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WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL.

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MINUTES OF MEETING.

HELD ON 11TH MAY 1931

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COUNTY HALL,  
WEXFORD.

N.J.FRIZELLE,  
SECRETARY.

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A meeting of Wexford County Council was held in County Council Chamber, County Hall, Wexford on 11th May, 1931.

Present - Col.C.M.Gibbon (Vice Chairman) and subsequently Mr M. Doyle (Chairman) presided. Also Messrs James Armstrong, John Brennan, Patrick Colfer, Thomas Cooney, Richard Corish, John Cummins, Timothy F. D'Arcy, James Gaul, James Hall, Patrick Hayes, Michael Jordan, William P. Keegan, Thomas Maylor, Thomas McCarthy, John Murphy, Sean O'Byrne, Col.R.P. Wemyss Quin, James Shannon, Myles Smyth and James E. Walsh.

The County Secretary, the County Surveyor, Mr Elgee, Solicitor, and Assistant County Surveyors Treanor, Ennis, Cullen, Birthistle and O'Neill were also in attendance.

The Minutes of last meeting were read and signed.

#### PAYMENTS.

Treasurer's Advice Note for £33,836: 11: 8d. was examined and signed.

#### COUNTY SURVEYOR'S REPORT.

The following report was presented by the County Surveyor:

"Wexford Urban District Council has decided to enter into Agreement with the County Council in regard to the upkeep of the Main Roads in the Urban Area, and I shall make arrangements with the Town Surveyor accordingly. New Ross Urban District Council has decided not to undertake the maintenance of the Main Roads in their Area, and I am making arrangements to have the work carried out myself. Up to the present Enniscorthy Urban Council has not notified me regarding the work.

I have been in communication with the Local Government Department in regard to the allocation of Grant Money for Improvement Works during the current year. Mr Quigley, Chief



Roads Engineer, has recommended that two sections of the Wexford-New Ross Road be laid in slab concrete, and I have forwarded him draft Specification for same. If this work be carried out the Department will require tenders to be invited, and subsequent to that it is proposed that the balance of the Grant Money be utilised in making up part of the Enniscorthy-Bunclody road.

I have made arrangements for putting in stairs from the cells to the dock in the County Court, and have the iron work on order. As directed by the Council I went thoroughly over the Council's former Office Premises in Fortview, and have prepared Specification for the repair and decoration. Tenders were invited, and I received three, the lowest of which is £125.

I have received a letter from the County Registrar asking to have the floor of Court covered with lino, and also for the stairs leading to the gallery to be covered with some material to deaden the noise. I am now in communication with a Firm in regard to rubber nosing for the stairs, and estimate that the cost of the whole work will be £25.

At a former meeting of the Council the provision of Fire Extinguishing appliances in the County Hall was under consideration, and I was directed to make enquiries in regard to the patterns used in the County Hospital and also in the Mental Hospital. I have been informed that the Health Board use Minimax pattern, but I have not yet had a reply from the Mental Hospital Board.

I have received application for the erection of a shed on the Wexford-Gorey Road - No.30 - and I have no objection to this.

At the present time the Health Board is carrying out sewage scheme in Bunclody, and there are matters connected therewith to which I wish to draw your attention. In the first place the scheme provides only for dealing with sewage matter, and the surface drainage of the streets is not to be



taken in. At the present time there are a large number of old surface water drains under the streets, and it is essential that these should not be in any way interfered with. In the second place, if possible, the new sewage pipes should be laid to the side of the road, so as not to cause trouble with any future surface improvement work, such as, concreting of the streets. The plans as already available do not clearly show how the pipes are to be laid, and I consider that before work is carried out I should be informed of the exact position of the sewers, and have a plan showing same submitted to me.

At last meeting of the Council application from a number of local Ratepayers to have a protection wall built at Hopeland, Rosslare, was before the Council, and I was directed to inspect the place and report. Some years ago I examined into this matter, and reported then, I now have made further inspection, and estimate cost of the work. The length of the wall required would be in or about 913 L.Y. and if we are authorised to use local gravel the cost of the work will be £824. If we have to go a distance to obtain materials I estimate the increased cost at £136, making a total of £960.

At last meeting of the Council there was a discussion as to the cost etc., of the various classes of surfacing for roads under improvement Grants. There are four main classes of work which we have used in this County as follows:

1. Water Bound Macadam surface dressed with Bitumen or tar.
2. Bitumen Grout Macadam surface dressed.
3. Slab Concrete, such as the Enniscorthy-Wexford Road, and
4. Sandwich concrete such as the Rosslare, Courtown, and part of the New Ross Road.

Excluding strengthening and formation of road before laying the new surface the cost of these four methods of reconstruction works out at, for No. 1, averaging 2/- per S.Y., for No.2 3/- per S.Y., for No.3, 7/-, and for No.4 4/- per S.Y. I take it that the formation in all cases will be much about



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the same, and will average from 1/- to 1/6d per s.y. according to circumstances. In contemplating this class of work it must be taken into account that for a ten years period of maintenance Water Bound Macadam will cost about £900. The Bitumen Grout Macadam, about £600, and slab concrete and sandwich concrete little or nothing. In these last two it will be merely attention to the joints, and some small repairs to the surface here and there as may happen. During the second ten year period, water bound macadam will probably require partial reconstruction, and may run to £600 per mile, and the Bitumen Grout road probably £300 per mile. It is impossible to state at this period what the cost of making good the two concrete surface dressed roads would be in the second ten year period, but I believe with the class of traffic we are likely to have that the slab concrete will require very little repair, and possibly the sandwich concrete not a great deal."

Agreement with Urban District Councils: Mr McCarthy said that Enniscorthy Urban Council had agreed to accept the figures arrived at by the County Council for the maintenance of the main roads of their district.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr McCarthy seconded by Mr O'Byrne:- "That we approve of entering into agreements for financial year 1931-32 with the Urban Districts of Enniscorthy and Wexford for the maintenance of the main roads in these districts at the figures estimated by County Surveyor and approved by the County Council. That the maintenance of Main roads in New Ross Urban District for financial year 1931-32 be placed in the charge of the County Surveyor at the amount already approved by the Council."

Grant for Improvement work: The County Surveyor mentioned that the total amount of this Grant was £16,000 odd. Taking from this £1600 for Bunclody-Enniscorthy Road and £130 to



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finish the Gorey-Courtown Road there would be £14,000 available for the 4½ miles of New Ross-Wexford road which it was proposed to reconstruct leaving the cost at about £3000 per mile.

The Chairman said he had been over the Taghmon road recently and which had been reconstructed in sandwich concrete and no fault could be found with it.

In reply to Colonel Gibbon the County Surveyor said that if the L.G.D. would allow sandwich concrete reconstruction on New Ross-Wexford road instead of slab concrete the length that could be dealt with would be nearly eight miles.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Col. Gibbon seconded by Mr Hall:- "That the L.G.D. be requested to allow the Council to carry out the reconstruction work on Wexford-New Ross Road in sandwich concrete which, in our opinion, is quite suitable for the class of traffic passing over it."

In connection with the reconstruction of Gorey-Courtown Road in sandwich concrete Mr Keegan said this was a flat failure and, in the opinion of people who knew what they were talking about would not last a year and a half. At the <sup>moment</sup> ~~most~~ ~~east~~ the water tables were a trap. This was the opinion of the travelling public.

Mr O'Byrne said that the sides had not been rolled but the time limit in the specification to take over the road from the Contractors had not yet expired.

Col. Quin said the finish of the road was somewhat roughly done but this he understood, was to give horses a better foothold. The worst portion was the sides and as for durability they would have to wait and see.

The County Surveyor said the sides were to have been consolidated by rolling but whenever they put on a roller it did more harm than good as it bulged the surface right into the fences. He had arranged with one of the Pioneer Road Con-



struction Co. to go over the whole road and after this inspection the sides would be made good.

Mr O'Byrne considered that from the point of safety for the travelling public the sides should be tarred.

The Chairman said that on Rosslare road constructed under the same system as Courtown it was not found necessary to tar the sides and he looked on this as extravagance.

Mr Keegan said he understood that the maintenance of the Courtown Gorey road would be handed over to the Council in ten or twelve days.

The County Surveyor said that he was holding back from the Contractors a percentage of the money until the sides of the road had been made right. He would not take over the road until all the defects had been made good.

Colonel Gibbon said the width of the slab in Courtown Gorey road was 16 feet, exactly the same as in Enniscorthy Wexford road. Why should they go to the expense of tarring the sides when this was found unnecessary in the last mentioned road.

Mr Corish asked would it prejudice the position of the Council because the County Surveyor had ordered the roller off the road.

The County Surveyor said he had not ordered the roller off the road. He allowed it to be taken off when he saw <sup>the</sup> harm it was doing. He had written to the Contractors that the sides should be better consolidated and he (County Surveyor) was satisfied if a light roller was used for the purpose.

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

"That the County Surveyor be <sup>instructed</sup> ~~directed~~ to direct the Pioneer Road Construction Co. to put the Gorey-Courtown Road at once into the condition provided for by the specification."



Repairs to Fortview:- The County Surveyor submitted the following tenders for repair of Fortview.

Messrs M. O'Connor & Co., Builders, Main street, Wexford, £125.

Messrs Sinnott & Co., St. Peter's Square, Wexford, £131: 7: Od.

Reps John Browne, Henrietta Street, Wexford, £203.

The County Surveyor said when the repairs were carried out the premises would be ready for immediate occupation.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr Hall seconded by Mr Corish:- "That the tender of Messrs M. O'Connor & Co., Builders, Main Street, Wexford, at £125 for repairs to Fortview, Wexford, as per specification prepared by County Surveyor be and is hereby accepted."

