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WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL.

SPECIAL MEETING 8TH JANUARY 1931

MINUTES.

FORTVIEW,
WEXFORD.

N.J.FRIZELLE,
SECRETARY.

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A special meeting of Wexford County Council was held on 8th January, 1931.

Mr M. Doyle, Chairman, presided and there were also present:- Messrs James Armstrong, John Breman, James Cline, Patrick Colfer, Richard Corish, John Culleton, John Cummins, Timothy F. D'Arcy, James Gaul, Col.C.M. Gibbon, James Hall, Patrick Hayes, William P. Keegan, Thomas McCarthy, John Murphy, Sean O'Byrne, Miss Nellie O'Ryan, Col.R.P. Wemyss Quin, M.M.Roche, James Shannon, Myles Smyth and James E. Walsh.

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

THE LATE MRS MARGARET JORDAN.

The following resolution proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Col. Quin and spoken to by the Secretary, County Surveyor and Mr Elgee was adopted in silence all members standing:- "That we sincerely sympathise with our esteemed colleague, Mr M. Jordan T.D. in the loss of his beloved mother, whose demise is deeply regretted by every member of the Council. A sincere friend and kindly neighbour the deceased was widely respected by the people of the whole countryside."

THE LATE VERY REV. DEAN WALSH.

The following under date 22nd December, 1930, from Mr James E. Walsh M.C.C. was, on the motion of Mr O'Byrne, seconded by Mr D'Arcy, ordered to be inserted on the Minutes of the day:-

"Will you please convey to your Council my deep appreciation of their kind vote of sympathy on the death of my uncle, Dean Walsh.

May I take this opportunity of thanking your good self, and through you the staff for your personal expression of sympathy."

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF FINANCE COMMITTEE.

The following Minutes of Finance Committee in respect of meeting held on 18th December, 1930, were submitted.

[A large diagonal line is drawn across the page, likely indicating that the following minutes have been submitted or are otherwise noted.]

The fortnightly meeting of the Finance Committee was held in County Council Chamber, Wexford, on 18th December, 1930.

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

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

The Chair was taken by Mr McCarthy on the motion of Mr O'Byrne seconded by Mr Hall.

The Minutes of last meeting were read and signed.

PAYMENTS.

Treasurer's Advice Note for £2551:7:6d. was examined and signed.

RATE COLLECTION.

The following state of the Rate Collection was submitted:-

	Percentage of Warrant collected
1. A.Dunne.....	54.6
2. E.J.Murphy.....	54.2
3. J.Curtis.....	53.4
4. J.Quirke.....	53.3
5. W.Doyle.....	52.8
6. Sean Gannon.....	51.8
7. J.J.O'Reilly.....	51.6
8. M.Kelly.....	51.0
9. Patrick Nolan.....	50.7
10. J.Deegan	50.7
11. T.Bolger.....	50.5
12. W.Cummins.....	50.1
13. M.McCarthy.....	50.
14. J.Cummins.....	50.
15. P.Carty.....	50.
16. P.O'Byrne.....	49.3
17. T.Rowe.....	47.7

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	Percentage of Warrant collected
18. P.Doyle.....	47.6
19. J.J.Sinnott.....	46.2
20. T.Sutton.....	40.
21. T.Bolger..... (for No.12 District)	28.9

The following under date 16th December, 1930, (G.92267/1930. Fa. Loch Garman) was read:-

"I am directed by the Minister for Local Government and Public Health to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 11th instant, and to state that as a special concession he agrees to an advance of poundage in respect of lodgments made to the 31st October last to each Collector who has by the 20th instant lodged a sum equivalent to 50 % of his current warrant together with any arrears included therein. I am to ask for a Schedule of payments made after that date."

The following resolution was adopted:-

"That we request the Local Government Department to agree to sanction payment of poundage to Collector J.J.Sinnott in respect of lodgments to 31st October last provided he lodges by the 20th January 50 % of his warrant and arrears. We ask this concession for Mr Sinnott in view of the fact that for some time past he was in hospital in Dublin and has only recently returned to duty. The deputy who acted in the meantime was not fully conversant with the work."

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

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

It is presumed that the books have been taken up and carefully checked and that adequate enquiries are being made

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from Ratepayers represented^{as}/in arrear. It is also presumed that the Insurance Company have been notified.

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

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

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

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

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

Mr Daniel Dempsey, Craanrue, Edermine, the second personal surety came before the meeting and produced the following letter from Mr A. Sutton, under date 19th December:-

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

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

After further discussion the following resolution was adopted:- "That Collector J. Quirke, No. 1 District, be ap-

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pointed to close warrant in No. 2 District provided his sureties are satisfied to be responsible for the manner in which the work was carried out."

Mr Dempsey said that in the circumstances he would agree to the appointment of Quirke as deputy.

ADVERTISING CONTRACT.

In connection with the advertising contract for Year 1931-32 the following resolution was adopted:- "That the Wexford "People", "Free Press" and "Echo" newspapers be offered a sum of £110 for the advertising of the County Council and County Committee of Agriculture for year 1st January 1931 to 31st December 1931, and that in the event of County Council elections being held in 1931 a further sum of £25 be offered to cover election advertising .

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

PRINTING OF CORONER'S FORMS.

It was decided after discussion to accept the quotation from "Wexford People Newspapers" for the printing of six books of Coroner's Certificates of Finding of Jury or Coroner at £1:8:6d."

OVERDRAFT ACCOMMODATION.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr O'Byrne seconded by Mr Shannon:- "That Department of Local Government be asked to sanction continuance of overdraft accommodation as from 1st January 1931 to the 31st March 1931, with the Treasurer of the County Council at a sum not to exceed £36,000. "

BOARDS OF HEALTH AND LIGHTING OF VILLAGES.

Under date 16th December, 1930, the Department of Local

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Government wrote (P.H. Circ. 53/30) forwarding copy of General Order made by the Minister investing Boards of Health with Urban powers to enable them to promote schemes of public lighting in small towns and villages.

DESTROYED INSURANCE STAMPS.

The following letter under date 11th December, 1930, (9092/30) was read from the National Health Insurance Commission:-

"I am directed by the National Health Insurance Commission to refer to applications addressed to them and also to the Department of Posts and Telegraphs in respect of the alleged destruction by fire on the 22nd January 1929 of a number of unused Health Insurance Stamps and Health Insurance cards to which stamps had been affixed.

The Commissioners have decided, after having made exhaustive enquiries in the matter, to refund your Council the sum of £41: 5: 4, being the estimated value of the identified stamps, which were surrendered to their Inspector either unused or affixed to cards."

A Payable Order for £41:5:4 is accordingly enclosed."

INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL APPLICATION.

Under date 10th December 1930, the Superintendent, Garda Siochana, New Ross, wrote as to application to be made on 15th December to have Bridget Barron, 9 years, of Shelbaggan, Ramstrange, committed to St. Aidan's Industrial School, New Ross. The child was daughter of a farm labourer, whose wife was dead. He had to go to work daily a considerable distance away from his home and there was no one to look after the child.

RELIEF GRANT.

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

- (1) Road diversion at Ferrycarrig - £800.
- (2) Surfacing Duncannon Line in water bound macadam which

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would give employment to the stone breakers on the Mountain of Forth - £2,000.

(3) Extension of Camblin Road from ^{Slaught}Slade Cross above the Quay towards Ballykelly about $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles - £1600.

(4) First Section of the road from Enniscorthy to Killealy - £1000.

(5) Short Section of road from Ferns to Bunclody - £500.

(6) Back streets in Gorey from Bates by Railway Station into Main Street - £1000.

(7) Dangerous corners particularly those in Killanne and Rathnure Districts - £500.

and (8) Road from Wexford to Gorey particularly sections from Wexford to Castlebridge and Ballycanew to Gorey - £500.

Total - £7,900.

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

The County Surveyor mentioned that in the meantime he had arranged with Mr Jordan T.D. to have an interview with a responsible official of the Department in charge of approval of schemes for unemployment and he would be in a position to inform the Council at their next meeting of what transpired at this interview.

FURNISHING OF COUNTY COUNCIL CHAMBER.

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

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

In regard to chairs the cheapest tender which the County

Surveyor had received was for 26/6 each.

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

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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 Finance Committee in respect of Meeting held on 18th December be received and considered."

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

"That the Minutes of Finance Committee in respect of meeting held on 18th December, 1930, be and are hereby confirmed."

The following Minutes of Finance Committee in respect of meeting held on 31st December, 1930, were submitted:-

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The fortnightly meeting of Finance Committee was held in County Council Chamber, Fortview, Wexford, on 31st December, 1930.

Present :- Messrs J.J. Colloton, James Hall, Sean O'Byrne and James Shannon.

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

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

The Minutes of previous meeting were confirmed.

PAYMENTS

Treasurer's Advice Note for £1766:9:0d. was examined and signed.

THE LATE MRS MARGARET JORDAN

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

"That we offer our esteemed colleague, Mr Michael Jordan, T.D., our sincere condolence in the loss of his beloved mother. He has the sympathy of every member of the Council, in the death of one who was universally and deservedly respected, and whose demise is widely regretted by a very large circle of friends."

The resolution was supported by Messrs O'Byrne and Shannon and also by the Secretary, County Surveyor and Mr Elgee and adopted in silence.

RATE COLLECTION.

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

	Percentage Collected.
1. Art Dunne.....	55
2. E.J. Murphy.....	54.9

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Percentage
Collected.

3. J. Quirke.....	54.2
4. J. Curtis.....	54.1
5. W. Doyle.....	53.7
6. Sean Gannon.....	53.0
7. J.J. O'Reilly.....	52.2
8. J. Deegan.....	51.5
9. T. Bolger (14).....	51.2
10. M. Kelly.....	51.2
11. P. Nolan.....	50.9
12. W. Cummins.....	50.8
13. T. Roe.....	50.8
14. J. Cummins.....	50.5
15. M. McCarthy.....	50.2
16. P. Carty.....	50.
17. P. O'Byrne.....	50.
18. P. Doyle.....	50.
19. J.J. Sinnott.....	46.7
20. T. Sutton.....	40.
21. T. Bolger (Donohoe).....	29.2

Closing of Collectors' Warrants for Financial Year 1930-31:-

The following was submitted from the Rate Inspector:- "The Public Bodies Order fixes 31st March as the date for the closing of the current warrant. Last Year the closing date was extended to 6th May 1930. If the Collection is to be brought up to date the Council should at once notify Collectors that they must close their Warrants at 31st March 1931."

