

WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL

MINUTES

MEETING HELD on 28th, JULY, 1930.

N. J. FRIZELLE,
Secretary.

FORTVIEW,
WEXFORD.

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The monthly meeting of above County Council was held in County Council Chamber, Fortview, Wexford, on 28th July, 1930.

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

Mr. O'Dwyer, B.E., Engineering Inspector, Local Government Department (Roads), the Secretary, the Assistant Secretary, County Surveyor, six Assistant Surveyors, Mr. Elgee, Solicitor, and Mr. O'Kennedy, Rate Inspector, were also in attendance.

The Minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed.

REPLY TO VOTE OF CONDOLENCE

The following reply from Mr. W. Boggan, Ex-County Councillor, to vote of condolence by County Council on the death of his brother, Mr. John Boggan, Newbay, Wexford, was on the motion of Mr. O'Byrne, seconded by Mr. Hall, ordered to be inserted on the minutes of the day:-

"Please convey to the County Council an expression of my deepest gratitude for their vote of sympathy in my recent sad bereavement, and kindly accept the same yourself."

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

Finance:-

The Minutes of meeting of Finance Committee in respect of meeting held on 3rd July, 1930, were submitted as follows:-

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The fortnightly meeting of the Finance Committee was held in County Council Chamber, Wexford, on 3rd July, 1930.

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

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

The Minutes of last meeting were read and signed.

PAYMENTS.

Treasurer's Advice Note for £8940:0:10d. was examined and signed.

RATE COLLECTION.

The Inspector submitted the amount of rate collected as follows: W. Cummins, £341:4:0d.; J. Quirke, £290:8:2d.; J.J. O'Reilly, £274:7:9d.; T. Sutton, £268:15:9d.; M.M. Kelly, £267:11:7d.; A. Dunne, £253:3:8d.; P.J. O'Byrne, £243:16:5d.; J. Deegan, £239:6:7d.; J. Cummins, £227:14:2d.; P. Nolan, £196:6:10d.; T. Rowe, £189:11:7d.; M. McCarthy, £180:0:0d.; J. Curtis, £174:10:2d.; J.J. Sinnott, £170:14:10d.; E.J. Murphy, £151:19:2d.; Sean Gammon, £150:8:6d.; T. Bolger, £142:14:7d.; J. Doyle, £130:1:3d.; P. Carty, £80:0:0d.; Philip Doyle, £79:17:0d.; and P. Donohoe, nil.

It was decided to ask Mr Donohoe for an explanation as to why he has not collected anything up to date on foot of his warrant.

The following letter under date 2nd July, 1930, (G47866/30/Fa - Loch Garman) was read from the Department of Local Government:-

"In reply to your letter of the 26th ultimo, I am directed by the Minister for Local Government and Public Health to state that Rate Collectors are not empowered to give receipts for rates less than the amounts shown on the First or Second Moiety Receipt forms supplied to them. It is the duty of the Collectors to sec-

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ure by all means within their power that the appropriate amounts are collected at the earliest date possible. Collectors must not issue "unofficial" receipts and the Minister would take a serious view of any offence of this character. At the same time the difficulty of dealing with an exceptional case of the nature referred to in the Finance Committee's Minutes of the 18th ultimo, is appreciated and the Minister would suggest that in this or in other exceptional cases the County Accountant might be authorised to receive the money, crediting it to the appropriate rate collectors' account, and supplying a receipt from a special book kept for the purpose. The Minister could not approve of the Rate Inspector being allowed to receive such monies. His duties are of an entirely different character and he should not receive rate monies. It would be necessary for the Accountant in any such case to notify the Rate Collector when the amount of any moiety of the rates had been received so that the official receipt may be issued.

In the case of change of ownership of lands Section 19 of the Poor Relief (Ireland) Act, 1849, limits the time within which proceedings may be instituted for the recovery of any arrears from a person not primarily liable to a period of two years from the making of the rate. The person primarily liable is the person on whom the rate was made.

As regards lodgment of rate monies by Collectors, I am to point out that the Minister has already fully explained the reasons for the general ruling laid down in the Public Bodies Order of 1929. The Minister cannot agree to modify the requirements of this Order for the Wexford Collectors. If very exceptional difficulties are experienced by any particular Collector the Minister will be prepared to consider the circumstances on being furnished with the reasons put forward by such officer."

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of the Chairman seconded by Mr Hall:- "That as Rate Inspector is in daily direct touch with Rate Collection in the various Districts we request the Department of Local Government to reconsider their

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decision and approve of the issue of receipts for part payment of rates by this officer. The discharge of this duty would entail extra work on the County Accountant and for which extra remuneration would have to be provided."

It was decided that last paragraph of letter from Local Government Department as to lodgment of rate monies be forwarded each Collector and they be informed that any representations as to exceptional difficulties in lodging every 48 hours received from any Collector should be placed before the Department for consideration by the Minister.

In connection with an application from the Garda Síochána for a guarantee of indemnity for costs and expenses in connection with the extradition of a defaulting Ex-Rate Collector and which it was calculated would amount to about £250, the Finance Committee adopted the following recommendation:

"We cannot recommend the County Council to give guarantee of indemnity for the expenses etc., for the extradition of Ex-Rate Collector."

The report of Mr A.P. Delaney, Local Government Inspector relative to Rate Collection under date 17th June, 1930, and which is set out in full on the Minutes of County Council meeting of 30th June, 1930, was read.

Collector Sutton who attended the meeting said the state of his collection would be worse in the future as he was saddled with a lot of derelict farms on which the rates for the past four years were due. He never could hope on account of these to keep up a decent percentage.

In reply to Mr O'Byrne the Rate Inspector said that 60 per cent of the arrears in Sutton's district would be on account of derelict farms.

Mr Sutton said he was expected to collect a very large amount of arrears with the first moiety. There had been no stock on these derelict farms for years.

The Rate Inspector said that Mr Elgee, Solicitor, had col-

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lected a good deal of money for Sutton on a part payment basis but Sutton could not take the amount as he was not in a position to issue receipts.

Mr McCarthy proposed :- "That Collector ^{Sutton} be directed to supply for next meeting of Finance Committee lists of amounts of arrears of Rates, one such list to deal with derelict farms exclusively and the second list with the general arrears.

Mr O'Byrne seconded the motion which was adopted.

COURTOWN HARBOUR.

The Courtown Harbour Committee wrote recommending that the Harbour Master get three notice Boards printed warning people against throwing refuse or rubbish into the Harbour or vicinity (By-Law 3) also that in future while boats are at sea during night time in summer a lamp be placed on the North pier on dark and foggy nights as in winter.

The applications were agreed to on the motion of Mr O'Byrne seconded by Mr Hall.

REVISION SESSIONS - TRAVELLING EXPENSES OF RATE COLLECTORS.

Claims for travelling expenses for attendance at Sessions for the revision of Jurors as approved by the County Registrar were submitted.

It was decided that Collectors be allowed 6d. per mile for hired motor car and 3d. per mile for motor cycle.

ANNUAL MEETING GENERAL COUNCIL OF COUNTY COUNCILS.

The Secretary County Councils' General Council wrote that annual meeting would be held on 5th August and notice of any matter which the County Council might wish to have discussed should reach him on or before Tuesday, 24th July.

It was decided to request the General Council of County Councils to consider the difficulty of dealing with collection of full arrears of rates and first moiety of current rate at the same time.

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UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE.

Under date 26th June, 1930, the following (E.B. 121526) was read from the Department of Industry and Commerce:-

"I am directed by the Minister for Industry and Commerce to refer to your communication of the 4th June conveying a resolution adopted at the meeting of your Council on the 26th ultimo to the effect that "the Council should not be held responsible for the insurance of workers who are not entitled to draw benefit" and to inform you that Unemployment Insurance Contributions are compulsorily payable in respect of all persons of the age of 16 years and upwards who are engaged in insurable employment and that the liability to pay contributions under the Unemployment Insurance Acts is not dependent on whether benefit is likely to be paid in respect of such contributions. The statement that workers are not entitled to receive benefit under the Act is not understood since the conditions for the receipt of benefit are the same for all insured workers and the Unemployment Insurance Acts make no distinction between the insured workers of County Councils and other insured workers. If the class of worker to which the resolution refers is the small landholder I am to state that this class like all other classes of workers are entitled to the benefits of the Acts if they fulfil the statutory conditions for the receipt of Benefit and are free from the disqualifications laid down in the Acts but not otherwise. These conditions are the same for all persons who engage in insurable employment whether of a casual or permanent nature.

With regard to the implied suggestion contained in the resolution that the workers in question should be put outside the scope of the Unemployment Insurance Acts, I am to point out that this Department cannot accept the view that because such workers are normally engaged in occupations which are not within the scope of the Unemployment Insurance Acts, they should, when in-

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surably employed be excepted from the ordinary insurance obligations incidental to such employments. Casual employment is excepted from the compulsory provisions of the Acts only when the person so employed is not engaged for the purposes of an employer's trade or business."

It was decided to refer this communication to the County Council.

CINEMA LICENCE.

Under date 24th June, 1930, Mr Patrick Walshe applied for renewal of licence for moveable cinema structure.

Mr Elgee, Solicitor, said that as Mr Walshe had now a permanent address at Chapel View, Aughrim, Co. Wicklow, it was necessary that he should obtain cinema licence from the County Council of that County.

LEGAL OUT OF POCKET EXPENSES.

Mr Elgee, Solicitor, submitted list of out of pocket expenses for year 1929-30 amounting to £20:16:10d.

A resolution recommending amount for payment was adopted on the motion of Mr Culleton, seconded by Mr McCarthy.

EXPENSES OF COUNTY SURVEYOR.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr Hall seconded by Mr Shannon:-- "We recommend the payment to the County Surveyor of his expenses for three days in Dublin on the business of the Council."

CARRIAGE OF GELIGNITE FOR BLASTING.

The County Surveyor said they should endeavour to have the County Council covered by insurance in the carriage of gelignite from the old military barracks to the various quarries by motor car or lorry. None of the companies would agree that this could be covered by any ordinary policy. There were generally four people in the motor vehicle - a couple of Civic Guards, the driver and some one from the County Surveyor's Department.

It was decided that the County Surveyor communicate with Insurance brokers and ascertain if such a policy as was required to meet the circumstances could be obtained and at what cost.

WEXFORD-ROSSLARE ROAD.

It was decided to apply to the Minister of Local Government for an extension of his Order closing Wexford-Rosslare Road to traffic up to 1st August, 1930.

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

"That the Minutes of meeting of Finance Committee in respect of meeting held on 3rd July, 1930, be received and considered."

Rate Collection: The following report was submitted from the Rate Inspector:-

"The amount of Poor Rate collected to 25th July, 1930, is £11,696:18:1d. or equal to 8.9 % of the warrant for the year including arrears.

The Collector with the highest % collected is 15.5 % whilst the lowest is 5.3%. At present I am concentrating on three of the districts with the largest amount of arrears outstanding and, within the next couple of months, I hope to be able to show that the arrears outstanding have been very considerably reduced. The Finance Committee are making arrangements whereby, in special cases, payments on account of arrears can be accepted and an official receipt for same issued."

The following shows the amounts collected to the 25th July:

(1) James Quirke.....	15.5 per cent.	
(2) M.M. Kelly.....	13.1	"
(3) Sean Gannon.....	13.	"
(4) Ml. McCarthy.....	13.	"
(5) P. Nolan.....	11.7	"
(6) John Curtis.....	11.6	"
(7) P. O'Byrne.....	10.5	"
(8) Joseph Cummins.....	10.3	"
(9) Thos. Rowe.....	10.	"
(10) W. Cummins.....	9.4	"
(11) J.J. O'Reilly.....	8.7	"
(12) T. Bolger.....	7.6	"
(13) Art Dunne.....	7.4	"
(14) J. Deegan.....	7.2	"
(15) E.J. Murphy.....	6.3	"
(16) P. Doyle.....	6.1	"
(17) J.J. Simmott.....	6.0	"

- (18) Patrick Carty.....6. per cent
- (19) John Doyle.....6. "
- (20) Thomas Sutton.....5.8 "
- (21) Patrick Donohoe.....5.3 "

The Chairman said that he could not understand how some Collectors could have 15 per cent collected and others only 5.

Mr Hall pointed out that some of the Collectors had the books a short time, and, though this occurred through their own fault in not paying for their fidelity guarantee bond in time, yet it was a fact which would account for the small amount collected.