Linoleum for Court: The County Surveyor submitted the following letter from Mr M. Dwyer, County Registrar, under date 5th May: "I would be obliged to know if you have carried out the requirements as to covering the floor and steps to the gallery and also the extension of the steps to the witness box. If not they should be attended to at once as a Circuit Court will sit on the 3rd June."

Mr Hall proposed and Mr Murphy seconded the following resolution which was adopted without dissent:- "That the proposal to lay down linoleum etc in Wexford Courtroom at a cost not to exceed £25 be adjourned for 12 months."

Fire Extinguishers: Mr Corish said that the Wexford Corporation were having during the coming week, a visit from a man who had been 25 years Captain of the Pembroke Fire Brigade and suggested that the County Surveyor should have a Conference between them and which he (Mr Corish) would arrange.

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

"That the question of providing Fire Extinguishing apparatus for County Hall be adjourned to next meeting, to which the



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County Surveyor can report result of Conference."

Erection of Hayshed: The County Surveyor submitted the following under date 22nd April, 1931, from Mr Cullen, Assistant Surveyor. Road No. 30 - Wexford-Gorey 29. Mr John Dempsey, Moorvilla, Oulart, is wanting permission to erect Hayshed within thirty feet of the road centre. The road is straight at this place and proposed shed will form no obstruction. Mr Dempsey has had hayrick built on same site for some years past."

Mr O'Byrne proposed and Mr Hall seconded the following resolution which was adopted Col. Quin dissenting:- "That the County Council take no action as regards erection of hayshed on the premises of John Dempsey, Moorvilla, Oulart."

Bunclody Sewage Scheme: The County Surveyor said that the pipes laid up to the present were at the side of the road but he did not know what would happen when they got further on.

Mr Hall proposed and Mr Brennan seconded the following resolution which was adopted nem con:- "That the County Surveyor and Mr Flood, Engineer to County Board of Health arrange a Conference with a view to coming to a satisfactory arrangement as to the manner in which and where the pipes for Bunclody sewage scheme are to be put down."

Proposed wall at Hoppeland Bank: The County Surveyor said the only suggestion he could make in the matter was the planting of Rice Grass, as this was a place at which it would be useful.

Col. Gibbon said the County Council had no money to spend on the project and even if they did spend money that was no guarantee that the sea would not come in and wash the wall away. The planting of Rice Grass would be the most effective remedy but before doing that they would have to come to an agreement with the Harbour Board. Rice Grass spread rapidly and it would not be possible to say at the moment how far it would affect the port and harbour of



Wexford. It would certainly be the means of reclaiming a large area at the southern end.

The Chairman said he knew the place for years. It was a passage between the main land and harbour and the people complained that though in years past it could be used for traffic at high tide it was now available only at low tide. The contemplated wall would run for about three-quarters of a mile. The people concerned had waited on him constantly but he could not see having regard to the number of residents that even if the Council had the power it would be advisable to incur such a large expenditure. The amount involved would buy out the holdings in the locality.

Colonel Gibbon said they had already agreed to the Rate for the year and with the best will in the world to deal with the matter the money was not available. He proposed the following resolution which was seconded by Mr Hall:- "That the Coast Erosion Commission be requested to approach the Department of Agriculture with a view to the latter making experimental plantings of Rice Grass at Rosslare at places to be arranged in consultation with the County Surveyor." *Passed*

Different Classes of Roads: The County Surveyor in reply to Colonel Gibbon said the approximate average ratio of cost between Slab concrete and sandwich concrete was as 4 to 7.

Colonel Gibbon said they should adjourn consideration of this matter until they had a report from the Local Government Department as to the various classes of roads.

Mr Hall seconded.

The Chairman said it seemed to him there was an awful lot of tar or bitumen along the road from Gorey to Arklow and from Enniscorthy all of which was in excellent order. Why all this money was being spent on these good roads and so many bad roads requiring attention he could not understand. There appeared to be hundreds of drums of bitumen dumped at the Railway stations.



Mr Ennis, Assistant Surveyor, said he was spraying four miles of this road which had not been sprayed since 1928. Unless it was sprayed this year the Council would be taking a grave risk. He was using coarser material on this road to prevent horses slipping.

The Chairman said that taking the present condition of the road into consideration all this extra work could be regarded only as extravagance.

Colonel Gibbon said the complaint of the Chairman was caused not so much by the action of their Surveyors as by the L.G. Dept. which insisted upon this very high standard of maintenance.

After further discussion the resolution of Colonel Gibbon was put and passed.

The following resolution was then adopted on the motion of Mr O'Byrne seconded by Mr Hall:- "That the report of County Surveyor as submitted to this meeting be and is hereby adopted."

#### GENERAL MATTERS RE ROADS.

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Col. Quin pointed out the necessity for keeping material to be used for spraying off the travelling surface of the road as much as possible.

Mr McCarthy said he had received a complaint from three men in Ferns who considered their services had been dispensed with unjustly and some one else taken on.

Mr Gaul said the real grievance of these men was that they were on the work at 8 o'clock in the morning and at 11 o'clock they were told by the Ganger that the weather was not suitable for spraying and that they could go home. They were also of opinion that there was other road work besides spraying at which they could have been employed when spraying was suspended.

Mr Hall did not see why the boilers should be heated



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over night and steam got up on the engine until they knew the weather would permit of spraying.

Mr Ennis said that the man on the engine was not to get up steam unless the weather was suitable and a similar rule applied to the tar boilers. Of course in isolated cases there might be a miscalculation. In previous years he had some work to arrange on special jobs when spraying could not be carried on, but this year the Estimate was so much cut that the work was not available. He had to keep on the ganger who was in charge of the work and also a couple of men and the horse. The labour cost was the same in the end but it was spread over a longer time and the men had extra insurance stamps in consequence.

Mr Armstrong said the men should be employed in turn and a special effort should be made to employ men who had little or no stamps to their credit.

The Chairman said he had no doubt taking the work into consideration Mr Ennis gave fair play to the workers.

After further discussion Mr D'Arcy proposed and Mr Cooney seconded the following resolution which was adopted:- "That the County Surveyor furnish a record of the insurance stamps on workmen's cards for the four areas of the County."

Mr McCarthy said the information obtained in this way would be valueless from the point of view of the Council. They should have the circumstances of each man before them and that information could be <sup>procured</sup> ~~employed~~ only from the Unemployment Exchange.

Mr Gaul said that discussion such as the present would react against the men and help to kill the direct labour scheme.

Mr D'Arcy proposed and Mr Cooney seconded the following resolution which was adopted:- "That the Record of Insurance stamps for road workers be examined by the following Committee



which will report to the County Council:-

Enniscorthy District - Messrs Shannon and Clinee.

Gorey District- Messrs D'Arcy and Keegan.

New Ross District - Messrs Cooney and Murphy.

Wexford District - Mr Hayes and Miss O'Ryan.

It was decided that first meeting be arranged by Co. Surveyor and be held in County Council Chamber, Wexford.

CONTINUED ILLNESS OF MR JOHN KEHOE ASSISTANT SURVEYOR  
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The County Surveyor submitted the following Medical Certificate from Dr. S.V.O'Connor, Westgate, Wexford, under date 6th May, 1931:- "I certify that Mr John Kehoe is still under my care suffering from Neurasthenia, post Influenza, and will be unable to resume duty for one month."

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr O'Byrne seconded by Col. Quin:- "That Mr John Kehoe, <sup>sick</sup> Assistant Surveyor, be granted a further month's/leave up to 6th June, 1931,"

The County Surveyor said Mr Kehoe was improving rapidly and would soon be back at work.

PROPOSED NEW BRIDGE FOR WEXFORD.  
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The following resolution from the Wexford Development Association was submitted:- "We, the members of the Wexford Development Association call upon the Wexford Co. Council to provide a new bridge from Commercial Quay to Ferrybank (site of old bridge now demolished) in view of the fact that there is a bye-law in existence that will not allow a lorry of over two tons weight to cross existing bridge, which is one of the chief arteries to this town. We feel that a town of the trading importance of Wexford is not sufficiently catered for by a bridge such as now exists."

Colonel Gibbon - I propose it be referred to the County Surveyor to see what it would cost.



County Surveyor - £70,000.

Mr Corish said it would be a very desirable thing to have a new bridge, but he did not think the Council should be asked to go on with it now.

Chairman - We have no money to build it; leave the matter there.

Mr Cummins - I propose that it be built and that the money be spread over thirty or forty years. I would like the Development Association to take the matter up and put some plan before us.

Chairman - Haven't we a bridge in Wexford ?

Mr Cummins - That's out of date.

Chairman - I wish we had all we could carry over it.

Mr Gaul - It isn't sufficiently strong to carry heavy traffic.

Chairman - But Ferrycarrig isn't very far away.

Mr Cummins referred to the building of New Ross Bridge, but Mr Cooney remarked that two Councils subscribed for New Ross bridge, while he supposed the cost of a new bridge in Wexford would have to be borne by one Council.

Chairman - You know very well we have no ways or means to build this bridge at the moment.

Mr Cummins remarked that the New Ross bridge was built during the poorest period in Ireland.

No action was taken in the matter.

#### ROAD BRIDGES.

Mr Murphy said he wanted to know from the County Surveyor when he was going to do the bridge at Ballygarvan.

The County Surveyor said he was preparing the specification at present, and he intended to advertise in the newspapers inviting tenders. If there were no tenders he would have to have the work carried out by direct labour.

Mr Murphy asked if the County Surveyor had gone to see Saltmills bridge.