Mr O'Byrne pointed out that the closing dates for Rate Collection viz: 30th September and 31st March, each year, were the worst possible dates that could be fixed, as they represented the scarcest periods for money being in the farmers' hands. The General Council of County Councils had endeavoured to effect a change to May and December as the closing periods, but they were not successful.

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

"That, as in our opinion, it would be impossible for the Rate Collectors to close their Warrant by the statutory date viz. 31st March, 1931, we request the L.G.D. to extend the closing period to the 6th May, 1931."

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

"That the Rate Collectors be called upon to lodge 30 % of outstanding amounts for the month of January and a similar percentage for February."

Collection District No. 2: Under date 24th December, 1930, the L.G.D. wrote (G - 94528/1930. Fa Loch Garman) that the Minister had sanctioned the temporary appointment of Collector James Quirke, No. 1 District, to close current warrant in No. 2 District - (Ex-Collector Sutton's area).

Under date 23rd December, 1930, Mr Wm. Quirke, Ballyruan, Screen, and Mr Patrick Quirke, Ballycross, Bridgetown, the personal sureties of Collector Quirke, wrote that they were satisfied he should take on the extra work of closing Warrant in No. 2 District.

Under date 23rd December, 1930, the New Ireland Assurance Co. Dublin, wrote (20/2312/30/N./2) that they were agreeable to Mr Quirke collecting outstanding Rates in No. 2 District.

Death of Ex-Rate Collector: The Secretary reported the death on the 5th December, 1930, of Ex-Collector John Banville, Horetown, Foulksmills.

Status of Rate Inspector: The Department of Local Government wrote under date 24th December, 1930, (G - 93781/1930/ Loch Garman) that pending the completion of the Current Year's Warrant the Minister was not prepared to consider further the status of the Rate Inspector.

Proposed Maps of Holdings:- In connection with the suggestion of the Rate Inspector that it would be advisable to obtain all

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the holdings of the County marked on a large map, the Valuation Department wrote under date 22nd December, 1930, (TWS/G -) that there were over 30,000 valuation lots in the County and the cost of marking them on the 54 six inch sheets, in accordance with the scale of charges approved by the Minister for Finance would amount to not less than £500.

It was decided to take no action in this matter.

LAND COMMISSION DEFAULTING ANNUITANTS.

Under date 23rd December, 1930, the Department of Local Government wrote (S-92269/30 - Loch Garman Fb) that the amount absorbed ⁱⁿ with Guarantee Fund in connection with land purchase in Co. Wexford was £22,293:8:0d. in respect of the Estate Duty Grant. Any deductions made in respect of the Agricultural Grant had been since repaid to the Council.

The Secretary, in reply to Mr Hall, stated that a query had been addressed to the L.G.D. to ascertain if the above amount represented what was due directly by defaulting annuitants in the County or was the amount arrived at under a pooling arrangement

Under date 23rd December, 1930, the Land Commission wrote (CORR- No.2825/30) that the list of Co. Wexford defaulting annuitants would be furnished as soon as compiled at the next making up of the accounts in March next.

PROVISIONAL ROAD WORKS SCHEME.

Under date 30th December, 1930, the Department of Local Government wrote (RGM/32) as follows :-

"I am directed by the Minister for Local Government and Public Health to forward, herewith, a copy of the letter which he has received from the County Surveyor, relative to the sum which the Wexford County Council propose to allow in respect of roads for the coming financial year and as to the procedure adopted by the County Council when dealing with the Sur-

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veyor's estimate.

In the first place I am to point out that the County Surveyor is required by Article 48 of the Public Bodies Order, 1925, to specify in the Scheme, particulars of the expenditure which in his opinion, is required for the repair of every road, together with particulars (including cost) of every work of improvement which he considers should be carried out during the next local financial year. The County Council are to consider in detail the County Surveyor's proposals, and it is not competent to them to make a general reduction without advertance to the sum required for the repair and improvement of each road. Furthermore, the County Surveyor cannot be expected to alter his opinion as to the sum which he considers necessary for the repair or improvement of each road merely because the County Council make an all-round reduction on his total estimate. Responsibility for varying the sums proposed by the County Surveyor rests solely with the County Council and in order that the Provisions of the Public Bodies Order may be complied with, I am to request that the Council will follow the procedure laid down, and, instead of making a general reduction, deal with the County Surveyor's proposals in detail.

It is to be noted that the County Surveyor points out the reduction proposed by the County Council renders it impossible for him properly to maintain the roads. In this connection, I am to draw the Council's attention to the terms of the Department's Circular Letter RGM/201/30 of the 27th October last indicating that the making of Grants towards the upkeep of Main Roads will depend upon the fact whether the estimates of the Council show that a reasonable sum is proposed for the upkeep of all roads, and the Minister, accordingly, trusts that the Council will review their decision so that there will be no difficulty in his notifying the usual Upkeep Grant. The primary consideration of County Councils is the maintenance of

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existing roads. If the sum allowed for such work is curtailed, works of improvement should be deferred. In reviewing their position accordingly the County Council should take this fact into account."

The following is a copy of the letter of the County Surveyor under date 23rd December, 1930, referred to in the communication from the L.G.D.:-

"I beg to inform you, for the information of the Minister that the Wexford County Council, at their meeting, on yesterday, 22nd instant, dealt with the Provisional Road Works Scheme for next year. My Estimate, copy of which I enclose, amounts to £73,394: 14: 8d. The County Council, by a majority of votes, decided to raise only a sum of £40,000 to cover all works as set out, and I have been directed to revise my Estimate to come within this figure. The Council declined to make any segregation between Main and County Roads, or as regards improvement works in Part II. I wish to point out that the money allocated for works in Road Works Scheme for the current year amounted to £55,098: 1: 8d, and of this sum £2000 was to cover special expenditure, in supplement of the Grant from the Local Government for reconstruction of the Rosslare Road; thus for the current year I have a sum of something over £53,000 for the County Roads and Works. At the present time there is a very small balance available for the maintenance up to the 31st March next, and I have no doubt whatever that this figure is insufficient for the proper maintenance of Wexford Roads. The £40,000 allocated is equivalent to a reduction of about 45 % on my Estimate, and it will be impossible to properly maintain the roads at the figure."

In the course of the discussion which ensued it appeared that some Councillors were of opinion that the amount of any Grant received from the Department of Local Government for road maintenance was added to the amount which the County Council had decided to expend on Roads and Works for the financial year.

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After a full discussion Mr O'Byrne gave the following notice of motion:-

"I hereby give notice of my intention to move at meeting of Wexford County Council to be held on 26th January 1931, that the resolution adopted by said Council at their meeting on 22nd December, 1930, allocating a sum of £40,000 for maintenance of roads and improvement works for financial year 1931-32, be rescinded, and that the Council reconsider the County Surveyor's estimate as set out in Provisional Road Works Scheme, particularly in view of the letter from the Department of Local Government, under date 30th December, 1930 (R/RGM/32) and also as it appears that some Councillors did not clearly understand that the amount of grant furnished by the L.G.D. for road maintenance etc., ^{is} in relief of the total sum provided for roads for the financial year."

A NON-INSURABLE EMPLOYEE.

Under date 27th October, 1930, the Department of Industry & Commerce (Employment Branch) (E.B. 118294) wrote that the employment of Joseph Merriman is not such employment as to make him an employed person within the meaning of the Unemployed Insurance Act 1930.

The County Surveyor said this man was one of the men employed at stone breaking at the Mountain of Forth. He had no fixed hours for work and there was no fixed quantity of metal-ling which he was obliged to deliver to the Council. This case would rule all others of a similar character.

WEXFORD CORPORATION AND LIBRARY POWERS.

Under date 23rd December, 1930, the Department of Local Government (G-93902/1930 - Loch Garman pf) wrote forwarding copy of their letter to the Wexford Corporation in which it was stated that the Minister approved pursuant to Section 65(6) of the Local Government Act 1925 of the terms agreed to by the County Council upon which the Wexford Corporation relinquished

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in favour of the County Council their powers and duties under the Libraries Ireland Acts 1855 to 1920.

ILLNESS OF MR JOHN KEHOE - ASSISTANT SURVEYOR.

The following medical certificate under date 27th December, 1930, from Dr.S.V. O'Connor, Westgate, Wexford, was read:-

"I certify that Mr John Kehoe is under my care suffering from Bronchial Catarrh and Gastritis and will be unable to resume duty for two weeks."

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

"That in accordance with medical certificate Mr John Kehoe, Assistant Surveyor, be granted two weeks' sick leave as from 27th December, 1930."

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The following resolution was after discussion 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 31st December, 1930, be and are hereby approved except the reference to Provisional Road Works Scheme which is adjourned for consideration to meeting of Wexford County Council on Monday 26th January, 1931."

TENDERS COMMITTEE MEETINGS.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr D'Arcy seconded by Col. Gibbon:- "That the meetings of Tenders Committees be fixed as follows:-

Enniscorthy - at Courthouse - Wednesday 25th February, 1931, at 11 o'clock.

Wexford - County Council Chamber, Saturday, 28th February, 1931, at 11 o'clock.

New Ross - Courthouse - Friday 6th March, 1931, at 11 o'clock.

Gorey - Courthouse - Saturday, 7th March, 1931, at 10 p.m.

RELIEF GRANTS.

The following Circular letter (S.) 22nd December, 1930, was read from L.G.D.:-

"With reference to the entry in the Minutes of Proceedings of the Wexford County Council regarding the carrying out of works for the relief of unemployment, I am directed by the Minister for Local Government and Public Health to state that no definite sum can be allocated to any district until the position as regards unemployment has been fully ascertained.

If there is submitted a definite scheme of work, accompanied by a plan, specification and an estimate of cost of (a) materials and of (b) labour, together with information as to the number of men that could be usefully employed thereon, the Minister will give the matter full consideration. Evidence should be furnished of the number registered for employment

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in the area affected, and of the amount of home assistance at present being afforded by the Board of Health and Public Assistance.

Where relief works are proposed for any particular area of a County the amount of home assistance distributed in that area should be given. These particulars may be set out on the accompanying form.