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

"That Collectors who have not up to 25th July, 1930, collected 8 per cent of ^{first} ~~fresh~~ moiety and arrears be informed that the Council are not satisfied with their rate of progress and that they are expected to display greater activity in discharging their duties."

Unemployment Insurance: The Chairman said it was very strange that although the Council were made liable for contributions road workers who had a small piece of land which would certainly not support them were not able to claim benefit.

Miss O'Ryan asked what would happen if these men were not insured and it was pointed out that in this event prosecution of the County Council would follow.

Miss O'Ryan suggested that the Wexford Deputies would call attention to the matter in the Dail.

Mr Corish said that he and Dr. Ryan had raised the matter on two or three occasions in the House but it was very difficult to get ^{the Minister} ~~him~~ to do anything. One aspect which should be kept in mind was that if the circumstances of any of these men changed they would be entitled on affixing 12 stamps to their cards to secure benefit for all the stamps on their cards. The Minister also said that if liability for paying contributions by employers in such cases was removed there would be an inducement to employ men in this class as against men who were directly insurable. Any

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money realised by the sale of stamps which were unused for benefit helped the unemployment fund which was greatly in debt, and if people were allowed to escape their liability the tax payers would be called on to make good the amount.

The Chairman said as the County Council did not get any benefit in the matter they should not be made to pay. The workers were in the same position.

Mr Corish - But they might get benefit later.

Mr Gaul said if the carters were ruled out they were entitled to a refund of the cost of their portion of the stamps.

Mr Hayes said the local manager of the Labour Exchange said he had no authority to stop benefit from men who had implements of their own and who were carting on the road.

The matter dropped.

Cinema Licences: Colonel Quin said that pictures were being shown at Taravie Hall, Courtown Harbour. There were two exits and one was blocked by a solid box arrangement.

It was decided that the County Surveyor report as to whether or no arrangements at Taravie Hall, Courtown Harbour, comply with the provisions of the Cinematograph Act and regulations.

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

"That the Minutes of Finance Committee in respect of meeting held on 3rd July, 1930, be and are hereby confirmed."

The following Minutes of Finance Committee meeting of 17th July, 1930, were submitted:-

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The fortnightly meeting of the Finance Committee was held on 17th July, 1930.

Present Mr. M. Doyle (Chairman) presiding; also Messrs James Hall; Thomas McCarthy, Sean O'Byrne and James Shannon.

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

The Minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed.

PAYMENTS

Treasurer's Advice Note for £4447: 2: 0d was examined and signed.

LOANS - Rural DISTRICT COUNCIL DEBIT BALANCES

The following under date 8th July, 1930, (S.50,207/30 Loch Garman Pg) was read from Local Government Department:-

"With reference to your letter of the 4th instant in regard to a loan in respect of debit balances against the Enniscorthy and Wexford Rural Districts, I am directed by the Minister for Local Government & Public Health to state that the matter was given careful consideration by him before assenting to the proposal to place the debit balances on the basis of short term loans. The County Council asked for a ten year period in the case of Wexford Rural District, but the Minister felt unable to agree in view of the time that has elapsed since the debit balances arose. It appears in the case of Wexford Rural District the amount was £26,698 at 31st March, 1925, and was reduced to £17,653 at September 1926. Between September 1926 and March 1928 the amount was reduced to £14,633, and between March 1928 and September 1929 to £12,074. The rate of reduction in the latter years has not been in keeping with the earlier period, and in order to ensure that the amount would be definitely wiped out at the end of five years the Minister considered it was desirable to place the amount due on a temporary loan basis. If this course is followed the existing advances to the Council by way

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of overdraft would be correspondingly reduced, and it is suggested that as the loan method would be likely to ensure the clearance of the debit balance more readily than if it were allowed to remain part of an existing overdraft, the arrangement should operate to the advantage both of the County Council and their Treasurer. For like reasons a similar amount was approved in the case of the debit balance against Enniscorthy Rural District!

Copy of this letter was forwarded Local Manager of National Bank on 9th July, 1930, but no reply had been received to the present.

It was decided to adjourn consideration of the matter until receipt of reply from Bank.

COURTOWN HARBOUR - IMPROVEMENT WORK

The County Surveyor said he had had an interview with the Minister of Fisheries endeavouring to get some money towards the cost of strengthening the wall at Courtown Harbour. But this Department did not approve of the work and would not give any money towards it. He (County Surveyor) has been at Courtown on 16th instant and had arranged with Mr. Treanor, Assistant Surveyor, as to the work. Previous to this he had been speaking to Mr. Hassard, Engineer to the Office of Public Works, (who was an expert as regards sea work), and had a discussion with him as to what was best to be done. Mr. Hassard had been responsible for putting down the blocks at Courtown in the first instance. Following the suggestions of Mr. Hassard he (County Surveyor) arranged with Mr. Treanor to go on with the work and they would be able to make a very fair job of it. But they could do a great deal more if they had obtained any money from the Department. Mr. Hassard had suggested that the work should be done by sloping blocks which was the method which he (County Surveyor) had first advocated and he had adopted this plan.

The meeting approved of the County Surveyor's proposal.

Mr. O'Byrne - What about the sluice gates ?.

County Surveyor - I sent forward the plan and specification and I have an acknowledgment. All they say is that the matter is under consideration.

A resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr. O'Byrne, seconded by Mr. Shannon asking that the County Surveyor should communicate with the Department of Fisheries and ask them to let the County Council know as soon as possible - as the best time of year for the work was slipping by - if they approve of the plan and specification of sluice gates etc., at Courtown Harbour and if the Minister is prepared to contribute a moiety of the expenditure.

PAINTING WEXFORD AND EDERMINE BRIDGES

In connection with the tender accepted at meeting of Co. Council of 30th June, 1930, for the painting of Wexford Bridge, Mr. James Stafford, Ferrycarrig, Wexford, the accepted Contractor, wrote, under date 9th July, 1930;-

"I write to explain a mistake in the figuring of my tender for the painting etc., of the Wexford Bridge. The figure 1 was put down instead of 3 - £376 and I did not read it over myself. I am very sorry for the mistake and confusion it has caused. Thanking you in anticipation."

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr. O'Byrne, seconded by Mr. Hall:- "That any further tender for any County Council work submitted by James Stafford, Ferrycarrig, Wexford, be not entertained. That, as regards his explanation of the alleged error in his tender the Committee would point out he is incorrect in stating that the figure 1 was put down instead of 3, for, as a matter of fact the One in one hundred was written in full and the figure/¹was not used in any part of the tender."

The County Surveyor said he had not received any tender for the painting of Edermine Bridge.

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It was decided to issue fresh advertisements in connection with the painting of Wexford and Edermine Bridges.

ADVERTISING HOARDINGS

In connection with unsightly advertisement hoarding between the Redmond Monument and Newbridge Wexford, Mr. Elgee, Solicitor, wrote, under date 7th July, 1930, that it was provided by the Advertisements Regulations Act 1907 (7 Edward 7 Chap 27 Section 2) that any local authority may make by-laws for the regulation and control of hoardings and similar structures used for the purpose of advertising when they exceed twelve feet in height and for regulating, restricting or preventing the exhibition of advertisements in such places and in such manner, or by such means as to affect injuriously the amenities of a public park or pleasure promenade or to disfigure the natural beauty of the landscape.

The expression Local Authority means within any Urban District in Ireland containing a population according to the last census for the time being of over 5000 the Council of that district and elsewhere in Ireland the County Council.

It was decided as the place at which hoarding has been erected is within the Urban District that extract from Minutes of Committee be forwarded to the Wexford Corporation.

INSURANCE OF COUNTY COUNCIL CLERICAL ASSISTANT

Under date 26th June, 1930, the Managing Director, New Ireland Assurance Co., Ltd., Dawson Street, Dublin, wrote, that they had issued an approval No.A/10308 in respect of a Proposal for assurance on the life of Mr. Stephen Hayes, Clerical Assistant in County Council Offices and asking for remittance for first premium.

Under date 16th July, 1930, Mr. Hayes wrote that in the event of the Finance Committee agreeing to pay premium on Insurance policy he was prepared to have amount stopped out of his salary by fortnightly deductions.

The Local Government Officials Union had made arrangements with the New Ireland Assurance Company that in the event of Local Bodies agreeing in the first instance to pay life insurance premiums for members of their office staff and deducting amounts subsequently from the salaries of the Insured a ten per cent rebate would be allowed by the Company.

The Chairman said if they agreed to the present proposal other officials would possibly make a similar application and the Council could not very well refuse them.

Mr. O'Byrne agreed with this and said it was possible the Council would be at a loss by taking on this matter. If the Council paid the annual premium in advance and the official's services were dispensed with during the year the Council would lose.

Mr. Hall proposed, and Mr. O'Byrne seconded the following resolution:- "That the Finance Committee take no action in regard to application of Mr. Stephen Hayes to advance yearly from his salary the premium on his life insurance policy."

Passed..

INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL APPLICATION

The Clerk, Wexford District Court, wrote, under date 8th July, 1930, that application would be made to the Court for committal of William Reynolds, Colestown, Barntown, to an Industrial School. Referred to Mr. Elgee, Solicitor.

RATE COLLECTION

The state of Rate Collection up to 17th July, 1930, was submitted by Rate Inspector as follows:-

			<u>Collected</u>
1.	J. Quirke	...	£837: 0: 1
2.	P. Nolan	...	£596: 1: 1
3.	M. M. Kelly	...	£564: 6: 0
4.	W. Cummins	...	£540: 15: 4
5.	P. O'Byrne	...	£518: 9: 6
6.	J. Cummins	...	£504: 9: 11

Collected

7.	Deegan John	...	£482: 18: 0
8.	J. J. O'Reilly	...	£463: 9: 6
9.	A. Dunne	...	£462: 7: 0
10.	J. J. Curtis	...	£438: 18: 8
11.	Thomas Sutton	...	£386: 2: 11
12.	Thomas Rowe	...	£353: 17: 5
13.	T. Bolger	...	£340: 19: 4
14.	Sean Gannon	...	£307: 5: 9
15.	M. McCarthy	...	£290: 1: 7
16.	E. J. Murphy	...	£252: 9: 8
17.	John J. Sinnott	...	£247: 13: 6
18.	P. Doyle	...	£211: 7: 4
19.	John Doyle	...	£162: 18: 2
20.	P. Donohoe	...	£81: 12: 3
21.	P. Carty (ill)	...	£80: 0: 0

Under date 15th July, 1930, Collector P. Donohoe wrote giving as explanation of his failure to have any rate collected and lodged by date of last meeting that he had Rate Books a very short time before the meeting of Finance Committee. He has been serving demand notes and doing his best to collect all he could since he got the books. That was the best he could do.

The following resolution was adopted:- "The Finance Committee cannot accept the explanation given by Mr. Donohoe to account for his failure to collect any Rates prior to last meeting of the Committee. If Mr. Donohoe had the collecting books for a short time this was due to his neglect in not paying in proper time premium for his fidelity guarantee bond. The Committee are not at all satisfied that Mr. Donohoe is carrying out his duties in an energetic manner."

RECEIPTS FOR PART PAYMENT OF RATES

In connection with the above matter Mr. O'Kennedy, Rate Inspector, stated it would be altogether against the terms of his appointment for him to accept amounts tendered in part payment of rates as his position was that of Rate Inspector only and acceptance of monies would be

be outside his duties.

The Accountant said that provided the acceptance of part payments was limited to exceptional cases, as referred to by Local Government Department, he was prepared to accept the amounts on behalf of the County Council and issue special receipts in respect thereof without extra remuneration.

It was unanimously decided that the County Accountant be authorised to accept part payment of rates in exceptional cases, the position to be reviewed later if considered necessary.

NEW RATE COLLECTORS

Under date 11th July, 1930, (28/117/30N/2) the New Ireland Assurance Company, Dawson Street, Dublin, wrote, that Rate Collectors McCarthy and Nolan, recently appointed, would be held covered for fidelity guarantee until the Bonds had been fixed up.

COLLECTOR SUTTON'S ARREARS

This Collector submitted a list of amount of Rates due on derelict farms in his district (£901: 9: 5) and ordinary arrears (£261: 15: 6d).