The County Surveyor said he had not gone to see the bridge, but he had the following report, under date 7th May, 1931, from Mr P. O'Neill, Assistant Surveyor, for the district:

"I inspected the above bridge today with the Contractor for the road. The abutments are in good order but underneath the arch there is some pointing required. After rain some water percolates through the crown. There are a number of old cracks in the parapet walls but they are not likely to develop. It would be a vast improvement if the haunches were trunked at both sides and about 3" of macadam laid on the crown. The cost of carrying out the above including the pointing would be £40."

Mr Murphy said he heard since the last meeting that there was a slight defect at Saltmills Bridge, and a small outlay now might save a lot of expense later. The probability is that if not done now it would cost hundreds of pounds later on.

On the proposition of Mr Murphy, seconded by Mr Hall, it was decided that the County Surveyor should visit the bridge and get the necessary repairs done at a cost not exceeding £40.

#### BLASTING IN QUARRIES.

Mr Cooney asked who was responsible for blasting in the quarries.

County Surveyor - The Assistant Surveyor primarily. In some cases gangers have authority to do small blasts.

Mr Cooney - Is it a fact that the workers in Tinnecarrig quarry are blasting, at present ?

County Surveyor - The individual workers ?

Mr Cooney - Yes.

County Surveyor - I wouldn't think so.

Mr Cooney - I have been informed that the workers are blasting there.

Mr O'Neill (Assistant Surveyor) - The ganger is in



charge of the quarry.

Mr Cooney - But the ganger is not blasting.

The County Surveyor said that if an expert ordinary worker who had been in the habit of doing such work was still continuing to do it, it was all right.

Mr Cooney - Isn't it the duty of the ganger to be in charge of the work ?

County Surveyor - It is.

Mr Cooney - Why then is it that the workmen in the quarry are doing the work ?

Chairman - Isn't the ganger supervising the work ?

The County Surveyor said that in all cases there were certain men who had a particular aptitude for that work, and naturally they would always have such men to look after that work, when they were specialists at it, so to speak.

No order.

#### NEW ROSS BRIDGE.

Mr Walsh said he wished to know what provision had been made for the painting of New Ross bridge. The question was raised last year, and it was stated that some money was being raised for it.

The County Surveyor said that no money was raised this year.

Mr Walsh said that the bridge would not stay there unless there was something done with it. If they kept putting the work off it would cost a lot more later.

Mr Cooney - I thought it was agreed to paint the bridge this year, and that the Co. Surveyor said he was going to include the work in his estimates

In reply to the Chairman, the Co. Surveyor said the cost would be about £600.

Mr Walsh said that formerly the work was provided for over a term of years. A certain amount was provided every



year for a period of five years, The painting seemed to have been forgotten, and it was a matter that should not be forgotten. He had already raised the matter twice, and it did not appear to be any nearer being done. An iron bridge could not stand unless it was painted, and certainly the bridge was in a bad state at present for the want of paint.

Mr Cooney (to Co. Surveyor) - I think you got instructions to bring the work in to your estimate this year.

Mr Walsh - That is my impression, too.

Mr McCarthy - I suggest that the County Surveyor bring the work into his estimate for next year.

Mr Cooney - I think some painting work should be done. The bridge is rusting and eating away, and every year will make it worse.

Co. Surveyor - I don't think it is eating away at all.

Mr Walsh suggested that if the bridge were painted in portions every year it would be a much better plan. He thought that a portion should be done each year and some this year.

Chairman - You haven't the money for painting it, and the only thing is to bring it in on the estimates next year.

Mr Cooney - Could we borrow £300 ?

Secretary - I don't know whether the Bank will give it to you or not.

Col. Quin remarked that he had been speaking to a Newcastle-on-Tyne engineer who suggested a paint that would last seven or ten years.

Mr Cooney - I think we could borrow the £300 and ask Kilkenny for the other £300.

Chairman - Do you think the Kilkenny Co. Council will hand you over £300 the minute you ask for it ?

Mr Cooney said he would give notice of motion to have £300 borrowed.

Mr Walsh said he thought that during the discussion last



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year with reference to the New Ross Bridge Col. Gibbon pointed out that the opening span of Ferrycarrig bridge might not be done for another year, and that the money allocated to that - £150 - might be transferred to the New Ross bridge. If they had £150 they would only have to raise another £150.

Mr Corish said there was certainly a long discussion on New Ross Bridge last year, and he thought it was pointed out by Messrs Walsh & Cooney that the bridge was in a bad way, and there was some definite promise that some thing would be done this year. There was no doubt about that.

On the suggestion of Mr Murphy it was decided to defer further consideration of the matter until it could again be raised in connection with Mr Cooney's notice of motion.

#### LOANS FOR RURAL DISTRICT DEBIT BALANCES.

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The following under date 20th April, 1931, was read from the Department of Local Government (S.28436/31 Loch Garman Pg):-

"With reference to your letter of the 16th instant, I am directed by the Minister for Local Government and Public Health to state that by virtue of the provision of Section 3 of the Local Authorities (Financial Provisions) Act, as extended, he has given his approval to the obtaining by the Wexford County Council from their Treasurer of a temporary loan of £5,170 to enable them to pay off the debit balance in the case of Enniscorthy Rural District and a temporary loan of £10,945 to pay off the debit balance against the Wexford Rural District; the loans to be repayable within a period of five years with interest at a half per cent under Irish Banks Discount Rate (varying) subject to a minimum of four per cent."

Under date 4th May, 1931, Mr M. Coghlan, Manager Wexford Branch National Bank, wrote that his Directors had sanctioned loans for £5170 and £10945 respectively to extinguish the



debit balances of Enniscorthy and Wexford Rural District Charges A/C for a period of five years at one half per cent under Irish Banks Rate varying minimum 4 per cent. It should be clearly understood that as soon as Loans were availed of the sanctioned limit of County Council's overdraft accommodation would be reduced to £19885.

The following resolutions were adopted on the motion of Mr Corish seconded by Mr McCarthy, Mr Hall dissenting:-  
 "That pursuant to letter of sanction of the Minister for Local Government and Public Health dated 20th April, 1931, (S.28436/1931) the sums of £5170 and £10,945 be borrowed from the National Bank Limited, Wexford, for the purpose of paying off the debit balances of the Enniscorthy Rural District and the Wexford Rural District respectively to be repaid within five years with Interest at the rate of a half per cent under Irish Bank's rate varying subject to a minimum of 4 per cent per annum as in said letter of sanction provided. And it is further resolved that the seal of the Council be affixed to the necessary mortgage over the rates to secure said loan.

That the amount of said **loan** be applied in reduction of the Council's present limit of overdraft accommodation with their Treasurer."

Under date 9th May, 1931, Mr Elgee, County Solicitor, wrote stating he had amended the Draft Mortgage by altering the payments from ten half yearly to five yearly instalments, as all the other loans of the Council provided for payment on a yearly basis.

#### COAST EROSION AT ROSSLARE.

The following under date 30th March, 1931 (5456/31) was read from Office of Public Works:-

"With reference to your letter of the 24th instant on the subject of remedial measures for coast erosion at Rosslare, we have now been informed that the whole of the sum



voted for Relief Schemes has been allocated, and that no amount has been allocated to this Department for expenditure at Rosslare."

The following under date 20th April, 1931, was read from the Secretary of Rosslare Golf Club:-

"The Rosslare Golf Club at their monthly meeting regarded with concern the attitude adopted by the County Council in not applying for the grant allocated by the Government for unemployment in Rosslare.

As this Grant could have been very usefully expended on protection work my Committee are apprehensive lest the present attitude of the Co. Council if persisted in would prejudice any future grant for this purpose and would very kindly request them to reconsider the position should a future request be made to them by the Rosslare Association.

My Committee are also under the impression that the Co. Council could have applied for the grant on the understanding that it would not prejudice their position as to incurring future liability for coast erosion."

Chairman - They went up to Dublin and brought back a recommendation. The money was never granted. I am perfectly sure the Board of Works knew that all the money was gone, and that we would not get it. It was now sought to throw the onus on the Council. I wonder the Golf Club were not more active in looking after them. Their committee have not nearly as much to do as the County Council.

No order.

#### ROAD GRANTS.

The Secretary reported the receipt from Local Government Department of £408 (26th March, 1931, R.G.79) and £1077 (4th May, 1931 (R.G. 79) Grant for reconstruction of streets in Enniscorthy Urban District.

#### HAULAGE AND EMPLOYMENT OF MEN.

Under date 11th April, 1931, letter was read from Mr



Keegan, Co. Councillor, giving notice that he intended to raise the question of haulage and employment of surface men in Gorey Area with the Co. Surveyor and the Assistant Surveyor for the District.

Mr Keegan complained that the tenders for haulage had been dealt with by the Assistant Surveyor and not by the Tenders Committees and he wished to know by whose authority.

The Co. Surveyor stated that at the County Council meeting on 14th April, 1930, the following motion by Mr Shannon and which was seconded by Mr Hayes was carried by ten votes to nine.

"That the resolution of the County Council deciding that haulage of road material by horses (per yard mile) be carried out by tender, be rescinded, and that the Council fix a rate for haulage per yard mile. That haulage be allocated to hauliers most in need of employment."

This was the answer to Mr Keegan's query.

Mr Keegan questioned the employment of a Road worker named Kirwan but after a good deal of discussion no order was made.

At the end of the meeting Mr Keegan gave notice of motion to move at the meeting of the County Council on 8th June, 1931, that the resolution of the County Council of the 14th April, 1930, abolishing the procedure of accepting haulage by horses (per yard mile) by tenders to Tenders Committee be rescinded and that in future tenders for such haulage be dealt with by the Tenders Committees for each County Electoral area.

CONTROL OF DOGS ORDER - KILLING AND MAIMING  
OF SHEEP.