If there are any essential public health works, such as water or sewerage schemes, which the Local Authority desire to undertake with a view to providing additional employment at the present time, full consideration will be given to any such proposals. Such works should ordinarily be undertaken by the Local Authority out of local funds, but if conditions in regard to unemployment justify a grant, a contribution from relief funds may be made applicable. The Local Authority will, however, be required to bear the major proportion of the cost involved, if necessary raising a loan for the purpose.

If no public health works are contemplated, other suitable works may be submitted."

The following under date 5th January, 1931, (R/RU/32) was read from L.G.D.:-

"With further reference to proposals received here on the 3rd instant for an expenditure of approximately £17,000 on road works under the Relief Scheme Vote, I am directed by the Minister for Local Government and Public Health to state that in making Grants from the Vote preference is being given to Public Health Works."

Letters were read from :-

(a) Ballygarrett asking for a portion of unemployment Grant as there was a large number out of work and owing to the bad harvest there was no prospect of employment in the coming months. The work the people of the district considered most necessary was the cleaning up of the drains of the Cahore Drainage System which could be started at once. This when completed

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would save the public road which was for nine months of the year under water and would make it passable while the health of the locality would be improved.

(b) At Kilmore Quay where 64 men were out of employment, the following were suggested as works which might come under the Relief Grant. (1) Building up Village Street with proper sewer and water tables. (2) Cleaning part of the Harbour with local labour. (3) Proper repair and making of roadways to sea. (4) Filling in and repair of by-roads at Neemstown.

Mr Smyth said that there was a public meeting on the 4th January, 1931, at Ballygarrett, and which was attended by two T.D.'s. The Scheme was very suitable and work was badly needed. Something would have to be done with the drains, and this would give a good deal of employment. Some of the men in the locality had to depend on casual labour.

Mr Gaul inquired if it were not possible to carry out works in regard to public health, could the Council calculate on getting a Grant for by-roads.

Mr Cummins said that in his district there were 100 men - chiefly engaged in the fishing industry - who were out of employment. A good deal of work could be done in connection with the harbours in the South of the County. At the first meeting of the County Council a discussion took place about the condition of the docks at the various harbours. He (Mr Cummins) considered that the fishermen who had suffered so much should obtain some relief from the Relief Grant.

The County Surveyor said that^{why}/at the last meeting he had asked to be supplied by the Councillors with the names of the unemployed in their districts was because at the interview with the Local Government official in charge of these schemes one of the queries was the number of men registered as unemployed at the local Labour Exchange but this information gave no indication of the actual number unemployed. Taking Wexford alone they had on the unemployment Register men re-

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ceiving benefit or eligible to receive it. But once a man ceased to be eligible for employment benefit he never went near the Exchange again so that there were more unemployed men off the Register than on it. It was the same all over the County and when he explained this to the official the latter said that some evidence as to the amount of unemployment would have to be submitted. This was his (County Surveyor's) reason for asking the Councillors to supply him with lists of the names of the unemployed in the districts.

Miss O'Ryan said that in the Country districts very few men who were out of work sought out door relief. They might have 20 men in a district unemployed and not a single one of them would be in receipt of home help. This was a matter which the Department did not know about. In Taghmon there were 32 men out of employment, and they could spend money there on drainage and sewerage works.

The County Surveyor said the form which had to be filled was rather a hindrance than a help.

Mr O'Byrne said that there was a large number of unemployed in Cahore and Boira districts. The whole district was under water and the Land Commission which had received some of the Relief money to expend had a liability to see that the lands which were sold through land purchase should be put into a condition that they could be utilised. At present as they were always under water neither rent nor rates could be got out of them. The present deplorable state of affairs should be remedied and this would mean not only immediate employment but permanent employment, as with their lands properly drained the farmers would be able to employ labour in the future as well as securing a chance to live themselves. He wished to protest against the ruling that home help should be a condition precedent to receiving any help, under this Relief Grant. In the Gorey district they had always discouraged men seeking home help and they certainly should not go back

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and advise these people that they would have to apply for home help if they were to be considered eligible for portion of the Relief Grant. The fact that unemployed men were not in receipt of home help should not be used against them.

The Chairman said the Land Commission had before them all the facts in connection with Cahore and the Boira, and these had been supplemented by letters from the doctors and clergy of the district. The Land Commission are getting £160,000 or half the Grant and it was the business of the Land Commission to deal with the place.

Mr O'Byrne said that the harbour at Courtown was considerably silted and portion of the Relief Grant could be utilised to clean it up. He then proposed:- "That this Council calls upon the Land Commission to carry out the necessary work of drainage at Cahore and the Boira as a relief measure and we desire to point out that such work would mean the permanent improvement of land which is at present under water."

Mr Smyth in seconding said the Council were not able to get any rates out of the land now as it was useless though it was valued at over £1 per acre.

Colonel Quin said that the tenants and landowners were both to blame as regards the condition of Cahore. One of them blamed the other.

The Chairman said that statements like this would not be much of an inducement to have relief work carried out there.

Mr Hall said it was not the fault of the people at the Boira that the flooding continued because the difficulty was at a place a couple of miles away from their land and which they had no authority to clean up.

The resolution was then put and passed.

Mr Hayes referred to the ^dcondition of the Duncannon Line and district. The road was in a deplorable condition and some steps should be taken to have it repaired.

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Mr Gaul who advocated the completion of the Drinagh-Rosslare road said that in Wexford Urban area there were about 1000 men unemployed, 400 of whom were on Labour Exchange Register.

The Chairman said that two very glowing reports had been made recently as to the prosperity of Enniscorthy and Wexford towns, that the people had motor cars and were quite well off. These statements were contrary to fact but they appeared in the public Press and would not help their application for a relief Grant.

Mr Gaul said that 84 men were unemployed in the small district of Drinagh and 64 in Ferrycarrig and Barntown.

Mr Roche referring to Kilmore Quay district said that every one knew the men there would be too willing to work if they had it to do. One work which could be done down there was the removal of large deposit of mud in the canal from Ballyburn to Kilmore Quay village. It would be a great improvement to the place if the canal was properly drained. At present the water ran down the centre of the village, and as well as flooding the houses it was ruining the road.

Colonel Gibbon said that Ballyteigue Drainage Board was responsible for the drainage of the canal which was dug in 1885 and was a mile and a half in length. The Rates on the drained land were very large. To do a proper job the canal should be dammed and the silt dug out as this had never been done since it was constructed. It would be impossible to raise a drainage rate to carry out the necessary work. On the system of drainage adjoining and in which he was interested they had now to provide £120 by a treble rate, while a few years ago the necessary work of annual dragging and cleaning could be done for £40 the produce of a single rate.

The County Surveyor pointed out that on a distribution

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of the Grant the most County Wexford would get would be between £5,000 and £6,000. They had put up schemes costing £17,000 and those mentioned at that meeting would bring the total up to £30,000. If they could ascertain even approximately the amount they would be likely to get the Council could consider its expenditure on the most suitable schemes. By applying the money to public health schemes half went across the water for materials but in the jobs which the Council had put forward 90 % of the expense would be for labour.

Mr D'Arcy thought that in view of the fact that it meant permanent improvement they should go in as much as possible for drainage work.

Mr Armstrong mentioned that there were 70 unemployed men in Bunclody and the Health Board were putting forward a sewerage scheme for the place, and which was very badly needed.

After further discussion Mr Gaul moved and Mr D'Arcy seconded the following resolution which was adopted:-

"That a deputation be appointed to wait on the Land Commission and Local Government Department to put forward the claims of County Wexford for a share of National Relief Grant for the schemes which the County Council were putting forward. That the County Secretary and County Surveyor accompany the deputation and that an invitation be issued to the five T.D.'s of the County to act with the deputation.

The following were appointed on the deputation:-

Enniscorthy - Mr T. McCarthy.

Gorey - Mr Sean O'Byrne and Mr Smyth.

New Ross - Mr Cummins.

Wexford - The Chairman (Mr Doyle) and Mr Roche.

Mr Corish then arranged that the deputation should be received by the Land Commission at 11 o' clock on Wednesday, 14th January, 1931, and by Local Government Department at 3 p.m. on same day.

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GREENVILLE LANE.

Under date 31st December, 1930, Mr Patrick O'Neill, Greenville, Enniscorthy, wrote:- "I wish to state we are not asking the Council to take over the lane as a County road. We are simply asking that they grant us the material to put the lane in a proper state of repair. That being done will leave it an easy matter for residents afterwards, who are willing to look after it. If the difficulty of legality should prevent the Council making the order there is no other course open to us than to withhold the rates for one year, which would amount at a rough calculation to about £100. I will request you to again put this matter before the Council."

The Chairman said it was purely on the grounds of illegality that the application was refused.

Colonel Quin proposed and Mr O'Byrne seconded the following resolution which was adopted:- "That the letter of Mr P. O'Neill, Greenville, Enniscorthy, threatening to withhold rates if the Council did not supply material for repair of Greenville Lane be marked"read."

Mr McCarthy said he would explain the position to the people concerned.

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

The following resolution was read from Wexford County Committee National Teachers' Organisation :-

"That, as the Vocational Education Act specifically states that educational bodies, trade unions etc., were to be invited to submit names of members for election on Vocational Education Committees, we the members of the Co. Wexford County Committee I.N.T.O. representing the National Teachers of the County consider that we were entitled to be asked to submit representatives on the County Vocational Education Committee and we request that representation be

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given us on that body."

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Colonel Quin seconded by Mr Hall:- "That the Hon Secretary Wexford Co. Committee Irish National Teachers' Organisation be informed that their request as to representation on County Vocational Education Committee will be borne in mind and brought forward as vacancies on the said Committee may arise."

ROSSLARE CLIFF ROAD.

The County Surveyor reported that this road was in a most dangerous condition. At one point it was only nine feet wide and a further fall of the bank may take place at any time. The road should be closed at once but as the Local Government Department had already refused to agree to this he asked for the authority of the Council to close it immediately.

Mr Hall proposed and Mr D'Arcy seconded the following resolution:- "That we apply to the Local Government Department for Order for the immediate closing of Rosslare Cliff Road which is in a dangerous condition." Passed.

DRINAGH CEMENT WORKS.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of the Chairman seconded by Mr Hall:- "That we call upon our four T.D.'s to assist Mr Corish T.D. in his efforts to secure the re-opening of the Drinagh Cement Works.

CONFERENCE WITH T.D.'S.