In connection with the latter, Mr. Elgee, Solicitor, said he had a number of sums of part payment which he could not hand over until the Finance Committee had decided how receipts for such payments were to be issued. He would now hand over what amounts he had in hands to the County Accountant.

It was decided that list of Mr. Sutton's arrears be re-submitted after deduction of monies handed over by Mr. Elgee.

INSURANCE OF EMPLOYEES

Under date 14th July, 1930, the following letter (B.9217/30) was read from the National Health Insurance Commission:-

"The National Health Insurance Commission have had before them your letter of the 4th ultimo, in regard to National Health Insurance; and, in reply thereto, I am to inform you that an insured person who is a member of an Approved Society is qualified

to receive (a) sickness benefit after 26 weeks in insurance and payment of 26 weekly contributions, (b) maternity benefit after 42 weeks in insurance and payment of 42 weekly contributions, and (c) disablement benefit after 104 weeks in insurance and payment of 104 weekly contributions. The rates of the benefits payable to an insured member during a benefit year (which corresponds approximately with the calendar year) depend upon the number of contributions paid or excused in respect of him during the preceding contribution year (i.e., the period of 12 months ended at or about the commencement of the previous July): if he has fallen into arrears with his contributions he may redeem the arrears by the payment of a small penalty.

'As a general rule an insured person may not affix stamps to his contribution card for weeks during which he is not employed. Where, however, less than 104 contributions have been paid in respect of an insured member since his entry into insurance he may, in order to qualify for full benefits as soon as possible, stamp his own card until the number of contributions has been completed, provided he can satisfy his Society that during the weeks in respect of which he wishes to pay contributions he was incapable of work or was genuinely unable to obtain employment. The right to pay qualifying contributions has, however, been withdrawn by the National Health Insurance Act, 1929, from insured persons over 18 years of age at the date of entry into insurance who cannot prove that they are ordinarily and mainly dependent for their livelihood on insurable employment and, if their unemployment arises from incapacity for work by reason of some disease or disablement, that such disease or disablement is not a recurrence of a disease or disablement ^{from} which they may have suffered within the 12 months immediately preceding the date of their entry into insurance.

'Although you do not definitely say so, it is presumed that your letter refers to persons of the small landowner class who are intermittently employed in an insurable employment, and,

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in this connection, I am to state that Health Insurance contributions are compulsorily payable in respect of all persons engaged in insurable employment under the Acts, without regard to the duration of such employment. Casual employment is excepted from the compulsory insurance provisions of the Act only when the person so employed is not engaged for the purposes of the employer's trade or business. The Commission are unable to accept the view that because such workers are normally employed in occupations that are not employment within the meaning of the Acts they should, when insurably employed, be excepted from the ordinary insurance obligations applicable to such employments. If such workers were placed outside the scope of the Acts, it is possible that their services would be sought in preference to those of ordinary workers who are normally engaged in insurable employments, and in respect of whom contributions would be payable."

SCAVENGING IN URBAN DISTRICTS

The following, under date 15th July, 1930, was read from the Town Clerk, Wexford:-

"I ~~am~~ submitted your letter of the 5th instant containing an extract from Minutes of the Finance Committee of the County Council to the last Statutory meeting of the Wexford Corporation, when I was directed to make it clear that the annual sum allocated for the maintenance of the main roads within the Borough is devoted solely to this purpose, and that the scavenging to which the Borough Surveyor referred on the 2nd ultimo comprises the cleansing of these roads so far as this work may be necessary for their proper maintenance for traffic".

LOCAL AUTHORITIES (OFFICERS & EMPLOYERS) ACT, 1926.

Under date 14th July, 1930 (B.30621/30 Ilgh S), the Local Government Department wrote forwarding copy of Order made by the Minister for Local Government & Public Health in pursuance of Section 12 of the above Act assessing the sum of £118: 6: 5d on

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Wexford County in respect of the net expenses incurred by the Local Appointments Commissioners.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr. O'Byrne, seconded by Mr. Shannon:- "That the County Council be recommended to issue Pay Order for £118: 6: 5d, amount assessed on the County under section 12 of Local Authorities (Officers and Employees) Act 1926 for financial year ended 31st March, 1930."

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ACTS

Under date 11th July, 1930, (25565) the Gas and Weights and Measures Section of the Department of Industry & Commerce wrote forwarding bill for £2: 3: 7d for articles ordered by Inspectors of Weights and Measures from Mr. John Rooney, 8, College Street, Dublin. The articles were in conformity with the lowest estimate obtained and account had been certified.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr. O'Byrne, seconded by Mr. Shannon:- "That Bill for £2: 3: 7d for articles under Weights and Measures Acts supplied by Mr. John Rooney, 8, College Street, Dublin, to County Wexford Inspectors of Weights & Measures be recommended to the County Council for payment".

RENOVATION OF OLD JAIL PREMISES

Under date 16th July, 1930, the following (404/296 - 2) from Department of Finance to Mr. Elgee, Solicitor, was read:-

"With reference to your letter of the 8th instant and enclosure regarding an award of compensation made in respect of the destruction of Wexford Courthouse, I am directed by the Minister for Finance to state that, as you are no doubt aware, some minor alterations in the Plan of the Building are considered necessary by the Department of Justice and the Office of Works and the local Representative of the latter Department has been requested to consult the responsible Official of the Council. Subject to this matter being satisfactorily arranged, the Minister is prepared to authorise payment of a sum of £1,600: 0: 0 on foot

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of the Award in respect of works already carried out. The Award was, however, made in the names of your Council, the Local Government Board (Ireland) and Captain W. A. Redmond and in the normal course, payments should be authorised in the joint favour of these three parties. It is noted, however, from previous correspondence that your Council was about to acquire the ground Landlord's interest in the site. If the transaction has been completed, I am to request that you will be good enough to transmit documentary evidence that Captain Redmond has now no interest in the Award.

'I am to add that this Department is in communication with the Department of Local Government as to whether they desire to be made a party to payments on foot of the Award.'"

It was decided that Mr. Elgee explain to the Department of Finance that the Council had made application to the Local Government Department for sanction to loan which it was proposed to apply in the redemption of the ground rents at Old Courthouse site, Quay, Wexford.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr. Hall, seconded by Mr. O'Byrne:- "That the Minutes of Finance Committee in respect of meeting held on 17th July, 1930, be received and considered".

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Loans Rural District Council Balances: The following under date 18th July, 1930, was read from the Manager, Wexford Branch of National Bank:-

"I have placed before my Directors the terms of the letter received by you from the Local Government Ministry with regard to the application for two additional loans of £6,631 and £12,074 respectively, repayable in five years, and I am to inform you that the Board are unable to change their former decision in this case, and therefore they decline the application.

It is noted that the Subsidiary Account overdraft is at present considerably in excess of the sanction limit, and it is assumed that the excess is only very temporary. With regard to the accommodation granted by the Board under this heading, please note that it is expected to be gradually reduced henceforward, and the first reduction should be made by the 31st proximo when the present sanction will expire!"

Mr O'Byrne proposed and Mr Culleton seconded the following resolution:- "That copy of letter from National Bank under date 18th July, 1930, relative to proposed loans to extinguish Rural District Council debit balances be forwarded Department of Local Government."

As an amendment Mr Hall proposed and Mr Brennan seconded the following: "That no further steps be taken to obtain loan to extinguish Rural District Council debit balances!"

On a show of hands the amendment was defeated by 4 to 14.

The resolution was then put and adopted without dissent.

Painting Wexford and Edermine Bridges: Mr Corish said he had asked some painting contractors why they had not sent in tenders for the painting of these bridges and they gave as a reason that the lower part of the work was not a painter's job at all - that it could be carried out by a labourer. If the specification was divided and Separate tenders taken for the painting of the upper part of the structure and for the tarring of the underneath portion it was possible that satisfactory tenders would be obtained.

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The County Surveyor said that the suggestion was a good one and it was adopted by the meeting.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr O'Byrne seconded by Mr Brennan: "That the Minutes of Finance Committee in respect of meeting held on 17th July, 1930, be and are hereby confirmed."

REPORT SPECIAL ROAD MAINTENANCE SUB-COMMITTEE.

Mr Corish proposed that consideration of Minutes of special Roads Sub-Committee be adjourned to next meeting and in the meantime that said Minutes be re-printed and circulated to Councillors.

Mr Hall seconded.

Mr Gaul proposed:- "That the report of special Roads Sub-Committee be referred to new County Council to be elected in June, 1931."

Mr Shannon seconded.

Mr Keegan proposed:- "That consideration of the minutes of special Roads Sub-Committee be adjourned to next meeting and be taken at 12 noon, the minutes of said Sub-Committee to be re-printed and circulated in the meantime."

After a long discussion Mr Corish withdrew his motion and a vote was taken on Mr Keegan's amendment.

The following is the result of the poll:

For the amendment - Messrs Brennan, Culleton, Cummins, D'Arcy, Doran, Jordan, Gibbon, Keegan, Murphy, O'Ryan, Quin, Roche, Smyth, Walsh and the Chairman - 15.

Against - Messrs Armstrong, Clince, Colfer, Cooney, Corish, Gaul, Hayes, McCarthy, O'Byrne and Shannon - 10.

Mr Hall did not vote.

The Chairman declared the amendment carried. It was also agreed to as the substantive motion.

GOREY SUB-COMMITTEE COMPLAINT AGAINST GANGER ETC.

The following report was submitted:-

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WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL.

GOREY SUB-COMMITTEE.

COMPLAINT AGAINST GANGER ETC.

A meeting of the County Councillors of Gorey Electoral area was held in Gorey Courthouse on 7th July, 1930, to investigate allegations made against road ganger.

(a) by Peter Kinsella, Esmonde Street, Gorey, that he could not get work on roads because he did not give money to the ganger (Swords).

(b) that Road Ganger threatened with dismissal a Road worker (Thomas Doyle, Esmonde Street, Gorey) unless he paid his rates and
(c) to consider application from Gorey Shelmalier Handball Club for use of ball alley at old Workhouse premises.

The following were in attendance:- Colonel Quin, Messrs T.F. D'Arcy, James Hall, W.P. Keegan, and Sean O'Byrne.

The County Secretary, County Surveyor and Mr Treanor, Assistant Surveyor for the District were also in attendance.

The Chair was taken by Colonel Quin on the motion of Mr O'Byrne seconded by Mr D'Arcy.

Peter Kinsella came before the meeting and said he did not wish to do any harm to any man. All he wanted was to get a day's work and he did not like to be saying anything against any man. It might have been an error as he was so troubled on account of not being able to get work. He wished to withdraw the statement which he said he made when he was in a passion. He was all as one as starved out and would have to apply for relief if he could not get work.

The County Surveyor asked Kinsella why he made such a definite statement and which he now said was not true.

Mr Treanor, Assistant Surveyor - He not alone made the charge but reiterated it.

A letter was read from Mr Treanor to the County Surveyor under date 7th May, 1924, notifying the County Surveyor that Kinsella had

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been discharged as he was found idling.

Mr Hall pointed out that Kinsella volunteered the statement which they were now investigating.

Chairman (to Kinsella) - This is a false charge ?

Kinsella - Well it is.

The Chairman said that a man who admitted making a false charge was not the type they should employ.

After consideration the Sub-Committee decided to report to the County Council that the charge made by Kinsella against Ganger Swords had no foundation in fact.

In connection with payment of rates by John Doyle the Sub-Committee were surprised to learn that the incident referred to occurred in 1925.

In reply to Mr Keegan , Ganger Swords said that he had served the following notice on Doyle:- "Please call into John Dpyle's to-night up to 6 o'clock and pay your rates: if not finish with the County Council." He got an order to see that the men who were in the employment of the Council should pay their rates but it was such a long time back he could not say from whom he received it. There was a list of defaulters sent to him and he thought it came from the Council.

Mr O'Byrne said the County Council had discussed the injustice of proceeding against ordinary ratepayers while men in labourers' cottages or working on the roads were in default. This order would go through the County Surveyor.

Mr Keegan said that in 1923 an Act was passed by which the landlord was relieved of payment of rates. Some of the tenants of Sir Thomas Esmonde in Gorey town, who had never paid rates previously disputed liability. Doyle was one of those and he (Mr Keegan) considered it a great hardship on this man that while he was disputing the amount of the rates with his landlord one of their road gangers acted as bailiff. The result was that Doyle paid his rates on 18th May, 1925, the day after notice was served on him by Swords.