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Under date 1st April, 1931, the Department of Agriculture wrote that they had under consideration the question of the better enforcement of the regulations made by Local Authorities for the control of dogs between the hours of sunset and sunrise. From statistics it appeared that during the two years ended 31st December last, 1099 sheep were killed by dogs. The Department had reason to believe that the regulations were



either not enforced or not observed. Apart from the number of sheep actually killed a good deal of injury was done to sheep, especially during the lambing season by worrying or chasing by dogs, an aspect of the matter which deterred farmers from engaging more extensively in sheep breeding.

With a view to directing the attention of all concerned to the Regulations the Local Authority should send full particulars to the local Gardai and also arrange for the display of suitable posters at all Garda stations, Post Offices and Sub Post Offices in their area.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr Murphy seconded by Mr Shannon:- "That the Regulations of this Council under Control of Dogs Order be advertised in the three local papers - three insertions in each - as we believe this to be the best method of securing widespread publicity."

#### FORESTRY ACTS.

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Under date 5th March, 1931, the Department of Agriculture wrote (2530 F.) that they had been informed that Condition 5 of the Scheme of Free Grants to private owners for the purpose of planting or replanting had the effect of discouraging small farmers who desire to undertake planting operations, and who would not be prepared to plant so large an area as five acres. The Clause had been amended so that grants would be available for a plantation covering not less than five statute acres established by one or more occupiers within a specified area provided that no constituent portion of the plantation was less than one statute acre and that the full acreage was planted in the same season.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr Hall seconded by Mr O'Byrne:- "That we confirm the following resolution which has been adopted by the Co. Wexford Committee of Agriculture:-

✓ "That in the opinion of this Committee the amendments



made in the Scheme of Grants to owners of land for the purpose of planting or replanting under the Forestry Acts 1919 and 1928 will not allow of the scheme being taken up in this county. From our knowledge<sup>of</sup> the County we believe it would not be possible to induce five farmers in a limited area to plant an acre each and so far as Wexford is concerned we are convinced that unless the Department would be prepared to recognise for grant purposes the planting of a single acre by our farmers the scheme would be unworkable."

SECONDARY AND VOCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS 1931  
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The Secretary reported that examinations in connection with above had been held in Christian Schools, Oliver Plunkett Street, Wexford, on 8th 9th and 10th April, 1931, and had been conducted by officials of the Department of Education:

NATIONAL MONUMENTS.  
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The Office of Public Works writing under date 20th March, 1931 (3009/31) stated that an inspection was being made of Ferns Cathedral, and they would arrange to have Ferns Castle and Clonmines Ruins inspected in due course. They asked for further information regarding Rathmacknee of which they could trace no record.

Referred to Local Advisory Committee.

POISONS AND PHARMACY ACT LICENCES.  
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The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Col. Quin seconded by Mr Shannon:-, "That new licence under Poisons and Pharmacy Act be issued to Michael R. Moran, Castle Street, Enniscorthy, on receipt of fee (10/-) and that renewals under same Act be granted to Messrs N. Thackaberry, Bunclody; James J. Codd, 26 & 27 Court St., Enniscorthy, and M.J. Cullen, Taghmon."



ANALYST'S REPORT.

Report of Analyst for the quarter ended 31st March, 1931, was submitted. From this it appeared that the following analyses had been carried out - Foods 141; Drugs, 50; Waters, 4, - Total - 195. Adulterated - Whiskey, 1; Buttermilk, 1; Waters condemned, 2.

HISTORICAL EXHIBITS.

COMMITTEE OF FEIS CHARMAN, 1931.

Letter was read from above Committee asking the Co. Council to receive a deputation with a view to obtaining permission for the use of the main entrance hall of the Co. Hall for the purpose of depositing in show cases any historical exhibits which might be presented to them at the conclusion of the Feis.

In a further communication the Committee asked that the matter should be adjourned.

It was decided to inform the Committee that they would be received by the Council at their next meeting.

IRISH TOURIST ASSOCIATION.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr Gaul seconded by Mr McCarthy:- "That Mr R. Corish M.C.C. be appointed as the Representative of Wexford Co. Council on the Board of Directors of the Irish Tourist Association for year ending March, 1932."

DISPUTE BETWEEN PIONEER ROAD CONSTRUCTION CO.  
AND CO. COUNCIL.

Mr Murphy proposed and Col. Quin seconded the following resolution:- "That notice of motion of Mr McCarthy as to dispute between the Pioneer Road Construction Co. and the Wexford Co. Council be considered in Committee."

Mr Keegan challenged a poll on this motion which was taken and resulted as follows:-

For - Messrs Armstrong, Colfer, Corish, Cummins, Gaul, Hayes, Hall, Maylor, McCarthy, Murphy, O'Byrne, Quin, Shannon,



Smyth, Walsh and the Chairman - 16.

Against - Mr Keegan - 1.

The following Councillors were not present when poll was taken - Messrs Brennan, Cooney, D'Arcy, Gibbon, and Jordan(5).

The Chairman declared the resolution carried.

Mr McCarthy then moved the following of which he had given previous notice:- "That the resolution of the County Council deciding that the dispute between the Pioneer Road Construction Company and the Council be settled by Court proceedings be rescinded and that said dispute be referred to Mr.T.C.Courtney, County Surveyor for North Tipperary, provided the Pioneer Road Construction Company accept this nomination and that Mr Courtney is prepared to act as Arbitrator."

Mr Hall seconded.

A poll was taken with the following result:-

For - Messrs Cooney, Corish, Cummins, Gaul, Hall, Hayes, McCarthy, Murphy, O'Byrne and Shannon-10.

Against - Messrs Armstrong, D'Arcy, Keegan, Meyler, Quin, Smyth, Walsh and the Chairman - 8.

Mr Colfer did not vote and Messrs Brennan, Gibbon and Jordan (3) were not present when poll was taken.

The Chairman declared the motion carried.

NEXT MEETING OF THE COUNCIL.  
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In connection with next meeting of Council the date of which fell on Bank holiday 25th inst, Mr O'Byrne proposed that they hold the meeting on 26th May.

Mr Hall seconded.

Mr Cummins proposed and Mr Keegan seconded a motion to hold the meeting on 25th. They should decline to observe the bank holiday so far as their business was concerned.

The Secretary informed the Council that in the existing state of the law any business done at a meeting held on a bank holiday would be invalid.

Mr Hall stated he would vote for the motion only that



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it was not legal to transact business on bank holidays.

Mr Gaul - Perhaps Mr Cummins is not aware that Whit Monday is the second day of the Co. Feis.

Mr Cummins - I am well aware of that, I would be here that day and propose the adjournment of the meeting so that all could attend the Feis.

Mr Corish said he was in thorough agreement with the motion. He did not agree with the law which made business transacted by public bodies on bank holidays/<sup>invalid</sup>and had voted against it in the Dail. But, in view of the law as it stood would there be any use in having the meeting on the bank holiday if any business they transacted would not be valid ?

Mr Cummins - I want everyone to come to the Feis.

On a poll there voted for Mr Cummins' motion with himself and the seconded, Mr Colfer and the Chairman - 4.

Messrs

Against -/Armstrong, Cooney, D'Arcy, Gaul, Hayes, Hall, Mayler, McCarthy, Murphy, O'Byrne, Shannon, Smyth, Walsh, Corish, and Col. Quin - 15.

Messrs Brennan, Gibbon and Jordan (3) were not present when poll was taken.

The motion was declared lost and it was decided to hold the next meeting on the 26th inst.

#### PUBLIC HEALTH (SPECIAL EXPENSES) ACT 1931

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Circular letter under date 29th April, 1931 (S 41/31) from the Local Government Department re above was read.

#### APPOINTMENT OF CO. SURVEYORS.

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Under date 1st May, 1931, letter (R.S.204) was read from L.G.D. It called attention to advertisement from Civil Service Commissioners inviting applications from persons desirous of having their names on the panel of candidates eligible for appointment as Co. Surveyors etc.

#### RELIEF OF RATES ON AGRICULTURE.

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Under date 7th May, 1931, the L.G. Department wrote



(Circ. No. G.45/1931 Miscellaneous) that it was expected in the near future it would be possible to notify the Co. Council of the exact sum to be allocated to them as regards the additional funds for the relief of agricultural ratepayers in connection with the Rate for the current year. When the amount was known it would be necessary to alter correspondingly the Demand notes Receipts and Counterfoil forms so as to show equally between each moiety the ascertained abatement. The issue of Books and Warrants to the Collectors should be deferred.

Under date 9th May, 1931, the Secretary to County Councils General Council wrote asking for the views of the Council as to the Report of the De-Rating Commission and the proposal of the Government for the relief of Agricultural ratepayers, for submission to the meeting of General Council to be held on 5th June 1931.

Col. Quin moved that consideration of Report of De-Rating Commission and of the Government proposal for the relief of Agricultural ratepayers be adjourned to the meeting of 26th May.

Mr Sean O'Byrne seconded.

The Chairman stated he believed that every member read the report, and it should be possible to deal with it that day unless the members wanted to study it between then and the next meeting.

Mr Gaul stated that some members were absent and it would not be fair to discuss the report in their absence.

In reply to Mr Walsh the Secretary stated he intended to bring the matter of how the rate collectors would be affected by the grant before the finance committee.

Col. Quin stated it would not make any difference to discuss the matter at the next meeting, as they would be then in a position to forward their views to the General Council of Co. Councils, which would not meet until June.



Mr Cummins stated he was opposed to adjourning for even one moment the consideration of the question of de-rating. He desired that their representatives should tell the General Council of Co. Councils what he had told the Co. Council on different occasions in regard to the de-rating. They now had the report of the Commission on De-Rating, and as he informed the Council, they were only fooling the people.