A Conference was then held with the T.D.'s of the County in accordance with the following resolution which was adopted at the meeting of 9th December, 1930:-

"That the five T.D.'s of the County be invited to attend a meeting of the Council for the purpose of discussing the economic condition of agriculture and taking such steps as may be agreed to in order to improve the present very unsatisfactory

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position."

"That this meeting be held in Committee and that in addition to the depression in Agriculture the necessity for the passing of the Town Tenants Bill be also considered. That when the Conference has agreed upon a policy the T.D.'s be requested to take concerted action on same."

The following T.D.'s attended:- Messrs Denis Allen, O.G.Esmonde, and Dr.Ryan.

Mr Corish was present as a County Councillor.

Mr Jordan was prevented by illness from attending.

A very full exchange of views in which the T.D.'s present participated, took place, the Conference lasting for three hours.

The following resolutions were unanimously adopted and it was decided they should be furnished the General Council of County Councils and the various County Councils in the Saorstat.

Proposed by Mr Corish and seconded by Mr Keegan:-

"That the withholding of Government Grants on the ground of nonpayment of Land Commission Annuities is grossly unjust to Ratepayers in general who are meeting their liabilities. Moreover, it is unreasonable to expect County Councils to be responsible for money for the collection of which they have no concern. And that steps be taken to secure amendment in this respect of the existing law."

Proposed by Colonel Gibbon, seconded by Mr Hall:-

"That the provision and maintenance of motor roads be entirely met from the Road Fund produced from Motor Taxation."

Proposed by Colonel Quin and seconded by Mr D'Arcy:-

"That the Government should take immediate steps to secure the legal rights to safeguard the National Fishing Rights on our Coasts. That the present single Patrol Boat is inadequate"

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

"That we call upon our five T.D.'s to press for the

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passing of an immediate full measure of De-Rating in view of the present economic stress in agriculture. Relief is wanted by the farmer NOW and should not be deferred"

At the conclusion of the proceedings Mr Hall proposed a vote of thanks to the T.D.'s for attending, particularly to Mr Esmonde and Dr. Ryan who had to come a long distance. He offered his sympathy to Mr Jordan for being unable to attend through illness and hoped he would soon be all right. He trusted ~~some~~ good would result from their Conference.

Mr O'Byrne in seconding said that no matter what party to which they belonged the T.D.'s of the County stood together when anything for the good of the County was put forward.

The Chairman supported the motion. The T.D.'s came to their Conference at great inconvenience and this coupled with their discussion showed the good spirit in which they acted, and that they were always prepared to do their best for the County.

The resolution was then put and passed unanimously.

Dr. Ryan said that the resolution was not necessary. The T.D.'s considered it their duty to consult with the County Council and in view of the harmony which had marked their proceedings it was a real pleasure.

Mr. Ryan
26 January 1931

CERTIFICATE OF SECRETARY.

I CERTIFY the foregoing to be a correct
record of the Minutes of Wexford County Council in
respect of the Meeting held on 8th January, 1931.

Signed _____

Dated 12th January 1931.

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WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL.

MEETING 26TH JANUARY 1931.

MINUTES.

WORTVIEW,
WEXFORD.

N.J. FRIZELLE,
SECRETARY.

(1)

A meeting of Wexford County Council was held on 26th January, 1931, in County Council Chamber, Wexford.

Colonel Gibbon Vice-Chairman and subsequently Mr M. Doyle (Chairman) presided:

Also present:- Messrs James Armstrong, John Brennan, James Cline, Patrick Colfer, Thomas Cooney, Richard Corish, John Culleton, John Cummins, Timothy F. D'Arcy, John Doran, James Gaul, James Hall, William P. Keegan, Thomas Maylor, Thomas McCarthy, John Murphy, Sean O'Byrne, Miss Nellie O'Ryan, Col. R.P. Wemyss Quin, M.M. Roche, James Shannon, Myles Smyth and James E. Walsh.

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

The Minutes of ordinary meeting of 22nd December, 1930, and of special meeting of 8th January, 1931, were confirmed.

PAYMENTS.

Treasurer's Advice Note for £1,481: 4: 7d. was examined and signed.

THE LATE MR MYLES MOORE.

Mr O'Byrne proposed the following resolution:

"That we offer Mr Tim Moore, member of County Surveyor's clerical staff our heartfelt condolence in the death of his brother Myles Moore B. Comm. a brilliant journalist, a faithful friend, and a sterling patriot!"

In proposing the resolution Mr O'Byrne said that the deceased had given his life for his country. As a boy scout and volunteer he had a record second to none.

Mr Hall, in seconding the resolution, said that Mr Moore was a true patriot whose one ambition was the development and welfare of his native land.

The Secretary said that the staff of the County Council were extremely sorry at the death of Mr Moore who was known and respected by us all. It is sad to see the youth snatched

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away but when a young man of outstanding ability passes, his loss is doubly acute.

He (Secretary) was certain that if Mr Moore had lived he would have gone far and made his mark in the history of his country.

The resolution was put and passed.

COUNTY SURVEYOR'S REPORT -----

The following report was read from the County Surveyor:

"Recently a vessel passing through New Ross Bridge damaged the structure, and I recommend that a claim be made against owner of vessel. Two panels of the railings have been damaged. At the present time I have temporary fencing erected. I recommend that the matter be put in the Solicitor's hands.

"I have already reported on the collapse of Ballygarven Bridge, and shall have arrangements made for its rebuilding during the current year. In the meanwhile, as great complaints were made by local people in regard to the difficulty of attending Church and School I have erected a temporary foot bridge.

"At last meeting of the Council I reported that the Coast Road at Rosslare had become dangerous owing to further slip, and obtained authority to close the road. This has been done, and I notified the Local Government Department in regard to the matter. There is now a communication from the Department refusing sanction to the temporary closing of the road. There is a misunderstanding in regard to this, as the closing, to my mind, is permanent, and even if the Council propose expending money on same in restoring the bank and protecting the coast it is absolutely necessary to have the road closed at the present time. In a case like this I consider the first consideration of the County Council is to protect the public, and there is no doubt that if the road remained unclosed there would be serious damage, and possibly

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bad accidents.

I have to report that the end of North Pier at Courtown Harbour is showing signs of settlement, a number of cracks have appeared in the super-structure, and it will be necessary, during the coming year to have this attended to. I shall bring forward a proposal when dealing with the Public Works Estimate. There has also recently been some damage done to the old protection wall on the shore. This is a place that was not yet dealt with. I shall put in proposal for this also in Public Works Scheme. The two items together will cost about £250.

In the current years Road Works Scheme there was a proposal passed for the reconstruction of a bridge on Road 296 at a sum of £30. This money is quite insufficient for reconstruction work, and I do not consider that it would be advisable to expend it on repairs. There is another bridge on 287 which requires repair, and I ask for authority to transfer above sum to this latter work.

The new Offices at the Old Jail will be available very shortly, and I ask for authority to make arrangements for the removal from present offices. In connection with this matter 'phone arrangements will have to be considered. I have had an interview with the representative of the Post Office Authorities and have gone over the premises with him. The County Registrar County Secretary, Taxation Officer and the County Surveyor will all require phones, and it appears that there are only two methods of dealing with this:-

1. Having separate lines from Post Office for each.
2. Having a local Exchange on the Premises.

Each of the four lines will entail a rental of £6:10:0d. per annum, making a total of £26. If the Exchange be put in, the cost will only be £6:10:0d., leaving a balance of £19:10:0d. to cover the cost of an attendant in the local exchange. This

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attendant, of course, would have to be on duty while offices were open. I believe there will be no difficulty in having a slot-telephone put up in the space under the stairs, and, of course, if this be put in there will be no charge. I take it that the County Council will give the accommodation for the slot machine free.

"I have carefully gone into the amendment of figures submitted by me in the Provisional Road Works Scheme. In the first place I have taken account of allowances and other liabilities which must be met, including existing Contracts. Also I have allowed for the repair of existing bridges and so forth which must be done, otherwise, serious accidents might be entailed. Taking total of these from the £40,000 allocated by the County Council I have pro rata reduced my figures, and find that it entails an all round reduction of about 52%. As I already notified the Council I find the current year's money is insufficient to properly maintain the roads, and I cannot see how, during next year that the roads can be kept up with such a large reduction. There is one matter that I wish to point out, and that is existing contracts remain, of course, at the higher figures, whereas, all other roads have to be reduced. This does not seem reasonable as in many cases I find that there is a higher rate per mile on some of the 4th class roads than on the more important roads. There is a clause in the specification which allows of the Council breaking existing contracts, and if this great reduction on the other roads is to be put in force I consider that the contract roads should be reduced similarly. At the present time a number of the roads are in a poor condition, and the money available for their upkeep until the 31st March is practically exhausted.

"I submit list of defaulting contractors against whom proceedings may be necessary, and I ask for authority to deal with same.

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"I have application from Mr James Brewer, Irishtown, New Ross, asking for permission to erect concrete fence at his own expense. Application was received too late for me to obtain full details, but as I understand it, I think there should be *no* objection in the matter."

Damage to New Ross Bridge: The County Surveyor said that the vessel which was responsible for the damage was the property of Messrs Kearon & Tyrrell, South Quay, Arklow, and the Master was Captain Tyrell, Tinahely, Co. Wicklow. The cost of repair would be £10 or £12.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr O'Byrne seconded by Mr Murphy:- "That our Solicitor be instructed to claim cost of repair of damage to New Ross Bridge from Messrs Kearon & Tyrrell, Arklow, owners of the vessel responsible for the damage.

Ballygarvan Bridge: In reply to Mr Murphy the County Surveyor said that as the new passage was only 3 feet 6 inches in width there was no possibility of bringing cars over it.

Rosslare Cliff Road: The following under date 20th January, 1931 (R/IR/107/1) was read from the Department of Local Government (Roads):-

"With further reference to your letter of the 16th instant, I am directed by the Minister for Local Government and Public Health to state that as the Wexford County Council have not complied with the instructions of the Minister for Industry and Commerce in connection with Order prohibiting the removal of materials from the foreshore at Rosslare the Minister cannot see his way to accede to the request of the Council for an Order authorising the temporary closing of the Rosslare Cliff Road under Section 29 of the Local Government Act, 1925."

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr D'Arcy seconded by Mr Brennan:- "That an Advertisement be inserted in the local papers pointing out that the Cliff Road, Rosslare, is dangerous and has been closed by the Council and

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that any persons who use it will do so at their own risk. That the County Surveyor place notices at each end of the road that it is closed and dangerous and also provide for reflector lights at these points.