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The Chairman said that the receipt for £3:9:10½ produced by Mr Keegan was signed by Mr Byrne described as Court officer and, it was evident that as this receipt covered an item of 4/- for Costs of Court, proceedings had been successfully instituted against Mr Doyle before Ganger Swords intervened. He (Chairman) thought it was not a proper procedure for a ganger to serve the notice - which had been read - on a workman.

In the course of a general discussion it was pointed out by Mr O'Byrne, the County Secretary, County Surveyor and Mr Treanor, that the Local Government Board a considerable time ago issued a circular as to Rate collection and in which they had pointed out that the Council should take steps to see that tenants of labourers' cottages and road workers paid their rates.

Mr D'Arcy said that as regards procedure the order of the County Council would be transmitted from the County Secretary to the County Surveyor and from the latter to the Assistant Surveyor and from the latter to the ganger. In the circumstances he could not see that the Sub-Committee could hold that the Ganger should not serve the notice.

The Secretary mentioned that the records of the Council were destroyed in an armed raid in October, 1922, and up to the time of the meeting of the Sub-Committee everyone was under the impression that the incident under discussion was of recent origin. The files of the County Council would be examined as to the instructions which had been issued.

The Sub-Committee decided that ~~the~~ in this instance the Ganger acted on authority but owing to the length of time which has elapsed since the incident occurred they were unable to say by whom the order to the ganger was issued.

In reference to the application of the Handball Club for use of ball alley at Gorey Workhouse premises the Chairman said if the Club was allowed to elevate the wall, erect a netting wire and carry out ~~their~~ other repairs at their own expense they might

subsequently have a claim on the ball alley.

Mr D'Arcy proposed: "That we agree to the Shelmalier Handball Club having the use of ball alley at Gorey Workhouse premises, this permission to be subject to the sanction of the Department of Local Government and to Continue in force until the Club have completed the work at their new ball alley in course of erection."

Mr Keegan seconded.

On a poll Messrs D'Arcy and Keegan voted in favour of the motion and Messrs Hall, O'Byrne, and the Chairman went against.

The motion was declared lost.

In connection with the general question of complaints against officials and other employees of the Council the Subcommittee recommended that the County Council adopt the following regulation:-

Complaints against officials and other employees of the Council will not be considered unless made in writing over the signature of complainant. On receipt of complaint copy to be furnished officer or employee concerned with a direction for his observations in writing. Both documents to ~~be~~ be then laid before the County Council, or a Committee of same, when further action will be decided upon.

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Mr Murphy proposed and Mr Shannon seconded the following resolution:- "That report of Gorey Sub-Committee as to complaint against Ganger Swords be received and adopted except portion referring to Shelmalier Handball Club."

This resolution was adopted unanimously.

As regards application of Shelmalier Handball Club the following resolution was proposed by Mr Keegan and seconded by Mr Cline:- "That we dissent from recommendation of Gorey Sub-Committee relative to Shelmalier Handball Club and that said Club be allowed the use of Ball alley at Gorey old workhouse premises."

Mr Elgee said it should be distinctly understood that if permission was given it should be subject to the sanction of the Minister for Local Government and Public Health.

The motion was the n about being put when Mr O'Byrne said he would vote against it because he had done so in Gorey and because a ball alley was in course of erection in Gorey town. The people who were prepared to spend money on the ball alley in the old workhouse premises which was not suitable could hasten the erection of the public ball alley by sending their contributions to the Committee and not spending money on a place to which they had no right to allow the public and where they would interfere with sick patients in the Hospital. If the Council agreed to the application their action would have an injurious effect on the erection of the public alley.

Colonel Quin said that the application was to accommodate six people and he was satisfied there were far more than that number in Gorey who played handball.

Mr Cooney said if they had had this information previously it would have influenced some Councillors. Interference with sick people should not be allowed.

After further discussion a poll was taken with the following result:- For - Messrs Brennan, Cline, Cummins, D'Arcy, Gibbon, Hall, Keegan, Murphy, O'Ryan, Roche, Smyth and the Chairman - 12.

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Against - Messrs Armstrong, Colfer, Cooney, Corish, Colleton, Doran, Gaul, Hayes, Jordan, McCarthy, O'Byrne, Quin, Shannon and Walsh - 14.

The motion was declared lost.

MEETINGS OF COUNCIL AND ROADS COMMITTEE.

The following motion of which he had given previous notice was moved by Mr O'Byrne seconded by Colonel Gibbon and adopted. —

"That the Council consider the advisability of holding two Council Meetings in each month, one to dispose of all business connected with Roads and Public Works and matters of an urgent character, the second to deal with all other business; or of adhering to the existing procedure, viz., holding Co. Council meeting on second Monday of each month, and Roads Committee meeting on fourth Monday."

Mr O'Byrne then proposed :- "That the County Council hold two Council meetings in each month, the first to be held on the second Monday to dispose of General business and the second on the fourth Monday of the month to deal with all road business and any exceptional matters which will not admit of delay and which must be disposed of previous to the succeeding County Council meeting."

Mr O'Byrne in moving his motion said there were only ten members of the Council who were not on the Roads Committee and for the sake of these all the work done at the Roads Committee had to be reconsidered with the result that the members of the Roads Committee were discussing matters which to them were stale and the non-members had not the advantage of listening to the very full discussion at the Committee. The time spent at the Council meetings in discussing the minutes of the Roads Committee prevented other items on the agenda paper receiving the fullest consideration.

Colonel Gibbon seconded.

Mr Hall opposed. He believed that the additional members doing Roads Committee business would mean that a longer time would have to be spent than at present if the business was to be got through. He then proposed the following resolution:- "That the

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County Council adhere to existing procedure of having a County Council meeting on the second Monday of each month and a Roads Committee meeting on the fourth Monday.

Mr McCarthy supported Mr O'Byrne's² proposal. He said at present they spent two and a half or three hours discussing the business at the Roads Committee meeting and as much time, and indeed often longer - in reviewing the same business at the County Council meeting. If the Roads Committee consisted of eight or ten members something might be said for the present system but it seemed ridiculous to be going over the same business twice for the sake of ten additional members.

Mr Cummins also supported the motion and held that with all the important matters which the County Council had to consider it was necessary to meet even oftener than was proposed by Mr O'Byrne if the business was to receive the fullest consideration to which it was entitled.

Colonel Gibbon suggested that the proposed meeting of the County Council to replace the Roads Committee should be held between the hours of 10.30 and 1.30 p.m. This would allow of the holding of the monthly meeting of the County Committee of Agriculture and Technical Instruction at 2 p.m. on the same day as the County Council meeting and would preserve the present arrangement except that in the forenoon they would have a meeting of the County Council instead of a Roads Committee meeting. There could be no possible doubt but this plan would mean a good deal of time for the general items at the meeting of the County Council on the second Monday of the month

After further discussion Mr O'Byrne added the following to his resolution, Colonel Gibbon seconding:- "That the meeting of the County Council to be held on the fourth Monday of the month to discuss Road business and any urgent matters which do not admit of delay be held between the hours of 10.30 a.m. and 1.30 a.m. any items on agenda paper not disposed of during these hours to be adjourned to the next ordinary meeting."

A poll was taken on the motion with the following result:-
For- Messrs Armstrong, Brennan, Clince, Corish, Cummins, D'Arcy, Gaul, Gibbon, Hayes, McCarthy, O'Byrne, O'Ryan, Quin, Shannon, Smyth and the Chairman - 16.

Against- Messrs Colfer, Doran, Hall, Keegan, Murphy, Roche and Walsh- 7.

The other members were not present when poll was taken.

The Chairman declared the motion carried.

NEXT MEETING OF COUNTY COUNCIL.

It was decided that next meeting of the County Council be held on Monday 25th August and that it deal with Road business.

COUNTY SURVEYOR'S REPORT.

The following report was submitted by the County Surveyor:-

"As directed by the County Council I have made application to the Ministry of Fisheries for sanction of the plan for the Sluice Gates at Courtown Harbour, and I have asked the Department if they are prepared to put up 50 per cent of the cost of the work. The Department of Fisheries has refused a grant towards the cost of the repair work to the breach at Courtown and I have written further in the matter. I am now proceeding with the repairs, omitting the vertical wall at the breach. I have put in a substantial low wall as a base, and will protect the slope above with heavy blocks laid along the slope.

I have made inspection of Munfin and Clohamon Pits and of Cherryorchard Quarry with reference to the disposal of waste screenings. At Munfin there is an old disused pit in which along the floor and extending back in the land, there is a large accumulation, some thousands of cubic yards probably, of dumped material. This is not clean sand, but is a mixture of clay and sand from the screens. We are no longer using this pit. In No. 2 pit there is at present no sand but we have a supply of screenings from the stonebreaker which will be required for surface dressing work. When the breaker was in the quarry there was all told about 400 cubic yards put

through the breaker, mainly for the purpose of obtaining those screenings and the cost of this breaking was little more than handbreaking, whereas with the latter there would be no chippings available for surface dressing. In Clohamon pit there is a large bank of tailings from the screens but it is not pure sand. We have separated out some good sand, and perhaps have 200 cubic yards all told, but I propose retaining this for use in possible cement bound macadam work in the locality. In Cherryorchard Quarry there is a heap of 300 or 400 cubic yards of fine dust and of course a supply of screened chippings which we must reserve for our own use for surface dressing.

As directed by the Council I had an interview with Mr McNally of the Pioneer Road Construction Co. with reference to extra money to be allowed for the increased cement and sand on the Gorey Court-own Road. Mr McNally pointed out that if there were to be any change in the specification the price allowed should be on the contract price and on going into it in detail with him I was satisfied that the sum of £341 should be the extra cost. In the event of this sum not being provided by the Local Government Department it was agreed that a length calculated pro rata on the contract rate should be left undone, this works out at a rate of 23/4d per L.Y., and would represent a reduction in length of 292 c.y. of the cement bound macadam. Application should at once be made to the Local Government Department for the £341 as suggested by Mr Quigley. In connection with this work application should at once be made to the Local Government Department for power to close the road and also application should be made to the Local Government Department for power to close the Wexford-New Ross Road between Knockeen and Tomcoole. In both cases advertisements have been put in the papers.

I beg to report that the cement bound macadam on the Rosslare Road has now nearly reached Ashfield, and I hope to have the road open to light traffic on the 3rd prox.

As sanction has now been granted for the appointment of a

permanent caretaker for New Ross Bridge I submit memo as to duties. These were always embodied in former temporary appointments.

I made a thorough inspection of the underside of New Ross Bridge and have to report that in a number of places the water is coming through the roadway structure, but in no case is there any serious deterioration. I have examined the original specification and find that at the time of construction, provision was made to prevent percolation of water from the roadway. Probably during the 60 years' life of the bridge this to some extent deteriorated, ~~but~~ the recent heavy bitumen dressing of the roadway will to a great extent prevent penetration of water. For the current year's work you provided a sum of £152 for a short length of cement bound macadam on the approaches to the bridge and I now suggest that you authorise me to use this money in giving a further heavy bitumen coating to the roadway and footpaths on the bridge and also in making good the approaches. If this be done and careful watch maintained, making good defects at once, I believe there will be no penetration of water. It is now six years since the bridge was painted and with the exception of the places where the water has percolated, it is generally in fair condition. It will be necessary however, to provide for the re-painting next year and I estimate the ^{cost} ~~work~~ at, at least, £600.

I have gone into the accounts regarding the Wexford-Ferrycarrig Road with a representative of Messrs Hull, the Contractor, and find that after holding over the 10 per cent for maintenance on the contract provided in the specification, there is a sum of £1653:18:10d payable to the contractor. The original contract was £8356:7:3d, and to this must be added a sum of £238:16:11d. for extras, making a total of £8595:4:2d. The 10 per cent on the contract with the payments already made leaves the balance as the aforesaid, but ~~takes~~ no account of any money to be held under the penalty clause which if enforced in full will ~~will~~ amount to £1440.

During the week a representative of the District Board of Works Architect met me by appointment to discuss alterations in the plans

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of the Wexford Courthouse Reconstruction at the Old Jail. Amongst other alterations the Minister for Justice will require provision to be made for prisoners held during the sittings of the court, for their transfer from the cells to the Dock without passing through the body of the court or either the main stairs or the Judges² staircase. I believe it will be a comparatively a simple matter to arrange this. The position of the Jury Room was also in question, but I pointed out that this was decided at an interview I had with the Circuit Judge in February last, and I cannot see how the alteration can be made

I have examined the building as to the possibility of providing Library accommodation and would suggest that the County Council appoint a small committee to consult with the Library Committee with reference to same, as I believe accommodation can be provided at a reasonable expenditure.