Col. Quin at this stage left the chamber protesting that the business of the Council was being held up.

Mr Cummins (addressing Col. Quin) - There would not be much done if we allowed you to have your way, when you were in power.

Proceeding Mr Cummins stated that the appointment of the De-Rating Commission was merely throwing dust in the eyes of the people. He had advised on frequent occasions the withholding of the annuities given the Government and their payment into the Council for the purpose of relieving the rates. He hoped their representatives on the General Council of Co. Councils would advise that body to adopt a resolution to that effect. There was no democratic body in the Free State representing the people in the real sense except the General Council of Co. Councils. If the action he urged were taken up generally it would mean that the sum of £128,000 at present being paid out of the county would be retained for the relief of the rates, and until that took place there would be no peace, contentment or prosperity in the country. He proposed that all Land Commission Annuities be paid into the account of the Co. Council for the purpose of relieving the Rates. Their Representatives on the General Council should press for a declaration by that body to have the land annuities dealt with on the lines he advocated.

Mr Keegan seconding, said that the amount of money which the Government proposed to give for the relief of agriculture would not be of advantage to the small farmers. He did not see any way of obtaining the relief necessary for the farming



community other than to withhold the payment of the annuities.

Chairman - I take it that we are to have a general discussion on the De-Rating Commission report at the next meeting. Col. Quin has moved that the letter of the General Council of Co. Councils be adjourned, and Mr O'Byrne has seconded it. Although Col. Quin is not here now I take it you will accept the proposition.

Mr Keegan said he objected to the proposition being accepted, as its mover had left the meeting.

The Chairman pointed out that any other member could move the proposition on Col. Quin's behalf.

Mr J. Gaul intimated that he would propose the motion, as Col. Quin was not present.

Mr O'Byrne stated that Mr Cummins' resolution could be included in the opinions which the Council would submit to the General Council of Co. Councils.

Mr Cummins said he would insist on his proposition being taken first, as it was a substantive ~~motion~~ resolution.

Mr Gaul submitted that Mr Cummins should give notice of his resolution.

Chairman - I don't see any necessity for a notice of motion and I'll not ask him to give it.

Mr O'Byrne suggested that Mr Cummins should withdraw his proposition and allow it to be embodied in the recommendations which the Council would make to the General Council of Co. Councils.

Mr Cummins said that everywhere he went there was a desire to have action on the lines he suggested taken, and the question had been put to him why hadn't there been a resolution passed on it. At the present time the £128,000 being paid in annuities in Co. Wexford was going to England, and not a single penny of it was being spent in the county. The people had the power of withholding the annuities. Continuing, Mr Cummins contrasted the stand taken in the days of the land



war with the attitude being adopted today. They were being told today about the moral obligation on them to ~~pay~~ the annuities. There was no moral obligation, he asked, on any man to pay what he could not afford to pay? If there are a few farmers who can make their farms pay there are ninety in every hundred who cannot. He exhorted councils to take the stand on this matter which the Co. Mayo Council did on the library question. They had the other day "this fellow with his Budget -".

Mr T. McCarthy, on a point of order, intervened, stating that Mr Cummins for whom he had great respect, was outstepping the bounds.

Mr Cummins - If the Chairman says I am out of order I'll sit down as readily as Mr McCarthy. I am, however, only trying to impress this matter which must tingle on your ears. I was in your district last week and every man I met was of the same opinion as I am expressing. We have today upstarts standing out to let the money be exported calling the men who did something for Ireland "windbags". There were men belonging to the old district councils who would adorn the chamber of the Dail when those in it now would not be found.

Mr Cummins consented to withdraw his resolution to allow of its discussion at next meeting and Mr Gaul's was declared passed.

#### SHEEP DIPPING PROGRAMME, 1931.

The following under date 7th May 1931 (L.1781-31) was read from the Department of Agriculture:-

"With reference to the relative minutes of Proceedings at a Meeting of your County Council on the 23rd March, I have to state that the Department note with regret that your Local Authority have not seen their way to adopt regulations for prescribing the dipping of sheep under supervision at specified times and places during the current year on the lines recommended in the Department's letter of the 10th idem. While the



Department cannot regard your Local Authority's Sheep Dipping arrangements as satisfactory, they will, in the circumstances, offer no objection to the re-adoption for the forthcoming Dipping Periods of arrangements similar to those which obtained last year.

With regard to your letter of the 30th ultimo, I have to state that the Department agree to the appointment of the under mentioned persons as Dipping Inspectors during the Dipping Periods of the current year, with remuneration at the rate of £1 per week, inclusive of travelling expenses, but not covering expenditure on postage, which is to be refunded, viz:- James Murphy, Myles Roban, Ml.J. Hennesey, Thomas Hayden, Thos. Prendergast, Patrick Ormonde."

It was decided to impress on Sheep Dipping Inspectors to pay particular attention to the men who had 50 or less sheep and see as many of them dipped as possible. All the outbreaks of sheep scab for some time past have occurred in such cases.

COURTOWN HARBOUR SLUICE GATES.  
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The following under date 4th May, 1931, (D/5/2) was read from the Department of Lands & Fisheries:-

"I am directed by the Minister for Lands & Fisheries to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 30th ultimo, and to state that in view of the opinion of the County Surveyor that he could erect new sluice gates at a cost of £700 the Minister recommended a State grant of half that estimate. As Courtown Harbour is the property of the Wexford County Council and that body is consequently responsible for all repairs and maintenance, it is considered that the contribution of £350 from State funds is ample."

The County Surveyor submitted two tenders for the work:

Messrs Lee Bros., 2, Upper Main Street, Arklow, at £805 for workmanship and £127: 8s. for timber which is to be supplied by the Co. Council. Total £932: 8: 0.



Mr George O'Connor, Monument Place, Wexford, tendered at £980: 0: 0: workmanship and £127: 8: for timber to be supplied by the County Council. Total £1107: 8: 0.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr O'Byrne seconded by Mr D'Arcy:- "That the tender of Messrs Lee, Bros. Arklow, at £932: 8: 0. for renovation of Sluice Gates at Courtown Harbour in accordance with specification prepared by Co. Surveyor be accepted. That the Department of Lands and Fisheries be requested to obtain from Department of Finance an additional grant of £82 to cover the difference between the extra amount of the accepted tender and the grant of £500 by the Co. Council and £350 by the Department of Lands and Fisheries. We are convinced that the delay of the Department in dealing with the proposals of the Council is responsible for this increased cost. We would also point out that all through the correspondence it was anticipated that the work would have been carried out by equal contributions from the Government and the Co. Council. The latter now find that whereas they have contributed £500 towards the cost the Department have up to the present offered £350 only."

#### SALARIES OF COUNTY COUNCIL STAFF.

The following under date 16th April, 1931 (G. 24994/1931. Loch Garman) was read from the Department of Local Government:

"I am directed by the Minister for Local Government and Public Health to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 3rd instant relative to the payment of increments in the salaries of the staff ~~in~~ in your office and the County Surveyor's Office, and to draw attention to the terms of the Minister's sanction to the present scale of remuneration of these officers and to state that in view of the certificates furnished his further sanction to the increments allowed is not necessary.

The Minister concurs in Mr Donohoe's appointment being now regarded as permanent in view of the satisfactory ter-



mination of his probationary service."

BUILDING ADJOINING ROADS 347 and 348.

The following under date 30th April, 1931, was submitted from Mr Treanor, Assistant Surveyor, Gorey District:

"On my rounds of inspection to-day I noticed portion of a house in process of erection on road 348 where it joins road 347. This building is at a bad corner, and if proceeded with will constitute a danger to road users. I am by this post notifying Miss Breen, Seaview, Clonevan, who I am informed is the owner, not to proceed further with work and that I am reporting matter to you."

Mr Smyth who proposed that the Council take no action in the matter said that the new building was on an old foundation.

Mr D'Arcy seconded the motion which was adopted without dissent.

HOLLYFORT BRIDGE + ROAD NO. 83.

The following under date 25th April, 1931, was read from Mr Treanor, Assistant Surveyor:-

"I made inspection of above on 23rd instant, when I found it was in need of repairs. It is a two span structure and side and centre walls are in places very defective. Arch requires to be opened and grouted. Parapet walls for a length of about 100 yards to be taken down and rebuilt and retaining walls buttressed. There is an overflow arch adjoining which requires cleaning and repairing. I estimate cost of above work at £135."

Mr O'Byrne proposed and Mr D'Arcy seconded:- "That a sum of £135 be withdrawn from County Contingency Fund to provide for immediate repairs to Hollyfort Bridge - Road 83."

GOREY GAS AND WATER CO. LTD.

Under date 29th April, 1931, Mr Treanor, Assistant Surveyor, Gorey District, wrote stating that Gorey Gas & Water



Co. had applied for permission to open ground in Main St. Gorey; as there were some bad gas leaks since the steam roller had been working. They would make good the road surface in a proper manner.

It was decided on the motion of the Chairman seconded by Mr Hall that the necessary permission be granted and that if the Gorey Gas & Water Co. Ltd. did not restore the road surface to the satisfaction of the Assistant Surveyor proceedings be instituted against them.

#### FORD OF LYNG.

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The Chairman inquired how this matter now stood.

Mr Elgee, Solicitor, said that Mr Jellett K.C. required the further attendance of himself and the Co. Surveyor to go into some further queries which had occurred to him since their previous interview. Pending result the summons had not been issued.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr McCarthy seconded by Mr O'Byrne:- "That the County Solicitor and County Surveyor arrange for an immediate interview with Mr Jellett K.C. in connection with legal proceedings relative to Ford of Lyng."