Courtown Harbour: The County Surveyor said that a settlement had occurred at the place which was partly supported on old timber piles and which had rotted to some extent.

Mr O'Byrne proposed that the work be carried out.

Mr D'Arcy seconded.

Mr Keegan moved a resolution that the Department would be asked to send down an Inspector to Courtown Harbour and see what could be done. They had been doing "patching" jobs at Courtown and he thought there was very little value for the money.

The County Surveyor said it was impossible to tell when repairs would be necessary on sea works. They were in this respect unlike landworks. If the work was not done during the coming year the pier head would probably give away.

Mr Keegan said that Courtown for practically worthless repairs was costing more than the interest on a loan which would enable the Pier to be properly reconstructed.

Mr D'Arcy said the whole wall would fall unless something was done.

Mr Keegan referred to the expenditure at Courtown Harbour during the past five or six years when about £3000 had been spent to put up a wall to keep out the sea and which had tumbled down.

Colonel Quin - Is the place tumbling down ?

County Surveyor - It is not; it is absolutely safe now and if it had not been for the amount spent during the past five or six years there would have been nothing left at Courtown.

The resolution was adopted.

In reply to Mr Keegan the County Surveyor said that it was the delay of the Department of Finance which was holding up the Grant for the reconstruction of the sluice gates at Courtown. The Fishery Department were only waiting the approval of the

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Department of Finance to deal with the matter out of hand.

Mr Corish - The Fishery Department have recommended the Grant but the Department of Finance are holding it up.

Carne Pier: Colonel Gibbon said that at the time Carne Pier was being reconstructed a year ago he pointed out that the concrete of the platform should have been reinforced. This was not done and there was now a big crack in the centre.

Mr Birthistle said the crack in question was expected, and could be readily dealt with. The amount of money allocated for the work did not allow for the reinforcing.

It was decided on the motion of Colonel Gibbon seconded by Mr D'Arcy that the County Surveyor furnish a report as to the condition of Carne Pier for County Council meeting of 23rd February, 1931.

Transfer of allocation to Bridge 287: Mr Ennis, Assistant Surveyor, said that the bridge on 296 (between turn in Tincurry and turn in Tombrack) would be only on a line of small gulleys and it would be foolish to spend money on this. He proposed that the £30 allocated should be transferred to the repair of a bridge on Road 287 (Turn at Askamore to turn at Moneydurtlow) and which was unsafe.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr Hall seconded by Colonel Quin:- "That we agree to transfer of allocation of £30 for repair of bridge on Road 296 being transferred to repair of bridge on Road 287."

Telephones for Co. Offices: The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Colonel Quin seconded by Mr O'Byrne:- "That one telephone installation (with switches) be provided for County Secretary, County Surveyor, and Local Taxation Officer. That the County Registrar be requested to ask the Department of Justice to arrange for transfer of 'phone from Old Courthouse to new Offices at Old Jail and for the payment of calls."

Defaulting Road Contractors: The following resolution was

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adopted on the motion of Mr O'Byrne seconded by Mr D'Arcy:
"That the following Road Contractors be prosecuted for neglect of their roads unless they forthwith carry out the directions of the County Surveyor. 558 - Joseph Hyland, Coolgarrow, Enniscorthy; 977 James Codd, Gollagh, Kilmore.

Fence at Mountgarrett: The County Surveyor said that Mr Brewer wanted permission to erect 100 yards of fencing at his own expense and which would do away with a dumping ground on which very objectionable stuff was thrown from time to time. He suggested that the matter should be adjourned for the present until he had a report.

The meeting approved of the suggestion of the County Surveyor.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Col. Quin seconded by Mr Cooney:- "That the report of County Surveyor as presented to this meeting be and is hereby approved.

PROVISIONAL ROAD WORKS SCHEME.

The following under date 30th December, 1930 (R/RGM/32) was read from the Department of Local Government (Roads):-

"I am directed by the Minister for Local Government and Public Health to forward, herewith, a copy of a letter which he has received from the County Surveyor, relative to the sum which the Wexford County Council propose to allow in respect of roads for the coming financial year and as to the procedure adopted by the County Council when dealing with the Surveyor's estimate.

"In the first place I am to point out that the County Surveyor is required by Article 48 of the Public Bodies Order, 1925, to specify in the Scheme, particulars of the expenditure which, in his opinion, is required for the repair of every road, together with particulars (including cost) of every work of improvement which he considers should be carried out during the next local financial year. The County Council are to con-

sider in detail the County Surveyor's proposals, and it is not competent to them to make a general reduction without advertence to the sum required for the repair and improvement of each road. Furthermore, the County Surveyor cannot be expected to alter his opinion as to the sum which he considers necessary for the repair or improvement of each road merely because the County Council make an all-round reduction on his total estimate. Responsibility for varying the sums proposed by the County Surveyor rests solely with the County Council and in order that the Provisions of the Public Bodies Order may be complied with, I am to request that the Council will follow the procedure laid down, and, instead of making a general reduction, deal with the County Surveyor's proposals in detail.

It is to be noted that the County Surveyor points out the reduction proposed by the County Council renders it impossible for him properly to maintain the roads. In this connection, I am to draw the Council's attention to the terms of the Department's Circular Letter RGM/201/30 of the 27th October last indicating that the making of Grants towards the Upkeep of Main Roads will depend upon the fact whether the estimates of the Council show that a reasonable sum is proposed for the upkeep of all roads, and the Minister, accordingly, trusts that the Council will review their decision so that there will be no difficulty in his notifying the usual upkeep grant. The primary consideration of County Councils is the maintenance of existing roads. If the sum allowed for such work is curtailed, works of improvement should be deferred. In reviewing their position accordingly the County Council should take this fact into account."

The following is copy of letter from County Surveyor to the Local Government Department (Roads) referred in the Department's communication:-

"I beg to inform you, for the information of the Minister that the Wexford County Council, at their meeting, on yester-

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day, 22nd instant, dealt with the Provisional Road Works Scheme for next year. My Estimate, copy of which I enclose, amounts to £73,394: 14: 8d. The County Council, by a majority of votes, decided to raise only a sum of £40,000 to cover all works as set out, and I have been directed to revise my Estimate to come within this figure. The Council declined to make any segregation between Main and County Roads, or as regards improvement works in Part II. I wish to point out that the money allocated for works in Road Works Scheme for the current year amounted to £55,098:1;8d., and of this sum £2,000 was to cover special expenditure, in supplement of the Grant from the Local Government for reconstruction of the Rosslare Road; thus for the current year I have a sum of something over £53,000 for the County Roads and Works. At the present time there is a very small balance available for the maintenance up to the 31st March next, and I have no doubt whatever that this figure is insufficient for the proper maintenance of the Wexford Roads. The £40,000 allocated is equivalent to a reduction of about 45 % on my Estimate, and it will be impossible to properly maintain the roads at the figure."

The following letter (RGM/201/30) under date 27th October, 1930, was also read from Local Government Department (Roads):→

1. "I am directed by the Minister for Local Government and Public Health to state that he is anxious to be in a position to notify to County Councils, as soon as possible, the grants which may be made from the Road Fund in respect of the year 1931-32. County Councils would, accordingly, do well to take an early opportunity to frame estimates of the sums which they are likely to allow for the upkeep respectively of (a) Main Roads and (b) County Roads for the financial year 1931-32. On particulars of these estimates being furnished to this Department the Minister will have them examined and he will then indicate, as soon as practicable, what upkeep grant, if any, can be made, Upkeep grants are calculated by reference to

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the amounts finally passed by County Councils, so that if Grants are to be notified early the figures supplied should correspond as nearly as possible with the final figures. In furnishing particulars of the estimates the requirements in regard to the upkeep of Main Roads in the Urban Areas of the County should be borne in mind.

2. Provided the estimates of the Council show that a reasonable sum is proposed for the upkeep of all roads, the Upkeep Grant for 1931-32 will be calculated on the basis of 40 % of the sum proposed.

3. In dealing with their estimates, Councils, subject to what is stated in the preceding paragraph, are to assume that the total sum provided in their Road Works Scheme is relieved to the extent of the Grant. In other words, the Grant is to be taken in as a credit and is not to form the basis of a supplementary Scheme after it is notified."

The references to Provisional Road Works Scheme in Report of County Surveyor to the present meeting were also read.

The following notice of motion stood in the name of Mr O'Byrne:-

"That the resolution adopted by Wexford County Council at their meeting on 22nd December, 1930, allocating a sum of £40,000 for maintenance of roads and improvement works for financial year 1931-32, be rescinded, and that the Council reconsider the County Surveyor's estimate as set out in Provisional Road Works Scheme, particularly in view of the letter from the Department of Local Government, under date 30th December, 1930(R/RGM/32) and also as it appears that some Councilors did not clearly understand that the amount of grant furnished by the L.G.D. for road maintenance etc., is in relief to be raised of the total sum/for roads for the financial year."

Colonel Gibbon said that before Mr O'Byrne's motion was considered he wanted to know whether the County Surveyor was a servant of the County Council or of the L.G.D. Was it his duty when they gave him an order, to go behind the County Coun-

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cil and communicate with the Department to obtain directions on a subject on which the County Council had given an order ? And when he took it on himself to make a communication like that he thought the County Surveyor should be very certain of the facts he had stated. He (Col. Gibbon) was certainly under the impression that in the allocation of the money when the County Surveyor asked for an order they told him that the reductions were to be made principally on the trunk roads and on the first-class roads, which they believed should be kept up from the motor taxation, and they told him definitely that no reduction was to be made on the fourth-class roads, and as far as possible no reduction on the third-class roads, but the County Surveyor had informed the L.G.D. that they gave him no instructions on the point.

County Surveyor - I actually asked the Council to segregate the amount between the various items, and they declined. I am not able to do it, and I am bound to see that there is a sufficient sum of money, and not to be held responsible for the roads going back and deteriorating, and it is my duty to acquaint the L.G.D. of the fact.

Chairman - Is it your duty ?

Co. Surveyor - I believe it is.

Chairman - Is that prescribed in any of your duties as County Surveyor. Is that sentence embodied in anything connected with your position here - that you must notify the L.G.D. as to your instructions here before you act on them ?

County Surveyor - I believe it is.