The Secretary has furnished me with copy of letter received from the Board of Health with reference to gulley traps in Duncannon and I shall be glad to have the ruling of the Council on this."

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr Hall seconded by Colonel Quin:- "That the report of County Surveyor as submitted to this meeting be received and considered."

Sand etc. In connection with this matter the following notice of motion by Mr Armstrong and which had been adjourned from last meeting was moved by him:- "That the price of screenings in County Council limestone gravel pits be reduced to 1/- per cubic yard."

In moving his motion Mr Armstrong said that there was a pile of material which could never be used for road material in several of the quarries and he could not understand why that being so the necessity for such an exorbitant charge as 2/- a yard. The people in the vicinity of these pits have to go a long distance for this sand and he heard a number of complaints of the difficulty of getting a few loads of it from County Council pits. With the permission of the Council he would alter his motion to read as follows:

"That the price of screenings in County Council quarries and

pits and which are not required for road work be reduced to 1/- per cubic yard."

Mr Clince seconded.

The County Surveyor said there were two classes of material in several of the quarries and he did not think good sand should be sold at less than 2/- per cubic yard.

Mr Ennis, Assistant Surveyor, said that good sand would be too cheap at 1/- per cubic yard but "tailings" of course could be sold at that figure or even less.

Mr Hall proposed: "That all sand and gravel be sold at a uniform price at 2/- per yard."

Mr Armstrong contended that it would pay the County Council to give away a great deal of the stuff. Twentyfive per cent of the labour bill in these quarries went in depositing these screenings.

Mr Corish said it would be well if some members of the Council would see the quarries concerned and make a recommendation to the Council. He proposed a resolution on these lines.

This was seconded by Colonel Gibbon and adopted.

The following Sub-Committee was then appointed.

Messrs Hall, Armstrong, McCarthy, Jordan, Quin and Shannon, with the County Surveyor who is to arrange place, date and hour of meeting.

Gorey-Courtown Road: The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr O'Byrne seconded by Colonel Quin:- "That we apply to the Local Governemnt Department (Roads) for a grant amounting to £ 341 to enable the Contractor to utilise a ton of cement in the re-construction of Gorey-Courtown Road to 57 square yards of mix, this being the amount agreed on between the Contractor and the County Surveyor. That the Contract between Wexford County Council and the Pioneer Road Construction Company, East Wall, Dublin, for improvement of Road from Gorey Courtown be sealed on behalf of the Council, the contract price being £6,309."

New Ross Bridge: The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr O'Byrne, seconded by Colonel Quin:- "That we approve

of the following as duties of Caretaker of New Ross Bridge as drafted by County Surveyor:-

"He shall open and close the swing section, as may be required for the river traffic, and shall have conformance to all local regulations and by laws observed. He shall act on all resolutions of the County Council, or directions of the County Surveyor. He shall keep in his custody all tools, spanners, etc., belonging to the bridge, unless same are in the hands of Government Forces, and in this case he shall obtain the tools as may be required. He shall as far as possible prevent injury to the entire structure of the bridge and in the event of injury taking place shall at once report the matter to the County Surveyor, giving full particulars. He shall carry out small adjustments or repairs as may be necessary or ordered by County Surveyor. The Caretaker shall carry out all the duties heretofore performed. The appointment will be determined by a month's notice in writing at either side."

Wexford-Ferrycarrig Road: It was decided that this matter should be considered in committee.

The County Surveyor said that he estimated that the cost of the repairing of the back road was £550, half of which was due to the period for which the Contractor would not be responsible. The Urban Council of Wexford had put in a considerable claim for extra repair to Spawell Road.

Colonel Quin proposed that the penalty clause be enforced, in full in this case and if necessary the Council fight the matter in the Courts.

Mr Hayes pointed out that the Contractor was six months over his time - in fact in this respect he had been the worst offender the Council had met.

Mr Corish said he thought the best line of procedure was to try and get something to pay for the roads which had been broken up owing to the delay in finishing the Contract.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr

O'Byrne seconded by Mr D'Arcy:- "That without prejudice we are prepared to forego the amount of penalty clause in respect of contract of Wexford County Council with Messrs Alexander Hull & Company, Dublin, for reconstruction of road from Wexford to Ferrycarrig on condition that Contractors pay £400 to meet extra repairs (caused by delay in finishing contract over specified period) to back road between Wexford and Ferrycarrig and Spawell Road, Wexford."

The resolution was adopted, Colonel Quin, Messrs Hayes, Keegan, and Culleton dissenting.

County Library Premises: The County Surveyor said it would cost about from £150 to £250 to carry out the improvements at Old Jail premises to provide the necessary accommodation for the County Library.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Colonel Gibbon seconded by Colonel Quin:- "That a Sub-Committee be appointed to examine and report to the County Council meeting as to the proposal of County Surveyor to provide accommodation for County Library in Old Jail premises."

The following Committee were then appointed:- Messrs Corish, Gibbon, McCarthy, Culleton, Roche, Walsh and D'Arcy, date, time and place of meeting to be arranged by County Surveyor who is to summon the Sub-Committee.

Mr McCarthy asked the County Surveyor if accommodation for the Press had been provided in the Court.

The County Surveyor said this was a detail which had not been dealt with but very good accommodation for the Press would be provided.

Gulley Traps at Duncannon: The County Surveyor said that Mr Elgee, Solicitor, could tell them that any drain no matter what it was originally constructed for becomes a sewer if even the sewerage from one house only went into it.

It was decided that Mr Elgee, Solicitor, inform the County Board of Health that they and not the County Council are responsible for gulley traps in Duncannon referred to in a recent report of County Surveyor.

Colonel Quin proposed and Colonel Gibbon seconded the following resolution:- "That report of County Surveyor as submitted to this meeting be, and is, hereby approved."

TEMPORARY CLOSING OF ROADS.

It was decided on the motion of Mr O'Byrne seconded by Mr Hall to make application to the Minister for Local Government for an order to close during reconstruction the section of road between Knockeen Cross and Tomcoole Cross (New Ross Wexford Trunk Road) and also Gorey-Courtown Road while under reconstruction.

INJURY TO ROAD BRIDGES.

Colonel Gibbon complained of the coping of road bridges in many instances being broken down by mischievous youths. This conduct was causing unnecessary expense to the County and he proposed that the attention of the Civic Guards be called to the matter.

The County Surveyor said that in such cases the Civic Guards were notified but they were not able to bring home the offence to anyone.

Mr D'Arcy thought if a little more supervision was exercised by the Gangers it would have a good effect. They should be directed to report forthwith all damage of this kind and all the circumstances that came to their knowledge as to how the injury was caused.

Colonel Gibbon proposed that in any district in which damage of this description occurred the Gangers should be held responsible.

Mr D'Arcy - It can't be done.

The Chairman said the District Surveyors should attend to this matter and bring it to the attention of the Gangers.

Colonel Quin said that an expensive new wall at bridge near Camplin had been practically smashed in two recently.

Mr D'Arcy said this was the result of an accident which had been witnessed by him and Mr O'Byrne. A Ford Ton lorry of sweets going to Wexford overbalanced at Ballydaniel Bridge.

The County Surveyor said he had had a report from Mr Treanor

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Assistant Surveyor, that the wall of this bridge had been badly damaged. He was making inquiries as to the owner of lorry, as he believed this was a case in which County Council should make a claim for cost of repair.

Mr Treanor also reported that the parapet wall of River-chapel bridge (213 C) was recently damaged, causing dangerous gaps. He had had the gaps closed temporarily and had warned the Gardai. He would forward estimate of cost of repair.

Mr D'Arcy said the wall had been the means of saving two lives as it prevented the lorry toppling down nine feet. The lorry had been held up by the wall.

It was decided to direct County Surveyor to communicate with Assistant Surveyors of the district on the lines mentioned by the Chairman.

ROAD MAUDLINS, NEW ROSS TO FORGE AT LACKEN.

Mr Albert Miller, the Island, New Ross, wrote under date 7th July, 1930, calling attention to condition of above road. Owing to overhanging branches it was dangerous to cart hay or corn over ~~the~~ from his outfarm at Berkley. Last season one of his employees had his eye injured and a hay lifter was broken through catching in the trees. In future he would hold the Council responsible should any damage or accident occur.

Mr Elgee said he had written disclaiming liability on behalf of the Council.

The County Surveyor stated he had written Mr O'Neill, Assistant Surveyor, to try and get the branches cut, and he notified the adjoining owner of the land.

COMPLAINT FROM DR. HEARN, RE NEW ROSS WEXFORD ROAD.

Under date 26th July, 1930, the following was read from Mr W.F. Hearn L.L.D. Bellevue, Newtown, New Ross:-

"Referring to my recent interview when I made complaints regarding the condition of the road from Wexford to New Ross via Camross, I find I am unable to attend the meeting of the Council on the 28th inst.

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I have been attending meetings of your Council from time to time during the past twelve years, and although during that period a certain amount of work had been done still there was much left undone.

Of this latter portion there has been and still continues to be only tinkering with the problem.

I have made up my mind to continue going to Wexford through Enniscorthy which means 72 miles extra journey each week. This comment is sufficient as it is founded on facts not on fancy.

Tourists arriving at Rosslare and proceeding to the South of Ireland all express their alarm after their journey over this road and inquire if all the roads in Ireland are alike as if so it would be better from a motoring point of view to get back.

If you could only get one of your Council to go over this road I would be satisfied.

You may remember my getting a Committee to go over a section of the road on a previous occasion and it will be within your recollection the opinion then formed by such Committee. It would be interesting for your Council to know when the work sanctioned will be completed and how much material is on the road to enable the steamroller to start especially on the Tomcoole end."

The County Surveyor said that the steamrolling of this road had started at the Cushinstown end.

Chairman - I have much pleasure in informing Mr Hearn I was over the whole road a fortnight ago and I did not find it so extra bad.

The County Surveyor said the piece from Ballinabola to Cushinstown was being steamrolled. They had repeatedly filled the potholes there but the repairs lasted for about a week only. The section at Tomcoole was being done in cement bound macadam and he could not put out the stone to block the road. The material would be brought in as the work required; otherwise it would mean double handling entailing extra expense.

It was decided that the County Surveyor's statement be furnished Dr Hearn for his information.

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COAST EROSION AT ROSSLARE

Mr. O'Dwyer (Local Government Department) attended in connection with this matter.

Colonel Gibbon said that before the matter was taken up he wished to ask a question. He had seen by the Press that the Coast Erosion Committee had had a sitting or a hearing in Rosslare, and there was a certain number of people present, but there was no member of the County Council in attendance, according to the list published in the papers. The coast erosion question was a matter of vital importance to the Council which had been dragged into it a great deal. Some people said that the difficulties arising at Rosslare were the fault of the Council and others wanted the Council to spend large sums of money there. He wanted to ask why no member of the County Council was invited to be present to meet the Coast Erosion Committee ?.

Mr. D'Arcy - When we are out of it now, why not stay out of it ?.

The County Surveyor said that he was invited to what was an informal meeting with the local people.

Colonel Gibbon - Surely we are local people.

The Chairman said that if the Council were going to be responsible for any monies, he thought they should surely have some say. If their rates were not going to be touched they would stay out of the matter with pleasure.

Mr. D'Arcy - I don't think we should touch it at all.

Colonel Gibbon - I propose that we express to the Coast Erosion Committee our regret that some representatives of the Co. Council were not invited to meet them when they held the inquiry in Rosslare, even though it was informal.

Mr. D'Arcy - That would lead them to believe that we want to get into it. That we want to spend money. I think we should keep out of it altogether.

Chairman - There is one portion of the road there that we will

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certainly have some responsibility for.

Mr. D'Arcy - We can't stop the sea.

The Chairman said that there had been a lot of talk about the County Council at former meetings in Rosslare, and references had been made to the road, and if that was to be discussed he thought they would be justified in having some representatives present, if they were going to make the Council responsible for it.