#### NEW ROSS BRIDGE AND NAVIGATION LIGHTS.

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The following under date 6th May, 1931, was read from the New Ross Harbour Commissioners:-

"The necessity for the provision of Navigation lights on above was discussed by my Board at their meeting on the 5th inst., and I was instructed to communicate with you and with the Secretary of the Kilkenny County Council (in whom the Bridge is vested) and to request that this important matter may have your immediate attention."

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr Walsh seconded by Mr Hall:- "That the letter from New Ross Harbour Commissioners as to proposed provision of Navigation



Lights on New Ross Bridge be referred to Mr Elgee, Solicitor, for his advice."

#### ALTERATION OF FENCE.

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Application was submitted by the Co. Surveyor from James Brewer, Irishtown, New Ross, as to alteration of fences at Mountgarrett, New Ross, on the road leading from Fairgreen to Woodville.

Mr P. O'Neill, Assistant Surveyor for the district reported that if Mr Brewer's application was granted an improvement would be effected. There would be no encroachment on the road, and a very unsightly dumping ground would be removed.

Mr Hall proposed a resolution agreeing to the application. The Chairman seconded and the motion was passed.

#### HARMFUL CINEMA PICTURES.

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The following resolution was submitted from Limerick Corporation:-

"That believing a considerable proportion of the Cinema Pictures licensed for general public exhibition in An Saorstát are of such a character as to be definitely unsuitable for and harmful to young persons from the moral and educational standpoint, and the Censorship being unable under existing laws to remedy this grave evil, we call on the Representatives of all parties in Dail Eireann to take prompt measures by the passing of the necessary new or amending legislation to ensure that all Cinematograph Pictures dealing with matters that are of a sensual or criminal nature shall not be publicly exhibited to young persons under the age of 16, and to establish a special or supplementary censorship for the licensing of films suitable for the young."

It was decided to take no action in the matter.

#### PAYMENTS TO ROAD CONTRACTORS.

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The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr



35  
O'Byrne seconded by Mr Hall:- "That the several proposals for payment including those to Road Contractors set out on Form 22 and certified by County Surveyor be and are hereby agreed to subject ~~to~~ to the modifications and other orders noted thereon, and initialled by the Chairman."

*Michael Doyle*

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WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL.

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MEETING 26TH MAY, 1931.

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MINUTES.

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COUNTY HALL,  
WEXFORD.

N. J. FRIZELLE,  
SECRETARY.

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

Present:- Mr Ml. Doyle (Chairman) presiding: also Messrs James Clince, Patrick Colfer, Thomas Cooney, Richard Corish, John Culleton, John Cummins, Timothy F. D'Arcy, John Doran, Col.C.M. Gibbon, James Hall, Patrick Hayes, William P. Keegan, Thomas Maylor, Thomas McCarthy, John Murphy, Sean O'Byrne, Miss Nellie O'Ryan, Col. R.P.Wemyss Quin, M.M. Roche, and James Shannon.

The Secretary, County Surveyor, Mr Elgee, Solicitor, and Assistant Surveyors Messrs Treanor, Ennis, O'Neill, Cullen and Birthistle were also in attendance.

The Minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed.

#### PAYMENTS.

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Treasurer's Advice Note for £2,428: 1: 2d was examined and signed.

#### COUNTY SURVEYOR'S REPORT.

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The following report was submitted from County Surveyor:-

"On the 21st instant, by arrangement with Mr Courtney and Pioneer Road Construction Company, I attended in Gorey, and we had a full discussion in regard to the claim of the Pioneer Company for material left in Gorey Hill Quarry. Mr Courtney subsequently visited the quarry, and he is to go fully into details of figures and submit his award as soon as possible. Earlier on the same day I walked over the whole of the Concrete road between Gorey and Courtown, and noted defects, and have arranged for repair of same. I also arranged in regard to the consolidation of the sides of the road.

On the 18th instant I met Mr Lee, Contractor for the new gates at Courtown Harbour, discussed the procedure to be adopted, and arranged for the work. Mr Lee has now commenced



2

dismantling the old gates. On the 19th instant, with Mr Lee, I inspected the oak logs prepared for us at Castleboro, and have arranged for their immediate delivery at Courtown. These logs are really of a high quality, and have been very carefully prepared by Mr Coppen.

I have prepared a fully detailed Specification for the rebuilding of Ballygarvan Bridge, and have inserted advertisement inviting tenders for the work which I shall submit at your meeting.

Messrs M. O'Connor and Company, Builders, have commenced the repair work at Fortview premises. In connection with this matter some arrangements must be made in regard to the portion of the premises still occupied by the Caretaker. I shall arrange that it will not be necessary to disturb him until towards the end of the work, but he will then have to leave the place.

On the 4th instant I spent sometime at New Ross Bridge and took record of the speed of motor lorries passing over the bridge. Mr Richards obtained for me names of the owners of the lorries, and I shall submit particulars to the meeting.

I have been unable, up to the present, to arrange for the Committee meeting in regard to Insurance Stamps, and, possibly, a date can be fixed at your present meeting.

The Surface Dressing of roads as arranged under the Road Works Scheme is now in progress, and is at present proceeding satisfactorily, subject to weather conditions.

The Secretary has received a claim from Messrs A. Hull for balance due on their Contract for Wexford-Ferrycarrig Road, and I have gone into details with Mr Elgee. You will, probably, discuss the whole of this in Committee.

I have had a communication from the Local Government Department in regard to the allocation of money for Grants this year. I had already been in communication with Mr Quigley, Chief Engineer, Roads Department, but he is at pres-



ent on sick leave. I have been asked for suggestions as to the difference between laying 4" slab or sandwich method concrete on the Wexford-New Ross Line. I have carefully gone into the figures in connection with this, and have written to the Local Government Department. The difference in cost between the two systems is in the proportion of 9-7, and I consider that better value would be obtained by the slab road, and, accordingly, I recommended same. A portion of the money will be allocated for laying 6" slab on Enniscorthy-Buncloody Road, for something short of a mile, leaving a couple of miles to be dealt with next year. In order to facilitate this work, which must be done out of Cherryorchard Quarry, I have suggested water bound macadam on a short section of the Enniscorthy-Kiltealy road, as we have suitable material already blocking the quarry. There is also a small sum to cover the extra cost on the Gorey-Courtown Road which was not provided for in our original proposal for this work."

Ballygarvan Bridge: The County Surveyor said he had obtained one tender for the reconstruction of this bridge from Mr Wm. Shannon, Ballygarvan, amount £442 while the estimate for the work was £365. He suggested that the matter might be left to the Finance Committee.

Mr Colfer asked if the County Surveyor could not do the work by direct labour.

County Surveyor - That is a point worth considering in view of the fact that the tender is so high.

Mr Cooney proposed:-

"That the County Surveyor be instructed to carry out the reconstruction work at Ballygarvan Bridge at a cost not exceeding £365."

Mr Colfer seconded and the resolution was passed.

The County Surveyor said he was satisfied to try and carry out the work at the estimated amount at which he thought



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it could be done. Of course an intending Contractor would have suitable plant and the Council on the direct labour job would have to purchase corresponding plant.

New Ross Bridge: The County Surveyor reported that the by-law provided that the speed across this bridge should not exceed three miles an hour. It was found on 1st May that nine motor vehicles passing over the structure crossed at from 10½ miles to 18 miles per hour. He suggested that a couple of the worst offenders should be proceeded against and this would serve as a warning to the general public.

Mr Corish considered that prosecutions should be instituted against all offending owners of vehicles.

The Chairman proposed the following resolution which was seconded by Colonel Quin and adopted:- "That the owners of the six vehicles found crossing New Ross Bridge at the highest illegal speeds on 1st May, 1931, in contravention to by-law of the County Council be prosecuted viz., Electricity Supply Board; Messrs Hearne, New Ross; Laurence O'Brien, Patrick St., Waterford; Shelbourne Co-Operative Society, Campile; and Ida Co-Operative Creamery, Tullogher, New Ross."

Committee re Insurance Stamps: It was decided that the Committee should meet after the termination of County Council meeting.

Wexford-Ferrycarrig Road: The following correspondence from Messrs Alex Hull & co., Pembroke Works, Ringsend Road, Dublin, was submitted:- Under date 21st May, 1931, Messrs Hull & Co., wrote (NT/BD) as follows:-

"We beg to notify you that the maintenance period under the terms of the above contract expired on the 19th instant and we accordingly demand immediate payment of the sum of one thousand eight hundred and seven pounds nineteen shillings and four pence (£1,807:19:4d) now due to us by your Council under the provisions of clauses 11 and 16 of the general conditions



of the above mentioned contract.

This sum represents the net amount due to us after deducting all moneys which have under this Contract become payable by the Contractor to the Council, as provided for in clause 8 of the said general conditions, together with the total amount of payments received to date, as set forth on the statement of account attached hereto.

In this connection we would draw your attention to paragraphs numbered 1, 2, and 3 of our letter of the 5th February last addressed to W.F. Barry, Esquire, County Surveyor, a copy of which we enclose for your information.

Your prompt attention to this matter will oblige."

The following is the statement of Account submitted by Messrs Hull & Co.:-

"AMOUNT OF CONTRACT.....£8,356: 7: 3:

Extra works as previously certified by  
County Surveyor..... 398: 11: 6:

£ 8,754: 18: 9:

DEDUCTIONS PROVIDED FOR IN CONTRACT:

Under Clause 14.

Cost of testing samples £23: 6: 6:

Under Clause 15.

Wages of Clerks of Works 189: 0: 0: 212: 6: 6:

NET AMOUNT PAYABLE UNDER CONTRACT.....£8,542: 12: 3:

Payments received to date 6,734: 12: 11:

UNDISCHARGED BALANCE DUE TO CONTRACTORS.....£1,807: 19: 4:

NOTE: This account relates only to monies now due to the Contractor by the Council under the terms of the Contract and is without prejudice to any other claims which the Contractor may have against the Council in respect of other matters."