Chairman - You believe it, but have you it in black and white anywhere ?

Mr D'Arcy - Surely, the County Surveyor ought to carry out the instructions of the Council in preference to the instructions of others.

Chairman - If the County Surveyor is to be the servant of the L.G.D. we have no use for him. If he is to be our County

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Surveyor we have every use for him, but I think he has embarked on duties outside his own office altogether in making this matter clear to the L.G.D. He says himself he is responsible. When did any responsibility fall on the County Surveyor? Isn't the County Council always responsible? I think it is a gross excess of his duty to notify the L.G.D. as to what our proceedings were, only carry out our order until told otherwise.

County Surveyor - I have carried out the orders

Chairman - You haven't.

County Surveyor - I have.

Chairman - Did we tell you that everything that passed at the meeting should be made known to the L.G.D.?

County Surveyor - The matter is on the minutes.

Col. Gibbon said that on all previous occasions during his six or seven years on the Council they had reduced the roads' estimate. They had allocated a total sum, and had told the County Surveyor to revise his scheme and present it to the Council at a subsequent meeting. On previous occasions the County Surveyor submitted the revised scheme within the figure the Council mentioned, but this year he (Col. Gibbon) had not received the revised scheme on the order they made at the last meeting.

Mr McCarthy said he did not believe that the County Surveyor had been guilty of any reprehensible conduct. He merely called the attention of the Department to a matter already before the Department on the minutes, and he thought the County Surveyor was within his rights in calling attention to that important matter. It personally affected him in the discharge of his duties, and they all had vivid recollection of his being attacked over the condition of the roads. Why then should he not be granted an opportunity of defending his position? He thought the County Surveyor was quite justified in putting his position before the Department. Further, he thought that the County Surveyor more or less occupied his position in a dual capacity. He was subject to certain directions of the Depart-

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ment , could be removed from office by the Department, could not be appointed without their sanction, and was more or less under their control as well as under the control of the County Council. In his experience of the County Surveyor he had always found him a most conscientious official, who always discharged his duties in a most efficient manner, and who had done his best, very often under trying circumstances, to please everyone.

Mr D'Arcy - Why did the County Surveyor this year depart from the usual practice of the Council ?

Chairman - I don't know. One of Mr McCarthy's remarks was that the County Surveyor is in a dual capacity. I could not see that position at all. The County Surveyor has never been admonished by the L.G.D. as to his carrying out of the business; it is the County Council that always receives such admonition. The County Surveyor never personally got such admonition, and Mr McCarthy's statement, I think, in that sense is quite misleading.

Mr Corish said it might have been injudicious for the County Surveyor to write to the L.G.D. in connection with the matter. Personally, if he were in the County Surveyor's position he would have written to the Council sending them a copy of the letter to the Department. In his opinion, the County Surveyor was in a dual position, and if the memories of the members of the County Council did not fail them they would remember that in the Co. Tipperary a County Surveyor had been removed over the heads of the Council, because he was not giving what the Department considered to be proper attention to the roads. He (Mr Corish) asked the Council on the day they were considering the estimates to appoint a committee to go into the matter in detail, and that was deliberately turned down, especially by Col. Gibbon, and there was no use in Col. Gibbon saying now that he helped the County Surveyor in any way with regard to going into the details of what certainly was an indiscriminate cut with regard to the roads.

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Colonel Gibbon said he stated that the County Surveyor should prepare a revised estimate, and as soon as that estimate was ready they were in favour of a Committee being appointed if the Council were not able to deal with it. With regard to the County Surveyor being in a dual capacity, he admitted that the County Surveyor was subject to the technical inspection of his work by the engineers of the Department, but he did not at all admit that the County Surveyor was in a dual position with regard to the policy and financial expenditure of the County Council, for which the County Council was responsible.

The County Surveyor maintained he was in a dual capacity and particularly with regard to the main roads. The members might recollect that on a previous occasion there was a complaint about the insufficient attention on one particular main road, and there was a threat held over the Council of holding back the maintenance grant in that particular case. In that particular instance he pointed out to the Council at the time that in the case of a drastic cut they would be endangering the maintenance grant. It was impossible to put a reasonable figure on the main roads with the £40,000, and he considered that as he would be responsible, largely at any rate, to the L.G.D. on the question of the main roads, if not on the others, he was bound to point out to them there would be insufficient money to maintain the main roads. He would be blamed by the L.G.D. if the roads went back.

Mr D'Arcy - If we don't give you the money the responsibility is ours.

County Surveyor - That's exactly what I want.

Miss O'Ryan said that the County Surveyor did point out at the last meeting that the money was not sufficient, and a very large section of the Council, including some of those who voted against, thought it was a stupid thing to bring in a definite figure as Col. Gibbon suggested, and that they should

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have gone into the maintenance of each individual road to see what was
/the lowest possible figure whether under or over Col. Gibbon's.

Colonel Gibbon - The sympathy of some members seems to be with the County Surveyor's inability to do what he wants, and not with the inability of the people to pay the rates.

Colonel Quin said that every year they had been told it was impossible to do with less than £70,000 or £75,000 for the roads, and every year they had cut the estimate down, and the roads had not got any worse. He was certain that the roads were very much better than when he joined the Council.

The County Surveyor said that if they examined the estimates submitted in other counties they would find that they were double his estimates for smaller counties. He went into the matter carefully and reasonably and cut it to the lowest figure he considered the roads could be maintained at, and that was the £73,000. He maintained that £73,000 was in or about the proper figure for the roads. He did not say the Council could give it, but he had simply to consider what the roads needed for proper upkeep. This year if he wanted to put a decent price on any road he had to take it off a road that already had too much off. Consequently he had reduced all pro rata, and he did not see what else could be done.

Mr D'Arcy said he did not think that that should be done. Trunk roads had got sufficient in recent years to enable the money to be put to other roads.

Mr O'Byrne proposing his motion said, that some members were under the erroneous impression that the grants which would be made for road work was exclusive of the £40,000 which had been passed by the Council. He instanced the cases of two roads in Gorey district which were, he was told, the worst in the County, which would go to pieces ultimately if adequate money was not allowed for their upkeep. He found that, for the roads being maintained by contract, £1 more per mile was being allowed than for the same class of roads which were being maintained by direct labour. He gave notice of motion so that the Council

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would

have the opportunity of reconsidering the estimates. It was possible that in the coming year there would be de-rating or some other form of relief, the basis of which would possibly be the amounts paid over a certain period, and if the Council reduced the estimates it might mean a permanent loss to the County.

Arising out of questions following Mr O'Byrne, the Secretary explained that if the Council passed a resolution to spend £40,000 on the roads they could not spend any sum above that amount, and any grant that would be given would go to the relief of the general rates. If for instance a grant of £10,000 were given it would be taken as credit, and only the £40,000 spent.

Mr Walsh stated that that had been made clear to them for the past two or three years, and no one could avoid knowing it.

In answer to Mr Colloton, the Secretary stated that if the Council adopted an estimate for £40,000, and a grant of £10,000 was received the ratepayers would be only called on to pay £30,000.

To allow of the subject of road expenditure and grants in aid being discussed simultaneously Colonel Gibbon moved the following of which he had given previous notice:-

"That it is wrong in principle to distribute grants of public money on condition of further large sums being levied on County Rates. Such a system is prejudicial to the strict economy in expenditure demanded by the existing economic situation"

In moving his motion he said that the County Surveyor had not placed in the hands of the members the amended figures in regard to his proposals, which the Council decided he should prepare for them. This was very serious, as it would mean holding up the work of the Council in striking the rate for the coming year. He had no grudge against the County Surveyor or any fault to find with him generally, but in this particular matter he thought he

had made a mistake in writing to the Local Government Department above the heads of the Council.

Mr Gaul - I don't agree.

Mr Shannon - On a point of order, is that Col. Gibbon's interpretation of the Public Bodies Order. Has he legal opinion for it ?

Col. Gibbon - That's my own interpretation.

Mr Shannon - You are not entitled to give legal opinion.

Col. Gibbon - I am.

Mr Shannon - You are not.

Colonel Gibbon - I have asked the Chairman to ask the legal adviser for his opinion as to whether I am correct in my interpretation. I am not trying to get at Mr Barry personally. I have always looked upon Mr Barry as a friend of mine and will continue to do so.

Proceeding, Colonel Gibbon stated he admitted that a few excellent main trunk roads fit for carrying the heaviest motor traffic in the county were required, but he maintained that the cost of those roads and first-class roads should be borne out of motor taxation. It was absolutely impossible for the ordinary farmer or agriculturist who did not use such roads to put up the money to make roads which were not suitable to his business and which were beyond his power to pay for. They were told that the number of motor vehicles licensed in Co. Wexford was higher than in most counties. If then motor roads were to be made faster than they were being made it was not the duty of the Government to throw their cost on the ratepayers. A capital sum would then have to be raised, as the Government did in the case of the two million State Road Grant and the money raised by motor taxation should provide the interest and sinking fund. If the motor roads were required more rapidly than they could be provided at the present time, even with motor taxation, together with a loan, then further money should be raised by the nation. In regard to the County Surveyor's

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allocation of the money and as to how it was to be spent, the Council definitely told him that they did not want to cut down his estimate for fourth class roads which should be kept up by the farmer and agricultural community. They should not strike rates for the trunk roads above the expenditure demanded by the ordinary farmers' traffic. He therefore disagreed with acceding to the demand of the Local Government Department as proposed by Mr O'Byrne. They should put up the money which they were able and let the Local Government Department., if they thought the motoring people wanted better roads, give them a big grant.

Mr Shannon - Have you legislation to carry out Colonel Gibbon's suggestion?

Mr Cummins - Don't you know you have not.

Chairman - I think everyone is aware you have not.

Mr Shannon - What is the use of detaining the meeting then ?

Colonel Gibbon - We have the power not to put up the money.

Mr D'Arcy seconded Colonel Gibbon's motion.

Mr Keegan, supporting Mr O'Byrne's motion, also cited roads in Gorey district which he said would have to be closed if the expenditure on them was to be "cut".

Mr Cooney asked did Colonel Gibbon, in view of his remarks ever travel the roads in New Ross area, and he challenged the other representatives of that area to say if they could afford to bear a cut in the expenditure.

Mr Walsh, replying to Mr Cooney, stated that there were some bad roads, not the main roads. There were some of the roads with surfaces so bad that horses could not travel on them. They could do with less polishing on the roads.