Mr. Corish said that he was at a loss to know why they should pass such a resolution as proposed by Colonel Gibbon. He took it that the Coast Erosion Committee met the Rosslare Committee. Mr. Dwyer was present at the Council meeting that day and the Council had an opportunity to put forward their views.

Colonel Gibbon said the attempt had been made to throw the blame on the Council because they did not take steps to protect the road, and he would say that if an inquiry was held in Rosslare by a Government department with a view to seeing whether the Government was going to make a grant or not, then the County Council, which had had things said about it, should have been represented. It was all very well to say that the County Surveyor was present, but the County Surveyor should have been accompanied by a member of the Council who should have ~~been~~ represented the Council.

Mr. O'Dwyer said there was no such inquiry at Rosslare as Colonel Gibbon referred to. The Committee came to Rosslare to learn at first hand the history of the Rosslare problem. They were met there by a number of local people, and listened to everything those people had to say. There was nothing in the nature of an inquiry.

The Chairman said there were some members of the Council who were, perhaps, as intimate with the coast at Rosslare as outside people, and another thing was that there was a serious problem and he would venture to say that it came before the inquiry - about the taking of gravel from the strand and lots of people had an interest

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in Rosslare besides the people actually at the strand. He would venture to say that that was discussed, and he thought it was necessary the views of the Council should have been put forward.

Mr. O'Dwyer - That's why I am here to put these things before you.

Chairman - Why weren't some of the members interested summoned to that conference ?. There appeared to be no reason for summoning anyone.

Chairman - Why did they summon the local people.?

Mr. O'Dwyer - They informed the local people that they were coming.

The County Surveyor said he was informed that the meeting was not in any way formal. He naturally said he would attend, but did not know who was to be there.

Mr. O'Dwyer said that in the course of the inspection two items arose that appeared to him to be of interest to the Council. He then suggested that he would come before the Council to have those items discussed before letting them go further in the absence of the Council. That was why he was present. Nothing had been done so far which would in any way offend the Council.

Chairman - I don't think the Council have taken any offence at all. I think they are only standing on their rights.

Mr. O'Dwyer said he was present at the Council meeting as a Local Government Inspector, and not as a member of the Coast Erosion Committee. In the course of the inspection which took place at Rosslare about a fortnight ago, two matters of importance to the Council got a good deal of prominence. One was that certain local people proposed to apply for a prohibitory order to prevent the removal of sand, gravel and shingle from the beach, and the second was that the County Council had themselves been removing sand and gravel. Apart from these two matters there was nothing of direct importance to the Council. One person, at least, had applied

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to the Minister for Industry and Commerce to prohibit removal from the portion of the beach that adjoined his property, and certain others proposed to do likewise and there was every reason to believe that the Department of Industry & Commerce would give them the order they sought. The coast at Rosslare was being eroded through starvation rather than through erosion and every shovel of gravel removed aggravated the starvation. What would happen if the order were granted was that the Council would be ordered off the beach by the local people. He thought it would be a very unfortunate position for a County Council to appear guilty of doing damage where they should be doing good, and to be ordered off the beach by the local people and in consequence he made up his mind to come before the Council and ask them to seek the order in preference to the local people, and so get the reins in their own hands. If the order went through, the removal would have to cease, so the Council, as the local authority, ought, he thought, to have the authority in the matter if it were given. The life of Rosslare would probably be a very short one unless something could be done to prevent the starvation going on.

There was not the slightest doubt about it, Rosslare had been going, and unless the movement was stopped, or, at least slowed, the rest would go very quickly. A lot of agricultural land would be in danger immediately the sand hills went, and if that land went, the Council would lose very considerably on it. They would lose rates, and he thought he could show that they would also lose the Land Commission annuities. When land was destroyed, the former occupier remained responsible for Land Commission annuities, but he would probably get out.

The Chairman remarked that annuities were still being collected in circumstances such as referred to by Mr. O'Dwyer.

Mr. O'Dwyer - They got them, but do they get them from the owners ?.

Chairman - I know cases where they get them from the owners.

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Of course the owners have other assets.

Mr. O'Dwyer said the normal thing to expect was that the owner of lost land would get out, and when the Land Commission found themselves short of so much in land annuities from County Wexford every year they would simply apply to the guarantee fund from which the Council got the agricultural grant, so that in fact the Council would pay the Land Commission annuities in respect of land destroyed unless the previous owner paid. As to whether the Council was aggravating the rate of destruction, there appeared not the slightest doubt but they were.

Chairman - I would like to know if it is your own opinion you have formed, or are you giving us the opinion of any other one who has come to that conclusion.

Mr. O'Dwyer said he was in a very difficult position. He was a member of the Coast Erosion Committee, and he was also a Government Inspector. He could answer some of the questions if he was not a member of the Committee. It was the duty of that Committee to report to the Government, and not to the County Council. The coast was being eroded at Rosslare, gravel would save it, and the Council was removing gravel, so he thought it should be clear that the removal of gravel aggravated the destruction. It was like removing bread from a starving family.

The Chairman said that that had not been the opinion of the County Surveyor, but whether he had changed it or not he (Chairman) did not know.

Colonel Gibbon - Does Mr. O'Dwyer know Mr. Delap - a well-known engineer ?. Has he read Mr. Delap's report ?.

Mr. O'Dwyer - I have.

Colonel Gibbon - Has he seen the expressed opinion that the removal of sand and gravel has nothing to do with the erosion.

Mr. O'Dwyer - I believe he did say that.

Colonel Gibbon - And you don't agree with that.

Mr. O'Dwyer said he agreed with Mr. Delap that the removal

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of gravel aggravated the effect. It increased the rate of erosion at Rosslare. It certainly was not the cause. If they never removed gravel there would be erosion, but the removal increased it, and his point was that they were not justified in increasing it at all.

Mr. D'Arcy - It seems that there is an argument that the County Council is solely responsible for the removal of all the gravel.

Mr. O'Dwyer - I think it is obvious that you are not.

Chairman - The people seeking this order are taking a considerable amount of gravel themselves.

Colonel Gibbon - I am very glad to hear Mr. O'Dwyer give that opinion now, because the former way in which he expressed the matter was that we were responsible for the erosion, and responsible for intensifying it, and we solely.

Mr. O'Dwyer - Intensifying it, yes.

The County Surveyor said that he certainly had to admit that the County Council were drawing gravel, but pointed out that they were not the only people doing that and what he said - and he agreed with Mr. O'Dwyer - was that it was not their taking of gravel that caused the erosion, but to some extent, as he admitted in his former report, it did aggravate it, but it probably aggravated it a long way up the coast. It was a very trifling thing, but if they retained every cubic yard of gravel and gradually build up the strand, undoubtedly in the course of years they would do something.

Colonel Quin - Save Rosslare. ?.

Mr. O'Dwyer - Yes, I think it could be saved.

Colonel Gibbon - I think it will be seen that I was right in saying that the Council should have been represented.

Chairman - It is the first time I have heard the County Surveyor state that the erosion is even aggravated by the removal of gravel. He ~~may~~ always told us at the meetings that the taking

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of gravel from Rosslare beach was not doing it one bit of injury.

The County Surveyor said he had adopted a word used already. He would not have brought that word forward himself at all - the word "aggravated" - but if they took even an ounce of gravel away where there were thousands of tons, it would make a difference, but he held it was a trifling difference.

The Chairman said he was probably a much older inhabitant of the place than anyone in the room, and he remembered the time when there was a much larger quantity of sand being removed than at present, and they had no erosion at all. Every farmer in the whole barony, and outside it, carted sand during the whole of the summer, and there was not even a mention of erosion at the time. He always considered that the County Surveyor had a sound argument when he said that the removal of sand did not do any harm. He remembered three times the amount removed as in the past five years, and there was not a single word about coast erosion.

Mr. Corish - But that doesn't alter the situation, because there may be some banks outside interfered with, and there may be more sand required there than in years gone by.

County Surveyor - There is less coming up.

Colonel Gibbon suggested that in the case of closing a beach there should be a sworn inquiry. He understood from Mr. O'Dwyer that the Department intended to make an order that sand was not to be removed. He thought the Council should protest against that being done.

Colonel Quin - I think Mr. O'Dwyer has come very courteously to us, and has simply told us the facts of the case, and has given us a chance of saving our face by getting the order. I am personally inclined to think that the taking away of the gravel does do harm. It must do harm.

In reply to Mr. D'Arcy, Mr. O'Dwyer said that if the Council prevented the removal of gravel, and the coast continued to go, the

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Council would have done their best, and it would not make them any more responsible. It would simply mean that they had taken one step to do the right thing.

The County Surveyor said he thought the amount of gravel taken away was making comparatively little difference. Unless they took steps to hold the gravel by something like groynes, the amount they were taking was not, he thought, affecting Rosslare particularly. It might affect places higher up.

The Chairman said he represented a very big district around Rosslare where it would be a tremendous loss to a great many people to stop the drawing of gravel.

Mr. O'Dwyer said he had nothing whatever to do with the Department of Industry and Commerce, and he did not know whether they proposed to make an order or not, but he knew the case being put up to them, and he did not see how they could turn it down. The case was: "There is gravel being removed, the sea is coming in, the removal of gravel is aggravating the approach of the sea, and we want an order to stop the removal."

Mr. McCarthy said he thought that if a prohibitory order was to be applied for, it should be in the hands of the Council, and he proposed that the Council should take steps to get the order themselves, and not have it in the hands of private individuals. It would be rather an invidious position for the Council to have private individuals in control.

Colonel Quin seconded.

Mr. Gaul - Assuming the order is made for Rosslare, is there anything to prevent a similar order for the whole southern coast ?
Chairman - I believe you would be doing a good deal of harm if you look for an order, because there are a lot of carters who are making a living out of drawing gravel at the moment.

Mr. O'Dwyer - They will get it elsewhere.

Mr. Gaul - They are the people I represent, and I certainly won't ask for an order.

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Colonel Gibbon said that Mr. O'Dwyer had attempted to suggest that he was not responsible with regard to the order, and no one else except the Department of Industry and Commerce. He (Colonel Gibbon) knew something of the working of the Government Departments, and the Department of Industry and Commerce, without any engineers' opinions or anything else, was not going to set up an arbitrary order against the Council that the sand was not to be taken away. Where the Department was the legal instrument for an order, undoubtedly they would apply to the Coast Erosion Committee, or to the Department the Committee was under and ask their advice before taking much drastic action. He considered it most inadvisable in the interests of the County Council that any Government official should come down there to report on an important matter in which the Council might be implicated, and go back and make a report to the Government without first hearing the views of the County Council on the matter, because what happened was that the Department made up their minds as to what was to happen. The official put in his report in Dublin, and then when the matter was prejudged the Council were asked what they had to say in the matter, and then naturally the judgment went against them.

Mr. Keegan said that Rosslare was not the only place swept away. A wall in Courtown that was erected by the Council some years ago at a cost of £3,000 or £4,000 was swept away, although not a shovel full of stuff was removed for thirty-six years. The Earl of Courtown would not allow any gravel to be drawn at all. Therefore, he could not see how the removal of gravel affected Rosslare. He agreed with the Chairman that the prevention of the removal of gravel would be a hardship on the people of the locality. He thought it would stop progress in many ways. He could see that a lot of buildings had been erected in the district in the last twenty years, and if they stopped the removal of material from the beach they would be stopping industry without doing any

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good whatever with regard to coast erosion.

Colonel Quin said they had been told that not a shovel full of gravel was taken from between Courtown and Cahore Point, but he was quite satisfied that cart loads were taken every day.

The Chairman said Courtown was not under consideration. It was only drawn up as a kind of example or comparison. He really did not know what the Council were going to do in the matter. He thought Mr. McCarthy's suggestion required a lot of consideration before the Council adopted it, and he would be inclined to leave the power in the hands of the people that were wanting it, rather than take any responsibility on behalf of the County Council at all. His opinion was that the drawing of the gravel or **anything** like **that** had not one single iota to do with the case of Rosslare. The building of the Pier, he believed, was answerable for the thing, or a great portion of it anyhow. He did not think it was due to the carting of the gravel off the beach at all. Of course he was not an engineer and he bowed to men who had a technical knowledge, but he was surprised at the County Surveyor, as he had turned turtle over the matter (laughter).

County Surveyor - I object to that. I distinctly said before that the amount of stuff we removed was infinitesimal, but I do say that even though infinitesimal it has some little influence.

Chairman - You never said that until to-day.