Messrs Hull also submitted the following under date 21st May, 1931, (NT/BD) from them to the Co. Surveyor:-

"We are obliged for your letter of the 3rd instant notifying us that you have now formally taken over this contract from us, and enclosing a further pay order on account for the



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sum of £291:6:2d.

We are again accepting this payment under protest, for the following reasons, to which we have already drawn your attention, viz.:-

1. You have no right whatsoever to make deductions from the amount now admittedly due to us under certain specific clauses of our Contract, in respect of charges for use of Quarries and machinery, the recovery of which is nowhere provided for under the terms of the Contract.
2. We cannot, and will not, agree to pay you £80:15:4d. for idle time for machinery. You clearly stated in your letter of 16th August 1929: "If, from any cause, you find it necessary to leave the plant idle for any period there would be no charge provided you can give alternative work to our two engine men." This condition, we, on our part, have invariably complied with.
3. You have no right whatsoever to hold back a sum of four hundred pounds from the amount now due to us under the terms of our contract, in respect of matters for which we formally disclaimed all liability in our letter to you dated 7th January, 1930.

Apart from the items above referred to we are in agreement with the figures set forth in the statement of account you sent us under cover of your letter, with one exception. The total net amount shown on sheet 2 is £395:18:4d., this should read £398:11:6d. as previously certified by you in your statement of account dated 25th July, 1930."

It was decided on the motion of Mr Hall seconded by Mr O'Byrne that this matter be considered in committee.

The County Surveyor said that £395 was the correct figure. There was an item of £2:13:0: not taken into account in first statement. The other figures given by Messrs Hull was correct except that the correction would alter the total to £1805:6:2:

Various matters in connection with the Contract having



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been considered the following resolution was adopted on the motion of Col. Quin seconded by Mr O'Byrne:- "That Mr Elgee, Solicitor, be instructed to defend any proceedings which may be instituted by Messrs Hull & Co., Dublin, in respect of Contract for reconstruction of Wexford-Ferrycarrig Road."

Col. Gibbon suggested that Counsel's opinion should be taken but the majority of the meeting did not approve.

Slab Concrete Roads v Sandwich Concrete Roads: Miss O'Ryan said that the sandwich road was the best road for farmers. The people in the vicinity of main sandwich concrete road at Tomcoole protested against a road which would give too smooth a surface, as horses could not retain a foothold on it. They were quite satisfied with the sandwich concrete road. It was the people who were working the country and paying the taxes who should be considered and not those who were passing in motor cars.

Mr Cooney complained of the "waviness" of the Tomcoole Road.

Colonel Gibbon said this road was good enough to travel over up to 35 miles an hour but not suitable for higher speeds. It was quite a good road for the traffic passing over it. He thought it was a very dangerous experiment to put in a concrete slab of only four inches.

The County Surveyor said they knew comparatively little about the actual life of these cement roads but in his opinion he did not think Colonel Gibbon was correct in his statement that it would be much easier carry out repairs on a sandwich concrete road than on one of slab concrete.

Col. Gibbon asked the County Surveyor if he could refer them to any example of a four inch concrete slab for a main road.

The County Surveyor said he was not aware of one.

Colonel Gibbon - Then it would be too risky for us to take on as an experiment.



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The following resolution was proposed by Mr Culleton and seconded by Mr Hall:- "That we request the Local Government Department to sanction the laying down of sandwich concrete (4 inch) on the Wexford-New Ross Road under improvement grant and authorise the Council through the County Surveyor to advertise for contractors as soon as possible."

Mr Cooney proposed and Mr Colfer seconded the following amendment:- "That reconstruction work on New Ross Road be carried out in four inch slab concrete as recommended by the County Surveyor."

On a show of hands 6 voted for the amendment and 12 against.

The Chairman declared the amendment lost.

Mr McCarthy proposed the following further amendment:-

"That consideration of the method by which reconstruction work on New Ross-Wexford road is to be carried out be adjourned until the County Surveyor has made enquiries as to the desirability of laying down slab concrete of four inches."

Mr Corish seconded but the amendment on a show of hands was lost by 7 to 11.

The Chairman declared the amendment lost.

The original resolution was then put and passed nem con.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr O'Byrne seconded by Mr Hall:- "That the report of County Surveyor presented to this meeting be and is hereby adopted except in any ~~case~~ in which it has been altered or amended by resolution."

#### STRIKING OF RATES FOR 1931-32.

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

"That as set out on Forms 42 and 43 and as appearing on Minutes of Meeting of Wexford County Council held on 23rd March 1931, and also as advertised in The People, Free Press and Echo Newspapers of the 25th April, 1931, we hereby strike the



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rate for General and Separate Charges for financial year 1931-32, the general rate being fixed at 8/4½d in the £.

"The sum payable by the occupiers of Agricultural Land will be reduced owing to additional Agricultural Grant 1931 by a further 2/- in the £ over and above the amount advertised making total reduction in respect of rates assessed on Agricultural Land 4/6 in the £. That the amount of Rates for Separate Charges be as set out on Minutes of County Council in respect of meeting held on 23rd March, 1931. We allow and make the same as assessed in Rate Books, said Rates being in conformity with the Valuation in force for the time being as set out in the Valuation Lists furnished this Council by Valuation Department, subject to allowances granted under Housing Acts, Local Government Act 1925 (Rating of New Buildings Order 1925) and Local Government Act 1927.

"That the allowance of said rates as entered on foot of said Rate Books signed by the Presiding Chairman and two members present at this meeting be adopted, attested by the seal of Wexford County Council and countersigned by the Secretary.

"That we hereby strike the Drainage Rate for Kilmannock Drainage District in accordance with the Schedule of Charging Order issued by the Commissioners of Public Works under date 19th January, 1927, and which is set out on Minutes of Meeting of Wexford County Council of the 9th May, 1927, subject to allowance of £37:10:0: unexpended balance on amount raised for works of maintenance being credited to accounts of the various proprietors in the proportion of the sums payable under the Charging Order.

"That Warrants for collection of Rates included in this resolution be sealed and signed.

"That the Demand of the Wexford County Council on the Urban Districts of Enniscorthy, New Ross and Wexford as appearing on Form 48 be duly signed and sealed, the amounts demanded from said Urban Districts being as follows:-

Enniscorthy - £2,765: 2: 0:



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New Ross £2,572: 3: 6:

Wexford £5,873: 0: 0:

The Secretary stated that as members could see by their agendas this was the special business of the meeting.

WEXFORD COURTHOUSE.

Under date 23rd May, 1931, the County Registrar wrote that with reference to the placing of lino on the floor of the Wexford Courthouse he had now received instructions from the Judge to make arrangements to have the business of the Circuit Court carried out at Enniscorthy until such time as this matter was attended to. As the Easter sittings of the Circuit Court began on 2nd June, the County Registrar asked that his letter should be considered immediately by the County Council.

Mr Corish proposed that the necessary linoleum be procured for Wexford Courthouse as requested by the Circuit Judge but there was no seconder for the proposal and the matter dropped.

ROAD 912.

Under date 11th May, 1931, Mr Birthistle, Assistant Surveyor, reported that he had visited this road on the 17th April, and interviewed the Contractor, whom he again saw on 9th May. The Contractor claimed £7 for extra work as the road was badly cut up by beet traffic. It was still fairly rough but showed all the appearance of having been well attended to and maintained under difficulty. He (Mr Birthistle) believed the claim was reasonable.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr Culleton seconded by Mr Hall:- "That a sum of £7 be withdrawn from County Contingency Fund and paid to Robert Sheridan for extra work carried out on Road 912.

ENNISCORTHY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL AND MAIN ROADS.

Under date 20th May, 1931, letter was read from Sean Gallagher, Town Clerk, Enniscorthy, Urban Council, that the latter had agreed to accept £382 for the maintenance of the Main



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roads in their area for financial year 1931-32.

FIRE EXTINGUISHING APPARATUS.

In connection with the following resolution adopted at County Council of 11th May, 1931, :-

"That the question of providing Fire Extinguishing apparatus for County Hall be adjourned to next meeting to which the County Surveyor can report result of Conference with Ex-Capt. Pembroke Fire Brigade,"

The County Surveyor stated that the Conference had not yet been held and it was decided to further adjourn the matter.

WEXFORD - KILMORE ROAD.

Mr Roche asked in what condition the County Surveyor expected to have the Kilmore-Wexford Road before the summer. It was in a very bad state. Kilmore was becoming a very popular seaside resort and the people of Kilmore Quay village were relying to a very large extent to make their rent and rates by visitors most of whom were from Wexford. The men of the visiting families went in and out to business every day. They expected to have a good road, while at the moment this was one of the worst roads in the County though it was also one of the most important.

The County Surveyor did not accept the statement that this was one of the worst roads in the County. A good deal of repairs had been carried out.

Mr Roche said that from Tenacre cross the holes had been filled with sea gravel but this was no use unless bound with tar. He proposed the following resolution:-, "That the necessary repairs to Kilmore-Wexford Road be carried out immediately.

Mr Corish seconded the resolution which was adopted.

ROAD NEWCASTLE TO BRIDGETOWN.

Mr Hayes proposed that the road from Newcastle to Bridgetown should be metalled from Gurtins Quarry.



The County Surveyor said he had provided for a certain amount of material from Gurtins Quarry and the balance was sea gravel. The estimated amount for maintenance would not allow of the whole stretch being maintained by material from Gurtins.

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

"That the road from Newcastle to Bridgetown be maintained as far as is possible by material from Gurtins Quarry."