Mr Cooney - Let them go to the other roads.

Chairman - We could all enumerate such roads, but we are prepared to do with them rather than be taxed out of existence.

Mr Murphy stated he agreed there were bad roads in New

Ross area, but there were ratepayers in a worse position. He was not in favour of voting money for roads for which the people were unable to pay.

Mr Corish stated he found it difficult to understand the attitude of Colonel Gibbon who had spoken that day with two voices. He admitted the third and fourth class roads required attention and if the County Surveyor's figures were examined it would be found that Col. Gibbon only wanted £34,000 allocated. The term "ratepayer" was a very much abused one. He (Mr Corish) represented ratepayers as well as Colonel Gibbon, who recognised that if the estimates were cut the Council would be putting money into one of their pockets, but at the same time taking it from another to pay for Home Assistance. Within the last few weeks it had been stated that there was going to be some form of de-rating or relief for the farmers, and he would like to know from Col. Gibbon if it would be a judicious thing to cut down the estimates which he knew were not adequate to maintain the roads. If the number of motors in the County were as stated it would not lead them to believe that the country was so badly off.

Chairman - You can buy a motor car cheaper than a small pony.

A member remarked that a motor could be purchased for £5.

Concluding Mr Corish advised the Council that they would be acting unwisely in cutting the estimates in view of the possibility of de-rating or other forms of relief.

The Chairman stated he did not think the reduction of the estimates would have any bearing on the form of relief expected from the State for the farmers. They were not yet aware of the form which the proposed relief would take. If any of their T.D.'s were in a position to state that the relief would be in the form of de-rating it would be all right, but as far as he could see what was projected by the Government

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would not come in the form of de-rating but in the form of a further Agricultural Grant. He, therefore, held that the reduction of the estimates would not make any difference.

Colonel Gibbon referring to Mr Corish's question to him as to the advisability of reducing the estimate in view of possible de-rating, said he thought that one of the probable forms of relief would be the relieving of local authorities of the expenditure on national or main roads. He had not proposed cutting the expenditure on the rural roads, and they only proposed cutting it to a certain extent on third class roads. They, however, should make a very big cut on the national roads which he hoped would be taken from them. They were told last year that they would get de-rating and about the probability of relief on the old rate, but they never got it. He did not see what good it would be to the farmers if they were to pay for it in another form of taxation. He certainly would not stand for throwing on the farmers a great expenditure for the upkeep of motoring roads, which the farmers did not require, and which in some cases they found an absolute detriment ~~to~~ to them. His point of view was that the Government had got to frame taxation which should be parcelled out on an absolutely just basis and according to the requirements of the whole of the country.

Mr Keegan stated that at the previous meeting he proposed that the difference between what the Council had passed at the previous meeting and the amount agreed to last year, £16,000, should be divided and added to the £40,000 for the coming year. Colonel Gibbon had admitted that the £40,000 was not enough. He (Mr Keegan) therefore, desired to ~~again~~ propose a similar motion.

Colonel Gibbon, in reply to Mr Corish, stated he did not say that de-rating would ^{not} be any good to the farmers and agriculturists, but that it would not be any use if taxation were placed on them which would counteract the effect of derating.

A poll was then taken on Mr O'Byrne's motion with the fol-

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lowing result:-

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

Against - Messrs Brennan, Culleton, D'Arcy, Doran, Gibbon, Hall, Meyler, Murphy, Quin, Roche, Smyth, Walsh, and the Chairman- 13.

The motion was accordingly lost.

A poll was then taken on Colonel Gibbon's motion with the following result:-

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

Against - Messrs Armstrong, Clince, Colfer, Cooney, Corish, Cummins, Gaul, Keegan, McCarthy, O'Byrne, and Shannon - 11.

The Chairman declared the motion carried.

Mr Keegan - Would I be in order now in putting my motion ?

Chairman - No, sir.

The County Surveyor submitted figures which showed that the amounts for main roads and for county roads last year were £25,990 and £23,353 respectively. The allocations on the basis of a £40,000 estimate would be £15683 and £20,261 respectively showing a bigger reduction on main than on County roads. He was not satisfied with those amounts. There was no road for which money was not required. Last year he had available some money, portion of which he was able to allocate to necessitous roads, but would have no such money available in the coming year.

Mr Hall submitted that by the reduction of the estimates ~~that~~ the Co. Surveyor would be able to give the same amount of employment on the third and fourth class roads as heretofore, as so much money would not be required for the purchase of tar.

The County Surveyor replied that that might be the case, but that there was a large number of main roads which were improved under the grant, and there was no doubt that if an improved road were allowed to become bad it would be a more diffi-

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cult operation to bring it up again than it would be on an unimproved road - the ordinary better third class road.

Mr Gaul stated that in consequence of the condition of the trunk and main roads traffic had been diverted to the by-roads.

Mr Cooney - What will be the percentage of the cut on the urban roads ?

County Surveyor - The same; I don't see how you can make any difference.

Mr Cooney - The Post Office will lose a lot then as the New Ross Urban Council need not be writing any more to you about the condition of the streets.

Mr Roche proposed that no money be spent on the 60 miles of trunk roads, which had been improved, and that the amount be transferred to other roads.

Chairman (To Mr Roche) - You will have to take into consideration the 30 miles of trunk roads which Mr Barry says are not done.

County Surveyor - It's going to have serious consequences if they are not done.

Miss O'Ryan said it would be a very stupid thing for the Council to pass a resolution such as that proposed by Mr Roche. They could give a direction on the matter.

Chairman - That's what I was going to suggest; that a direction be given to the County Surveyor.

The County Surveyor said he could not undertake such a responsibility and he suggested that a committee of one representative from each County Electoral Area be appointed to go into the matter with him.

Mr Murphy agreed that a resolution was not necessary as the estimates were fairly well cut. The County Surveyor could not spend any more on trunk roads than was absolutely necessary.

Chairman - I think a direction to Mr Barry to use his discretion and not apply any money to trunk roads except to water-

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tables etc., would be sufficient.

Mr Culleton seconding Mr Roche's proposition, said the trunk roads should be entirely maintained from motor taxation.

Mr Shannon stated that by reduction of the estimates the Council would have reason to be ashamed of the condition of their roads when the Eucharistic Congress was held.

Mr Corish moved and Col. Quin seconded an amendment to Mr Roche's proposition that the expenditure on trunk roads be left to the discretion of the County Surveyor.

Mr O'Byrne stated that Mr Roche's proposition did not allow anything for the cleaning of water tables or repair of potholes on trunk roads.

Mr Elgee, Solicitor, quoted Article 49(3) of the Public Bodies Order from which he submitted that Mr Corish's amendment was not in order.

Mr Murphy moved that no money be spent on the sixty miles of trunk roads that were finished except for what was necessary on the sides and the repair of pot holes, and that the money suggested by County Surveyor for repair of these roads go to the link roads.

Mr Roche submitted that if work like that were to be done on trunk roads the County Surveyor would never get finished with them.

Mr Doran seconded Mr Murphy's amendment on which a poll resulting as follows was taken:-

For - Messrs Cummins, Doran, Gibbon, Hall, Meyler, McCarthy, Murphy, O'Ryan, Quin, Walsh and the Chairman - 11.

Against - Messrs Brennan, Culleton, D'Arcy, Keegan, Roche and Smyth - 6.

Declined to vote - Messrs Armstrong, Cline, Colfer, Cooney, Corish, Gaul, Shannon, O'Byrne - 8.

The Chairman declared the motion carried.

Mr Roche pressed for a poll on his motion and after some discussion a vote was taken with the following result:-

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For - Messrs Brennan, Culleton, D'Arcy, Keegan, Roche, and Smyth - 6.

Against - Messrs Armstrong, Clince, Colfer, Cooney, Corish, Cummins, Doran, Gaul, Gibbon, Hall, Meyler, McCarthy, Murphy, O'Byrne, O'Ryan, Quin, Shannon Walsh and the Chairman - 19.

The Chairman declared the motion lost.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Col. Gibbon seconded by Mr D'Arcy:- "That the County Surveyor be directed to prepare a further Road Works Estimate in accordance with resolutions adopted at this meeting, for consideration at meeting of County Council on 9th February, 1931, and furnish the figures to the Councillors in the meantime.

Mr Shannon and Mr Gaul raised the question as to necessary new works but the County Surveyor said in face of the decision of the Council it would not be possible to provide for any new works in the Estimate.

Mr Shannon said he would raise the matter again at the meeting of Council on 9th February, 1931.

PUBLIC HEALTH ESTIMATE. -----

The Chairman said it had been decided by a majority of the Health Board in view of the increase in amount to be demanded from the County Council that Dr. Bastible should come before the Council and explain his school inspection scheme and his immunisation treatment against diptheria.

Mr Gaul held it was illegal for the Council to consider these schemes and asked the advice of Mr Elgee, Solicitor.

Mr Elgee - You could have an informal discussion, but no resolution, and I am doubtful if any notice of such discussion could appear on the official minutes. The only way this matter could be brought before the County Council is when the Health Board, in the usual way, send in their estimate to the County Council, and, until that is done, you have no say. Up to the present, no estimate has been sent in by the Health

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Board. That estimate should have been passed on the 19th instant, and it was not, I understand, passed on that date, and, in the ordinary course, the clerk should, when the estimate was passed, ~~to~~ send it in within three days to the Council. He has not done that. Until that is done, and the full estimate considered on the 9th of February, the County Council has no say at all. I see nothing, however, to prevent you ~~to~~ having an informal discussion.

The Chairman said when they gave permission for the appointment of a County Medical Officer of Health a great many thought the expenditure in connection with the matter, would not run into any more, at the greatest than £2,000 per year. But they find today, before they are done with the County Medical Officer of Health and all his schemes, the cost will run close on £7,000 on the ratepayers. The Board of Health then decided, whether it was the right thing or not, to bring it before the County Council and he thought they were quite justified in bringing it here. He didn't see what objection anybody could take to such an action of the part of the majority of the Health Board.