County Surveyor - What I did say was emphatically that if you were going to build up the beach every yard would have an influence, and if you were going to build groynes you would have to have some order about that.

Secretary - The County Surveyor is quite right about that. I read the minutes this morning.

The Chairman said that erosion started about 21 years ago, and held for three or four years, when the strand began to make again. He thought that when the last addition went to the Pier

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erosion commenced to some extent again. During all that time thousands of cartloads of sand were removed. None of that was being drawn now - it was all gravel. Another thing was that people around the vicinity had a Solicitor instructed to oppose the prohibition of the removal of gravel. Owing to their proximity to seaweed manure, sand and gravel 2/- or 3/- extra was put on the rents of those people, and he assured the Council that those people were more bitter in the matter than the Council were.

Mr. D'Arcy - Then there could be two Committees in the District.

Chairman - There is another Committee with a lawyer employed at the moment.

Miss O'Ryan said she thought that as the County Council they were the supreme authority as far as rents and rates were concerned, and that if an order was got it should be got by the Council, but before an order was got she thought they should ask that there should be a further inquiry at which the Council and everyone else concerned should be represented. They had been led to believe up to that day that the drawing of gravel was not an aggravating cause of erosion, but they also had to realise that erosion was a very serious problem in Ireland, and that people were paying rent and rates for land that no longer existed. The question of people having to draw sand to build houses did not matter at all to the Council if those houses were to be washed away in a year or two. She proposed that they should ask the Department not to issue any such order on request from private individuals until there was another inquiry at which the Council would be represented.

Mr. O'Dwyer said he thought Miss O'Ryan's proposition was a very desirable way out of the difficulty. If the Council sought the order, and at the same time asked the Minister for Industry and Commerce to hold a public inquiry before making the order, then everybody would have an opportunity of appearing, and the whole thing would be threshed out in public.

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Mr Corish said he certainly agreed with Miss O'Ryan's suggestion, but he thought that before the County Council entered an inquiry they had got to make up their minds as to what side they were on. They would have to get some engineering expert to report to the Council as to whether coast erosion was being aggravated by the removal of gravel from the shore.

Mr McCarthy then proposed the following resolution:- "That The Department of Industry & Commerce before issuing any Order to prohibit the removal of sand and gravel from Rosslare Strand should arrange for a local public inquiry into this matter, and to which all interests concerned should be invited to attend and submit evidence, and that this Council hereby applies for such Order".

Colonel Gibbon seconded the resolution which was adopted nem. con.

Mr Corish said he agreed with that proposal but he would like to secure that the Council would get an outside engineer to report. They should have someone to give evidence on their behalf.

Chairman - Unless you rely on your own engineer.

Mr Corish - Are you going to rely on your own engineer?

Chairman - That's a matter for the Council to settle.

In reply to the Chairman, Mr O'Dwyer said there was a further suggestion that the Council should place a small sum of money at the County Surveyor's disposal for the purpose of putting up experimental groynes.

Chairman - The County Council was not wanted when this was suggested.

Mr O'Dwyer - And to give good example we will try to induce private people to do the same.

County Surveyor - I agree that if you discontinue the removal of the sand you will do very little good unless you take steps to keep it there.

Colonel Gibbon said he presumed that if groynes were to be put up they would be done under expert supervision. As the Coast

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Erosion Committee made up their minds that groynes were advisable they had also apparently agreed that the Council were the people to put them up. They wanted to know if the Committee were going to help them to pay for the groynes. There was certainly no money in the Council's present budget, and no money in their contingency fund. Apart from whether or not the groynes were to be paid for by the Council he certainly would like to have more suggestions as to what the groynes were to consist of, how many there should be, in what position, and whether they should be concrete or simply temporary erections.

Mr. Corish - On a point of order I don't think Colonel Gibbon can have it both ways. In the first place I would not consider at all the County Council putting up groynes. I don't consider it is our job. We might prejudice the whole position as far as the Council is concerned. We don't know the opinion of the Coast Erosion Committee.

Mr. O'Dwyer - Other Councils are doing it.

Mr. Corish - That may be.

Mr. O'Dwyer said that the argument for the experimental groynes was that no matter what the report of the Coast Erosion Committee might be, and no matter what decision the Government might take, nothing could be done on the report or the Government's decision during the present summer, because it would require legislation. To provide for the period before such legislation could be passed he asked the Council to put up the groynes so that something would be known about currents at Rosslare.

Mr. Corish said he would certainly object to the Council doing the work because they did not know where it would end. It ~~may~~ might be taken as a status quo when the Committee would issue its deliberations, and the Council might be held responsible for all time to keep the groynes there.

Colonel Gibbon said that when he asked the questions he only

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did so for the sake of information.

Mr. Corish - It is very dangerous information to ask for.

Colonel Gibbon (to Chairman) Well you ask our legal adviser if we have any authority to spend any of the Council's money for this purpose ?.

Chairman - I think we had a discussion on this before, and that it was decided that we were concerned as far as the road going away, but that for the other portion of the beach we had no concern whatever.

The County Surveyor remarked that the Council could only put groynes opposite their own road.

Mr. Elgee said the present position was that the Council had passed their budget for the year, and had made no provision for this expenditure, and if they were to do the work now he did not see where the money was to come from. He supposed that they were expected to protect their own road, but their responsibility ended there. They were not responsible for the coast erosion.

Mr. Hall proposed that the Council should appoint an independent engineer to report with regard to Rosslare.

Mr. Gaul proposed that the Council should rely absolutely on their own engineer (the County Surveyor).

Mr. Hall - We are not casting any reflection on the County Surveyor at all.

Mr. Gaul - I am not saying you are. I have every confidence in him.

On a show of hands, Mr. Gaul's proposition was defeated by thirteen votes to ten, and Mr. Hall's motion was declared carried.

The question of selecting an engineer was then referred to the Finance Committee .

PAYMENTS TO CONTRACTOR FOR RECONSTRUCTION
OF COURTHOUSE

The County Surveyor said that he had furnished the

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Contractor with certificates for £1600 and £3700 and there was another due now which would certainly not be less than £1000. He had met a Representative of the Office of Public Works on the 18th instant as to some changes in plan one of which was to arrange for prisoners being brought to the dock without going through the main hall and jury accommodation. He (County Surveyor) was going into the matter and would see what could be done to meet the proposals of the Representative of the Board of Works.

After discussion the following resolution was adopted on the motion of the Chairman:-

"That Mr. Corish, T.D., be requested to arrange with the County Surveyor to wait on the responsible official at the Department of Finance in order to obtain payment of instalments due on foot of the Courthouse reconstruction work at old Jail. Unless money is immediately forthcoming the Contractor may close down the work or proceed against the Council for instalments due him under his contract."

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

"That as Department of Finance agreed to the Plans and Specification for reconstruction of Courthouse at Old Jail premises, Wexford, we consider that the cost of any alterations now required by the Department of Justice should be borne by the Government."

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WORKING OF ST. HELEN'S QUARRY.

The following under date 2nd July, 1930, was read from Messrs James Meyler, Hayesland, Kilrane, and William Sullivan, Ballyconnor, Kilrane:-

"Would you please read the following at next County Council meeting:

We were employed by Mr Birthistle to work in St. Helen's quarry getting out stones for the breaker. We were working five weeks in this quarry all but two days on the road filling pot-holes with tar chippings so we were stopped working a week from last Saturday. He told us we would get the first chance for work on the roads but now the two gangers Kelly and Parle and carter were down in this district this past week working on the roads filling potholes. We think it very unfair to see those men coming from another parish five miles away to work and we idle and we capable of doing the work. We have read several times where the Councillors at their meetings gave instructions to the Surveyors to employ local men where available and not to be giving preference to gangers, men, who having several fully stamped insurance cards, could, if they were out of work go into the Exchange Office and draw benefit for months while we may go to the County Home or apply for outdoor relief. That would surely raise a storm of protest from the ratepayers, while there is not a word about their money being thrown away on all the overseers going round the country going miles to see a couple of men working. If we get work from the county council we don't want anyone to watch us as our motto is a fair day's work for a fair day's pay.

Hoping when our respected Councillors hear this they will see to a fair distribution of the work."

The County Surveyor read report from Mr Birthistle, Assistant Surveyor, in which it was pointed out that he closed the work at St. Helen's quarry when he found the price running high. In addition they did not require much material. Meyler had

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never previously worked for the Council: Sullivan did about three years ago. He failed to see why these men should replace Kelly or Parle who were gangers and very reliable men. They were engaged on important work, tarring main roads etc. At times owing to pressure of work Parle was put in charge of the steam roller on grant work (D.864). Apart from this ordinary workers could not be trusted to time keep and check materials and tar which are used direct on all works as they came to hand.

Mr Keegan contended that it was all right to employ gangers when they had to carry out gangers' duties but where ordinary work was concerned gangers should be allowed to go on the Labour Exchange.

Mr Hall held that for ordinary work men residing in the locality should get the preference. It was a great grievance with them when men from outside were brought in.

Mr Keegan proposed that Sub-Committees should be set up for the four districts of the County to consider matters of employment and also complaints, but the proposal was not seconded.

Mr Hall moved and Mr Corish seconded the following resolution:-

"That in future local men should get the preference as regards road work."

Mr Culleton held they should not interfere with the Surveyors in this matter. They knew best who should be employed and it was as much in their interest as in that of the Council to get the work done.

Colonel Quin supported this view.

Colonel Gibbon proposed and Mr Culleton seconded the following ^{amendment} resolution:- "That the employment of road workers be left in the hands of the County Surveyors and his assistants."

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

For the amendment - Messrs Brennan, Culleton, D'Arcy, Doran, Gibbon, Murphy, Quin, Roche, Smyth and Walsh - 10.

Against - Messrs Armstrong, Colfer, Cooney, Corish, Cummins, Hall, Hayes, Keegan, McCarthy, O'Byrne, O'Ryan, Shannon and the

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Chairman. - 13.

The other members were not present when poll was taken.

The Chairman declared the amendment lost.

Mr Hall's resolution was then put and passed *nem con*.

The County Surveyor said he had intended to place in charge of the work on Gorey Courtown cement bound macadam road James Daly who was in charge of the Rosslare Road. He was not a local man but he (County Surveyor) considered that the resolution just passed as regards local men should not apply in this instance.

Mr O'Byrne - We can get you a good and reliable man from the District.

County Surveyor - I think it would be the greatest possible mistake not to bring Daly up there.

Mr Keegan said they should secure the **services** of a local man.

County Surveyor - Yes, but you then can't hold me responsible for the manner in which the work will be carried out.

In reply to a query the County Surveyor stated that Daly was a native of Enniscorthy. He had acted as clerk of works for reconstruction of road from Ferrycarrig to Enniscorthy and from Wexford to Ferrycarrig. He was a first class man, thoroughly conversant with the work and had done particularly well at Rosslare road.

Mr Murphy proposed:- "That in connection with the work of reconstruction at Gorey Courtown road the County Surveyor be empowered to employ the most suitable person in his opinion."

Colonel Gibbon seconded.

Mr Keegan proposed:- "That the man to be appointed as Clerk of Works for reconstruction of Gorey Courtown Road belong to the Gorey County Electoral area."

Mr Armstrong seconded.

After further discussion Mr Murphy withdrew his motion in favour of the following which was proposed by Mr Corish and seconded by Colonel Gibbon:- "That the resolution of Mr Hall as to

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preference for road employment being given to local men we consider this resolution should not apply to "Key" men such as Clerks of Works etc., in respect of which the County Council should not interfere with the discretion of the County Surveyor.

A vote was then taken on Mr Keegan's motion with the following result:- For - Messrs Armstrong, D'Arcy, Hall, Keegan, O'Byrne and Smyth -6.

Against - Messrs Brennan, Colfer, Cooney, Corish, Culleton, Cummins, Doran, Gibbon, McCarthy, Murphy, O'Ryan, Quin, Roche, Shannon, Walsh and the Chairman - 16.

Mr Hayes declined to vote and the other members were not present when poll was taken.

The Chairman declared the motion lost.

The proposal of Mr Corish was then put and passed nem con.

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CLAIM FOR FOWL.

Under date 22nd July, 1930, the following was read from John Brien, Camblin, New Ross:-

"I wish to bring under your notice that when your men were tarring the road at Camblin they planted about 40 barrels of tar against my outhouse on a plot of grass belonging to me. Some burst and my fowl 21 in number got caught in the tar and were destroyed. I value them at 30/- and therefore apply to the County Council for that amount as compensation."

