salary for each completed year of his service, that is, that he would be entitled to seven-sixths of his salary and emoluments as a gratuity.

The expression "yearly salary and emoluments" includes all fees, poundage and other payments made to an Officer as such for his own use, so that his gratuity would be calculated on the poundage fees which he receives for collecting Poor Rates, and also any other fees which would be payable to him in respect of the Register, &c.

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It was decided to refer Mr Elgee's letter to the Minister for Local Government for his observations.

ANNUAL MEETING OF COUNTY COUNCIL.

Under date 4th January, 1929, the Department of Local Government wrote (F.997/1929, Ilgh.(c)) that the annual meeting of the County Council should be held not earlier than 23rd June, 1929, nor later than 1st July, as fixed by the Council.

Proposed by Mr O'Byrne, seconded by the Chairman, and Passed:-"That the annual meeting of the Wexford County Council for 1929 be held on 24th June, 1929".

POISONS & PHARMACY ACT.

Renewal of licence under Poisons and Pharmacy Act was granted to Mr W B Jackson, 51 Main Street, Gorey, on the motion of Mr Shannon, seconded by Mr Corish.

SCHOLARSHIPS SCHEMES.

Under date 18th December, 1928, the Secretary, University ' College, Dublin, wrote that the Academic Council had approved of the Wexford County Council Scheme of University Scholarships for 1929-30.

Under date 8th January, 1929, (L.34498/28, the following letter from the Office of National Education: -

With reference to your communication of the 12th December enclosing draft scheme of Scholarships for 1929, I am directed to

inform you that subject to the following amendments the proposed scheme is approved :-

(1) Title to be altered to read "Secondary Schools Scholarships

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(2) In Clauses 9, 10 and 14 the words "Minister of Education" should read "Minister for Education".

(3) It is suggested that the first sentence of paragraph 4 might be altered to read "Scholarships and Bursaries are restricted to pupils who reside in the rural districts of the County and are tenable at Secondary Schools approved by the Department of Education for this purgose".

I am to forward for your information a copy of the revised syllabus for 1929 which supersedes that for 1928 and which should now be embodied in the scheme.

It was decided that the amendments suggested by the Office of National Education be made in the scheme and that the latter be printed and circulated as soon as possible.

DE-RATING OF LAND.

It was decided that the resolution from the Wexford District Executive of the Farmers' Union, as to de-rating of land, should be adjourned to next meeting and receive early mention on the agenda paper.

MOTOR TAX.

The following resolution was received from Kilkenny County Council:-

"That the tax or licence on Motor Vehicles be fixed at a sum of £5 on each car and that the charge be transferred to petrol up to sixpence per gallon, as the Council consider the present system of Motor Taxation unjust to owners who use their vehicles infrequently".

It was decided to make no order on the resolution owing to the

difficulty of providing for suitable tax to include the various classes of petrol.

COUNTY COUNCILS' GENERAL COUNCIL.

Under date 4th December, 1928, the following letter was read from the County Councils' General Council:-

The County Councils' General Council have directed me to inform you that at their last meeting the following motions appeared on the agenda:-

(a) To confer on Town Commissioners the power exercisable by Urban Councils to purchase or acquire the Tolls of the Town and to empower them to charge tolls at Fairs and Markets and to make Bye-Laws for the control of the town.

(b) To extend the provisions of the Street Traders Act, 1926, to towns under the control of Town Commissioners.

At the same meeting a request was submitted by the Department of Local Government and Public Health asking for the considered opinion of the Council regarding the suggestion contained in the following resolution adopted by many Urban Authorities:-

That we call 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 or license for the privilege of trading within their area, as at present these hawkers constitute a serious menace to business people who pay heavy rates and rents, whereas these traders contribute nothing towards the upkeep of the Local Authorities in whose district they trade.

In this connection it may be mentioned that Hawkers and Pedlars are at present subject to the Hawkers Act, 1888, and the Pedlars Act, 1871, which require a hawker to hold an excise license (£2) and a Pedlar, a Pedlar's Certificate (5/-) issued

by the Garda Siochana. Neither, however, require a License or Certificate to sell in a public market. Hawkers' licenses are local taxation licenses.

Before coming to a decision regarding the above proposals the General Council directed me to ascertain the views of the constituent Councils on the issues raised. I shall, therefore, be glad if you will kindly bring the above three motions before the next meeting of your Council, and inform me of their views thereon.

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

"That the communication from the County Councils' General Council be referred to the Urban District Councils of the County for their views".

APPOINT MEMTS COMMISSION.

A resolution was received from Waterford County Council, stating that the time had arrived when they could dispense with the services of the Appointments Commission.

In view of the discussion and decision of the Council at an earlier stage of the meeting, it was decided to take no action.

BUILDING LEASES, ETC.

The following resolution from Blackrock Urban District Council was approved on the motion of Mr Corish, seconded by Mr Shannon:-

"That this Council requests the Government to incorporate the following principles in the legislation which it is understood will be introduced in connection with the Report of the Town Tenants Commission, 1927:-

"'(1) On the expiration of all existing building leases, the person entitled shall have the right to a lease in perpetuity, at a variable ground rent not exceeding 5 per cent of the letting value of the premises;

"(2) If the ground landlord has expended money on a premises during the currency of the lease, by the effecting of improvements, he shall be entitled, on renewal, to an addition not exceeding 5 per cent of the total amount so expended;

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"'(3) All future leases for building purposes shall be in perpetuity, and at a variable ground rent not exceeding 5 per cent of letting value;

"'(4) All revenues in the nature of ground rents accruing wholly or partially as a result of municipal developments and improvements shall be liable for a special financial contribution to the local authority concerned, on a basis to be determined by a duly constituted independent authority.'

"It is the considered opinion of this Council that if proposals of this Character were given the force of law the circumstances created would be conducive to the better and more rapid development of the cities and towns of the Saorstat, and would at the same time contribute substantially to the solution of the Housing problem."

TRANSIT OFFICERS.

The following resolution from County Fernanagh Committee of Agriculture was approved on the motion of Mr Jordan, seconded by Mr Corish:-

"We, the County Fermanagh Committee of Agriculture, realising the damage that our Irish Cattle sustain in transit to British Ports from this country, and having heard numerous complaints from Farmers and Shippers relative thereto, consider the time has come when the Government should take up this all important question and appoint responsible Transit Officers who would supervise the loading and transit of our cattle, both by train & steamer, so as to ensure that our cattle will reach their destination in at least as good condition as cattle coming across the Atlantic.

"It is a matter of common knowledge among those engaged in the Cattle Trade that this, our principal industry, has suffered incale culable loss in recent years because of the lack of supervision and proper accommodation and care both on this side, on the boats, and at the landing places".

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SHEEP DIPPING.

Under date 11th January, 1929, Sergeant Dwyer, Garda Siochana, Rosslare Pier, forwarded names of eight farmers who had failed to give notice of the dipping of their sheep, failed to dip sheep, or failed to send in declaration regarding same, and asking authorisation to prosecute these people on behalf of the Council.

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

"That the Sheep Dipping Inspector for Wexford Area be directed to call on the farmers reported to this meeting by Sergeant Dwyer, Garda Siochana, Rosslare Pier, for breaches of Sheep Dipping Order, ascertain why they did not obey the law, and inform them they must dip their sheep now. That report from Sergeant Dwyer be referred to next meeting in order to ascertain the outcome of the Inspector's visit to the farmers concerned".

Michael Doyle