Dr. Bastible, County Medical Officer of Health, said the schemes and supervision were very important for the children of the County and aimed at bringing about health and happiness. There were two schemes - one for anti-diphtheria treatment and the other the school medical inspection scheme. Most children from six months upwards were liable to contract diphtheria, and modern science showed that this disease, through immunisation, was preventable, and where treatment was carried out children were free from contracting the disease. It was in use in America, France, Germany, England, and in many counties in Ireland. He would give figures to indicate the possibilities of the scheme. In Aberdeen, and he selected the place as an example to show that they would not spend money on the scheme there unless they expected a handsome return (laughter)

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immunisation was going on considerably, and as a result there was a great reduction in the disease. In 1904 the number of cases was 48, and from 1905 to 1910 the number was 147; 1910 to 1915, 164; 1919 to 1924, 401. In view of the increasing hospital costs associated with the treatment of diphtheria it was decided in 1924 to inaugurate an immunisation scheme, with the result that the number of diphtheria cases for 1925 was reduced to 15 as compared with 43 for 1924, and in 1926-1930 the average was ten. In Edinburgh where immunisation was carried out there was also a considerable decrease. In Co. Louth the number of diphtheria cases for 1928 was 84; anti-diphtheria treatment was started there in the latter year, and as a result, 1,000 were immunised, so that in 1929 the number of cases fell to 37, and in 1930 to 20. In Co. Wexford the number of cases that occurred in 1928-29 was 56 and in 1930 it was the fourth highest county in Ireland with 97 cases. The cost of treating one case in the fever hospital in 1930 was £12:12s. The estimated cost of immunisation was £1,000 and if they adopted the scheme they were saving life and money. On a calculation of cost at £12:10s. for treatment in one case, the figures of the 1930 basis involved an expenditure of £1212 as against £1000, the cost of immunisation. In fact, were it not for the ^{public} spirited action of the New Ross Urban Council in voting £250 to combat the disease in their area, there was no doubt but a much larger number of cases would have occurred. There were one or two peculiar coincidences in connection with the campaign, there. One death occurred in a family where immunisation was refused, and where one school child out of a number ^{that} ~~that~~ refused immunisation, that child was the only one that got diphtheria. The cost per case would be 5/- per case. Referring to the treatment of children under the school inspection scheme, Dr. Bastible went on to say that there were 15,000 school children in the County with 157 schools. School inspection schemes were working in various countries for a

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considerable time, and in their own country in Dublin, Cork, Louth, Kildare, Offally, and they had started in Wicklow, Limerick, Westmeath and Carlow. He gave the detailed cost of the scheme and treatment of children, as published last week, showing the total cost of the school inspection scheme for Co. Wexford to be £1,775, of which the Government would recoup them fifty per cent, so that the cost to the rates was really only $\frac{1}{2}$ in the £. He need not labour the advantages of the scheme, of which the chief aim was to tackle disease at the early or preventable stage, when it was easily curable, and not allow it to develop into the incurable stage or have it cured at great expense and difficulty. When it was realised that 70 per cent of blindness, 80 per cent of tuberculosis, and 70 per cent of other diseases, could have been prevented by treatment in the early stages, they would see the boon that the scheme now submitted would be to the county. He understood fully the extreme reluctance of the Board of Health to approve of a scheme that meant an increased burden on the ratepayers, but at the same time, a certain amount of money must be spent. The people, they represented, asked them to see there was full value given for the money and they selected them for their judgment and business capacity in administration. They all recognised that not alone could they err on the side of excessive expenditure, but also err on the other side, by having an excessive regard for slight expenditure and fail to confer the advantages in view. The scheme submitted was the best bargain they could get for a halfpenny in the £.

An informal discussion then took place as regards various points in the two schemes but no resolution was passed and no decision arrived at.

UNDERGROUND TELEGRAPHIC LINES - NEW ROSS
URBAN DISTRICT.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of

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Col. Quin seconded by Mr Cooney:- "That this Council hereby consents to the placing of an underground telegraphic line along Bridge Street, North Street, and South Street, to corner of Cross Lane, New Ross, any damage done to streets in carrying out the work to be made good to the satisfaction of the County Surveyor."

SEALING AGREEMENT PURCHASE OLD COURTHOUSE RENTS.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr O'Byrne seconded by Mr D'Arcy:- "That the seal of this County Council be affixed to the agreement with Capt. Redmond and others as to the purchase of ground rents of Old Courthouse, Quay, Wexford."

NEW ROSS WEXFORD ROAD.

It was decided to adjourn consideration of statement by Dr.W.F. Hearn L.L.D. New Ross as to the condition of New Ross-Wexford Road via Camross to the Council meeting of 9th February, 1931.

FLOODING AT MARSHALLSTOWN.

Reference by Mr Clince M.C.C. to complaints which he had received as to flooding of road opposite Marshallstown Post Office was also adjourned to next meeting of the Council.

FLOODING AT BURROW ROSSLARE

Complaints by Mr Janes Bent as to flooding of his premises at Burrow Rosslare was adjourned to next County Council meeting.

GREENVILLE LANE, ENNISCORTHY.

Mr Patrick O'Neill, Greenville, Enniscorthy, wrote under date 17th January, 1931, that the lane was not a cul-de-sac strictly speaking as there was a path which led to Milehouse road in constant use by the public and number of townspeople and along which a car could be brought if necessary.

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FORD OF LYNG.

Under date 23rd December, 1930, Mr J. Wickham, Ford of Lyng, wrote that he was not going to pay rates unless something was done to prevent flooding at Ford of Lyng ~~well~~. He could not till or put any animal on the greater part of his land owing to the flooding.

Mr Elgee in reply to Mr O'Byrne said they had been informed at the Quit Rent Office that certain maps which would show whether the land belonged to the Slob people which it was necessary for the Council to have to support any proceedings they might take against the owners of the Slob lands, could be obtained at the Office of Woods and Forests in London, but on application these people said they had no such things at all. Counsel had advised that until they had some definite information as to the owners of the land they could not go on with the proceedings.

Mr O'Byrne complained that Mr Elgee, instead of carrying out the instructions of the Council to proceed, had obtained Counsel's opinion.

Mr Elgee said when he received instructions to proceed he had in the ordinary course to send to Counsel in connection with the preparation of the writ and a deputation from the Council discussed the matter with Counsel for four hours.

The Chairman said the place they were speaking about was on the leading road from Wexford to Rosslare and ~~was~~ claimed by the Slob people. They cut reeds on it for years and would not allow any outsider to touch it. He (Chairman) had seen them draw the sedge off this place more than once. But when the flooding began and when they found it was of no use to them they disclaimed liability although 20 or 30 years ago when Mr Charlton was steward the stuff growing on the place ~~was~~ drawn by them to the sheds for thatching ricks etc.

Col. Gibbon said there seemed to be a misunderstanding as to what Counsel said. They had taken Counsel's opinion

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on the Act of Parliament which provided that the Slob Company were not to allow of any flooding occurring to the adjoining lands. Mr Jellett, their Counsel, went so far as to say that as soon as they found out the names of the owners of the Slob - and the people who would be eligible to constitute the Board they were supposed to have under the Act of Parliament - they could take action. He (Col. Gibbon) understood that the investigation as to the map was only a side issue.

After further discussion the following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr Corish seconded by Col. Gibbon:-
"That Mr Elgee, Solicitor, be instructed to proceed against the owners of the South Sloblands responsible for the flooding of the road at Ford of Lyng notwithstanding the fact that he has not at hand the map which he stated is required by Counsel."

REPORT OF ANALYST

The report of Co. Analyst for quarter ended 31st December, 1930, showed that the total number of samples analysed during the quarter were:- Foods, 156 ; Drugs, 52 ; Waters, 7 ; Number Adulterated:- Drugs, 3; Buttermilk, 1; Four samples of water submitted by Co. Board of Health were condemned as unfit for use.

DEPUTATION TO LAND COMMISSION AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT.

The following report was submitted and approved:-

"On Wednesday 14th January, 1931, the Deputation appointed by the County Council at their meeting on 8th January, 1931, waited upon the Land Commission and the Local Government Department.

The following acted as the deputation: Messrs Ml. Doyle, (Chairman of the Council), Sean O'Byrne, Myles Smyth, M.M. Roche.

The Deputation were accompanied by the County Secretary and County Surveyor and also by Messrs R. Corish, Dr. Ryan, and

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D.Allen T.D.'s for the County.

They were received at the Land Commission by the Secretary (Mr M.Deegan), and an hour was spent in discussing the necessity for carrying out drainage works in the County particularly at Cahore (where a drainage scheme is in existence), ~~the~~ Boira and at Kilmore.

At the Local Government Department the deputation were received by the Secretary (E.P.McCarron) and Messrs J.Hurson, (Finance and Loans Section) and H.S.Moylan (Roads Section).

The deputation put forward the necessity of obtaining money for the general removal of dangerous corners which would not secure attention from the County Council for a very considerable time.

Mr McCarron said that relief money was not available for such work, and, in view of his pronouncement the deputation proceeded to deal with schemes affecting public health the principal being :- Bunclody Sewerage Scheme, Taghmon and Coolgreany Water Schemes. The clearing out of inner basin at Courtown Harbour was also dealt with and the dredging of Kilmore Harbour.

The various schemes will receive consideration from the Government.

As regards those dealing with sewerage and water schemes it was arranged that a further interview would be afforded the County Medical Officer Health and Health Board Engineer to discuss the various details.

Mr Doyle on behalf of the deputation thanked the officials concerned for their interview.

The proceedings were private.

PETROL PUMP LICENCES.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr O'Byrne seconded by Mr Brennan:- "That licences for Petrol Pumps issue to T.Moran (Moran & O'Brien), South Street, New Ross, and Timothy J. Larkin, Duffry Hill, Enniscorthy."

POISONS AND PHARMACY ACT LICENCES.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr O'Byrne seconded by Mr Brennan :- "That new licences under Poisons and Pharmacy Act be issued to John Whelan, Merchant, Bunclody, and Wm. Hogan, Merchant, Fethard-on-Sea and renewal of licence under this Act to Wm. B. Jackson, Merchant, 51 Main Street, Gorey."

GOREY COURTHOUSE AND BEET GROWERS' ASSOCIATION.

An application was received from Mrs G.M. Stephens, Secretary Beet Growers Association, for use of room in Gorey Courthouse on Saturday February 7th for the purpose of holding a meeting of the Beet Growing Association.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr O'Byrne seconded by Mr Brennan:- "That the use of the Court-room in Gorey Courthouse be afforded the Wexford Beet Growers Association for meeting on 7th February, 1931, on the understanding that if any damage occurs to the place while in their possession the Association will be held liable for repair of same."

Michael Doyle