The County Surveyor said that the bitumen ^{or} Spramex was on the grass plot on the side of the road. Some of the barrels leaked and some chickens got into it and died. He did not know how far the County Council ~~were~~ liable. The barrels were not on Mr O'Brien's land. It was between the road fences and was, therefore portion of the road.

Mr O'Neill, Assistant Surveyor, said he had heard some chickens had been killed. He went there on Saturday and asked the woman of the place if she had shown the chickens to the road ganger and she said not but that several people saw them.

It was decided to instruct Mr Elgee to disclaim liability in this case.

COURTOWN HARBOUR - SLUICE GATES.

The following under date 11th July, 1930, (D/512) was read from the Department of Lands and Fisheries:-

"I am directed by the Minister for Lands and Fisheries to acknowledge receipt of your communication of 5th instant, and to state that the question of a grant from State sources towards the cost of the replacement of the defective dock gates at Courtown Harbour is still under consideration and when a decision has been arrived at you will be communicated with."

DREDGING AT KILMORE HARBOUR.

The following statement was submitted by the Secretary:

"Correspondence was carried on with the Department of Fish-

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eries and the Office of Public Works with reference to the dredging work for a considerable time. When the Council first applied for the dredger they were informed that it would be better wait for a more favourable season. On the 25th February, 1929, a resolution was adopted by the Roads Committee informing the Office of Public Works that the Council would be prepared to put up £200 towards the cost of dredging the harbour, on condition that dredging was carried out to a depth of at least four feet at low water and subject to agreement between the County Surveyor and the Department's Engineer as to the area over which this depth of at least four feet was to be obtained. This resolution was forwarded Office of Public Works and was then held by the County Council to be an acceptance of the work that was to be carried out. It was never specifically accepted or rejected by the Board of Works but the Department of Fisheries wrote a letter which was before the County Council meeting of 2nd May, 1929, that the work was one for agreement ^{between} County Surveyor and Engineer. The work was accordingly laid out by the two Engineers and the County Surveyor reported to the Roads Committee meeting of 1st July, 1929, that it had been arranged there should be a depth of 6 feet immediately at the Harbour entrance and that the area between end of breakwater and about half way up the slip was to have been dredged to a depth of about $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet at the slip. This on the view expressed by the Department of Fisheries would constitute the agreement as to the actual work to be carried out.

The County Surveyor informed Mr McNeill that he believed the material to be dredged consisted of sand. In this statement the County Surveyor was relying on previous work carried out several years ago by the Board of Works. The dredger started work on 3rd July, 1929, and finished on 15th Sept., 1929.

There can be no doubt that in the initial stages the work was greatly delayed by the lifting of boulders and it is unfortunate that the Engineer of the Board of Works considers that similar accumulations of stones may be expected to enter the harbour under

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certain conditions of wind and tide.

In connection with the actual work of the dredger the County officials were of opinion that they had no control and considered that the dredger would carry out the work as specified between County Surveyor and the Board of Works Engineer.

A further delay was occasioned by the lifting of an old mooring chain.

When the original grant was expended the dredger had not reached the inner steps and if any appreciable work at all was to be carried out it was imperative that a supplemental grant should be forthcoming. Before putting the matter up to the Council the County Surveyor and Colonel Gibbon explained to Mr McNeill that according to the resolution on County Council records no further money could be given beyond the £200 originally sanctioned, the County Council holding that the Office of Public Works should carry out the full amount of work which had been contemplated,

Acting on the assurance of Mr McNeill that if the County Council would put up a further £100 the dredger would complete the schooner berth up to the angle between the slip and the inner steps, (Mr McNeill stating they could count on this at least being done), the County Surveyor and Colonel Gibbon agreed to recommend the County Council to put up the additional £100 on this distinct assurance of Mr McNeill that the work at the schooner berth would be carried out, and it was on this specific assurance that the money was voted. At the final inspection of 20th September, 1929, only the County Surveyor and Mr McNeill were in attendance as Col. Gibbon was away from home. The water was then very muddy and discoloured and the County Surveyor was under the impression that the specified depths had been obtained. He conveyed this impression to Council and its Committees. Colonel Gibbon accepted the report of the County Surveyor that a proper job had been carried out, at the schooner berth. This arose through a misunderstanding. In his observations the County Surveyor referred to the fishing boat berth at the outer end of the Pier which is never used by

vessels in the fishing season whereas Col. Gibbon believed the County Surveyor referred to the outer schooner berth above the angle at the shore end. At this time the chart of soundings had not been received. As a matter of fact it did not come to hand until 21st October, 1929, - over a month after the departure of the dredger from Kilmore when a question was raised as to the efficiency of the work which had been done, but owing to the absence of Mr Roche consideration of the matter was adjourned. This chart clearly showed that only half of the outer schooner berth had actually been dredged, and consequently that the complaint of the schooner owners was fully justified. It also showed that not more than about 40% of the area arranged by Mr McNeill with the County Surveyor on 25th June, 1929, was actually dredged.

Several attempts were made to take soundings and the County Surveyor attended for the purpose but owing to weather conditions it was not until February 1930, that he was able to carry out this work.

The points at issue appear to be

(1) Are the Office of Works responsible for the dredging work as per the agreement arrived at between the County Surveyor and Mr McNeill.

(2) Was this upset by the voting of extra money to carry out the dredging of the schooner berth on a specific assurance which was not carried out, and which is now denied.

(3) Are the County Council prepared to accept the ruling of the Office of Public Works that the dredging was to proceed only so far as the money provided went and without any guarantee as to the actual amount of dredging work.

Colonel Gibbon said that the statement was absolutely correct and it clearly showed that the Department of Public Works did not carry out what they undertook to do. He proposed that a copy of the statement be forwarded the Office of Public Works for their observations.

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Mr Cummins seconded.

Passed.

CAHORE DRAINAGE SYSTEM.

Mr Smyth moved the following which was seconded by Mr Cummins and adopted:-

"That the attention of the Office of Public Works be called to the resolution of the County Council of 29th July, 1929, and that they be asked to furnish their observations thereon. We do not consider that the reply of the 26th August, 1929 (14836/29) from the Office of Works that they will not move until a new petition is submitted under Arterial Drainage Act 1925, is a reply to our resolution. That copy of this resolution and of the original resolution of 29th July be also furnished the Land Commission."

The following is copy of the original resolution referred to :-

"That, as neglect of drainage area at Cahore is responsible for the serious flooding of adjoining roads for a considerable period of the year, and as we understand the lands concerned are shortly about to change hands we request information as to what the Office of Public Works intend doing to safeguard our interests and to prevent the roads being flooded which causes inconvenience to a large section of the public."

PAYMENTS TO ROAD CONTRACTORS ETC.

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

"That the several proposals for payment as submitted on Form 22 by the County Surveyor and for other general matters be and are hereby confirmed, subject to the modifications and other orders noted thereon and initialled by the Chairman."

ROSSLARE WEXFORD ROAD.

Under date 17th July, 1930, (LR/107/1/1930) Order extending the period for the closing of road from Ashfield to Etchingham's

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Corner Rosslare (Roads 944. 955) up to 1st August, 1930, for the purposes of finishing reconstruction work was read.

THE LOCAL OFFICES AND EMPLOYMENTS (AMENDMENT)
ORDER, 1930.

Under date 30th June, 1930, the Local Government Department wrote (G40984 - 30 S.G.- Misc) forwarding copy of above order modifying the terms of the Local Offices and Employments Order 1924. Under this order the Minister empowered Local Authorities in clear cases of fraud or gross misconduct to take definite action..

SANCTION OF OVERDRAFT.

Under date 2nd July, 1930, the Department of Local Government wrote (G47170 -30 - Fa Loch Garman) stating that the Minister had sanctioned the continuance of overdraft accommodation not exceeding £40,000 for Wexford County Council up to 31st *August* 1930, interest thereon to be paid at the agreed rate.

CARETAKER NEW ROSS BRIDGE.

Under date 22nd July, 1930, the Department of Local Government (Roads) wrote R/RM (32) that the Minister did not see any objection to the proposal to appoint a permanent caretaker for New Ross Bridge, at £40 per annum, half the cost to be borne by the County Council of Kilkenny.

MAIN ROAD UPKEEP GRANT.

Under date 21st July, 1930, (RGM/201/30) the Local Government Department (Roads) wrote that from records supplied to them the amount allowed by the Wexford County Council for upkeep of main roads for current financial year is £25,392. A provisional allocation had been made on the basis of 40 % per cent of this amount which would amount to £10,156.

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

"That we request the Local Government Department to re-

consider their decision excluding for purpose of calculating main road grants expenditure by way of loan. In the case of some important roads which require reconstruction it is not possible to carry out the work except by loan: otherwise it should be done piecemeal and over a number of years which would not be satisfactory. For instance if a County Council borrows £10,000 at 5 per cent on a 20 year basis to improve main roads the repayment would be £802:8:6d. per annum. The present proposal would be for the Government to pay none of this. But the £10,000 would be expected to reduce the annual maintenance by at least £802:8:6d. which in twenty years would amount to £16048:10s. Forty per cent of this would be £6419. If the £802 were spent on the roads every year of the 20 the Council would receive from Local Government Department ~~£6419~~, but if this expenditure is incurred in one year by way of loan they get nothing although the principle of repairing some main roads by loan must be adopted in consequence of the large capital sum required.

REGULATIONS UNDER COUNTY WEXFORD (CONTROL OF DOGS)
ORDER 1907.

Under date 18th July, 1930, the Departure of Agriculture wrote (L1440 - 30) stating that the Regulations adopted under the County Wexford (Control of Dogs) Order of 1907 had been approved. Prints of the Regulations should be sent the Department and to the Garda Siochana.

The Secretary stated this had been done, a copy of the Regulations having been provided for each Garda Siochana Station.

REVISION OF VALUATION.

Under date 19th July, 1930, the General Valuation Office wrote that Mr W.E. Murphy of their department would commence the annual revision of the valuation of the County in Gorey District about the 21st July, 1930.

POISONS AND PHARMACY ACT LICENCES.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr

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Walsh seconded by Mr Culleton:-

"That renewal of licences under Poisons and Pharmacy Act be issued to Daniel Keating, Quay Street. (P. Tierney & Co.) New Ross and John Roche, Camolin."

INCREASED RAILWAY CHARGES.

The following resolution from Wexford Agricultural Society was adopted on the motion of the Chairman seconded by Mr O'Byrne:

"That ~~we~~ the Wexford Agricultural Society, strongly protest against the unwarranted increase in Railway Rates on livestock and farm produce and the abolition of the head rate; we consider the charge of Waggon rate for individual animals uneconomic and beyond the means of the producer.

That copies of this Resolution be sent to the Traffic Manager, Great Southern Ryls., the Secretary, Royal Dublin Society, Wexford Co. Council, Wexford Corporation, etc., and that all Public bodies be asked to protest and have the rates reduced."

It was decided that copies be sent to the Department of Local Government, Agriculture and Industry and Commerce.

Mr Cummins proposed and Mr Corish seconded the following resolution:- "That we protest in the strongest manner against the action of the Great Southern Railways in increasing passenger fares ~~on~~ in their system to an extent that must react unfavourably on the trade and industry of the whole country. We believe the Department of Industry and Commerce should give this matter their most serious consideration with a view to bringing about such a reduction in the fares as the Country can afford.

'We are also of opinion that the Railway Company should extend their excursion tickets to all their trains: the concession as it stands is little practical utility to the travelling public."

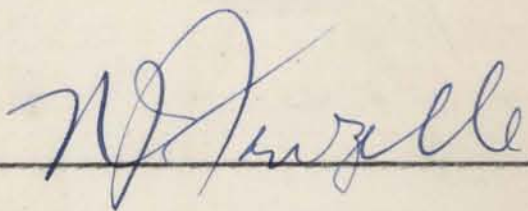
In consequence of the lateness of the hour the remainder of the business was adjourned to next meeting.

Michael Doyle

CERTIFICATE OF SECRETARY.

I certify the foregoing to be a
correct record of the Minutes of the Proceedings
of Wexford County Council in respect of meeting
held on 28th July, 1930.

(Signed)

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'W. J. Anzelle', is written over a horizontal line.

Secretary.

31st July, 1930.