On a show of hands ten voted for the amendment and ten against.

It was then decided to take a poll which resulted as follows:-

For the amendment - Messrs Culleton, D'Arcy, Doran, Gibbon, Hall, Meyler, Murphy, Quin, Roche and the Chairman - 10.

Against - Messrs Cline, Colfer, Cooney, Corish, Cummins, Hayes, Keegan, McCarthy, O'Byrne, Shannon - 10.

Miss O'Ryan did not vote.

The Chairman gave his casting vote in favour of the amendment which he declared carried.

On being put as the substantive motion it passed nem con.

#### TAR BOILERS.

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A discussion took place as to the hour at which boilers were lit for preparation of tar or bitumen for road spraying and as the practice amongst the Surveyors was not uniform it was decided the Co. Surveyor should consider the matter and report with a view to arriving at a uniform procedure.

#### ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL.

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Mr O'Byrne proposed and Mr McCarthy seconded the following resolution:- "That the annual meeting of Wexford County Council be held on ~~Monday~~ Tuesday, 23rd June, 1931."

As an amendment Col. Quin proposed and Mr Hall seconded the following:- "That the annual meeting of Wexford County Council be held on Tuesday 30th June, 1931."



was  
A poll/taken on the amendment with the following result:-

For 30th June - Messrs Culleton, D'Arcy, O'Byrne, Gibbon, Hall, Meyler, Murphy, Quin, Roche, and the Chairman - 10.

For 23rd June - Messrs Clince, Colfer, Cooney, Corish, Cummins, Hayes, Keegan, McCarthy, O'Byrne, O'Ryan and Shannon - 11.

It was then decided to fix the annual meeting for the 23rd June, 1931.

#### GOVERNMENT GRANTS.

Under date 11th May, 1931, the Department of Local Government wrote (R.G.M.32) that a payment of £1603 final payment in respect of Road maintenance Grant for 1930-31 had been made to the Treasurer of the Council.

The Secretary reported that the following Grants had been received since last meeting of the Council:- Medical and Education Grant £1035; Sanitary Salaries, £138; Mental Hospital £1975.

#### NATIONAL MONUMENTS LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

The Secretary reported that the Council had agreed to provide a sum of £9 for the purchase of a complete set of six inch scale maps of Co. Wexford on which the Local Advisory Committee under Ancients Monuments Act were to indicate the position of ancient monuments and objects of historical interest but he had letter from Stationery Office under date 22nd May, 1931, that the cost would be £11: 18: 0:

Mr O'Byrne proposed and Mr Culleton seconded the following resolution which was adopted after discussion:- "That subject to the sanction of the Local Government Department this Council agrees to provide a full set of six inch ordnance survey maps with Index for Co. Wexford at a cost of £11: 18: 0;"

#### LOCAL AUTHORITIES (OFFICERS & EMPLOYEES) ACT/1926 SECTION 5.

The Secretary of the General Council of Co. Councils for-



warded copy of opinion of Mr Cecil Lavery K.C. as to the powers of the Minister for Local Government under above mentioned section.

Mr Lavery held that it was not necessary for a local authority to obtain the prior sanction of the Minister before making an appointment under the provisions of the section but that the Minister's sanction was necessary for the person appointed.

#### UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME.

Applications for award of University Scholarship were received from the following:-

Laurence Butler, Lambstown, Killurin.  
 Joseph Byrne, 4, Francis Street, Wexford.  
 Raymond E.G. Corish, Odessa, Wexford.  
 Henry F. Doyle, Bishopswater, Wexford.  
 Margaret Mary E. Flood, Rosemount, Enniscorthy.  
 Joseph F. Flynn, Ballyvoclare, Campile.  
 James D. Ffrench., 7 Rowe Street, Wexford.  
 John A. Furlong, 2 Old Pound, Wexford.  
 Thomas F. Hall, 10, Cornmarket, Wexford.  
 Thomas Higgins, Monamolin, Rathnure, Enniscorthy.  
 Ita Mary Kehoe, Abbey View, Ferns.  
 Mary Kavanagh, Hollyfort, Gorey.  
 Mary Frances Kelly, 18 North Main Street, Wexford.  
 James Michaelb Kenny, 14, Peasse Street, Gorey.  
 Barbara Lowe, Maudlintown, Wexford.  
 Elizabeth Mary McAuliffe, Johnstown, Clonegal.  
 Mary Margaret O'Hanlon, Faythe, Wexford.  
 Patrick H. O'Reilly, Killanne, Enniscorthy.  
 Michael Tobin, Bohreen Hill, Enniscorthy.  
 George Whitmore, Bishopwater, Wexford.

The Finance Committee recommended the following as eligible to compete for award:- Laurence Butler, Joseph Byrne, Henry F. Doyle, Margaret M. Flood, Joseph Flynn, John A. Fur-



15'

long, Thomas F. Hall, Thomas Higgins, Mary Kavanagh, James Kenny, Barbara Lowe, Mary M. O'Hanlon, P.J. O'Reilly, and Michael Tobin.

The Finance Committee considered that the parents or guardians of the following applicants were in a position to provide for them University Education :- Raymond E.G. Corish, Jas. D. Ffrench, Ita Mary Kehoe, Mary Francis Kelly, and Elizabeth Mary McAuliffe and recommended that applications should not be accepted.

They also recommended that further information should be submitted as regards the circumstances of George Whitmore.

As regards application of John J. Furlong, Mr McCarthy gave the following notice of motion at Finance Committee on 21st May:-

"That John A. Furlong, Old Pound, Wexford, be regarded as eligible to compete for University Scholarship notwithstanding the fact that he was 20 years old on 11th June, 1931, whereas the scheme provides that the ages of accepted candidates shall not exceed 20 on 1st August, 1931. It should be pointed out that the intention of the County Council as regards University Scholarship Scheme was to keep its provisions as close as possible, to the conditions governing the Leaving Certificate Examinations under the Department of Education.

"It is also necessary to bear in mind that some years ago the Authorities of the Department of Education extended the age period to cover cases in which pupil's course of study was interrupted for some valid reason, and it is certain that the Scholarship Committee would have suggested this change in the syllabus of Co. Council Scheme had they been made aware of the Concession given in this respect by the Department of Education"

The Secretary stated in reply to a query that the applications were distributed as follows:-

From Rural areas, 7; From Urban Areas, 13, made up as follows:- Enniscorthy, Town, 2; Gorey Town 1 and Wexford Town 10.

The following resolution was proposed by Mr Corish secon-



ded by Miss O'Ryan:- "That Mary Francis Kelly, 18 North Main street, Wexford, be regarded as eligible to compete for University Scholarship on the understanding that if successful in being recommended for award by the Academic Council of University College, Dublin, the scholarship which has been already awarded to her brother (at present a teacher in training) be regarded as cancelled."

This resolution was adopted.

The Secretary explained that George Whitmore's father was employed in the factory of Wexford Meat Supply Co. as a labourer.

Colonel Quin proposed and Mr D'Arcy seconded the following resolution:-

"That we cannot regard Patrick J. O'Reilly, Killanne, Enniscorthy, as eligible to compete for University Scholarship as his father is Principal Teacher in an elementary school!"

A poll was taken with the following result:-

For the resolution- Messrs Colfer, Cooney, Culleton, D'Arcy, Doran, Gibbon, Hayes, Keegan, Meyler, Murphy, Quin, O'Ryan, Roche and the Chairman - 14.

Against - Messrs Clince, Corish, McCarthy, O'Byrne and Shannon - 5.

Messrs Cummins and Hall (2) were not present when poll was taken.

The Chairman declared the motion carried.  
The following resolution was proposed by Col. Quin, seconded by Mr D'Arcy and adopted:- "That we approve of the following as eligible to compete for award of University Scholarship:- Lce. Butler, Joseph Byrne, Henry F. Doyle, Margaret Mary Flood, Joseph F. Flynn, John A. Furlong, Thomas F. Hall, Thomas Higgins, Mary Kavanagh, Mary Francis Kelly, James M. Kenny, Barbara Lowe, Mary M. O'Hanlon, Ml. Tobin and George Whitmore (15). And that the applications of the following be rejected:- Raymond E.G. Corish, James D. French, Ita Mary Kehoe, Elizabeth Mary McAuliffe, and Patrick J. O'Reilly (5).



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PETROL PUMP LICENCE.  
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The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr Keegan seconded by Colonel Quin:- "That Petrol Pump Licence issue to John Roche, Merchant, Camolin, on condition that tank is placed at position pointed out to applicant by Assistant Surveyor for the district."

POISONS AND PHARMACY ACT LICENCE.  
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The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr O'Byrne seconded by Mr Hall:-

"That Licence under Poisons and Pharmacy Act issue to Miss Anastasia Somers, Merchant, Coolgreany."

RESOLUTION GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL.  
IMPRISONMENT OF REPUBLICANS.  
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The following resolution from Galway Co. Council was adopted on the motion of Mr Keegan seconded by Mr D'Arcy:-

"That we, the members of the Galway County Council, unanimously join Comhairle Iarthiar Midhe in protesting against the imprisonment of Liam Caomhanach by the usurping Government of Northern Ireland and its henchmen. We further protest against the savage sentences of six months inflicted on Padraig Sweeney and twelve months on Tomas MagRaith, the charges against these Republicans were that they were in possession of Republican Literature and a further charge against Padraig Sweeney with uttering Republican sentiments at the Easter Commemoration in Newry."

Col. Quin proposed:- "That no action be taken in reference to resolution of Galway County Council as to imprisonment of Republicans."

This was not seconded and the original resolution was then put and declared carried.

DE-RATING COMMISSION.  
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A request from the General Council of Co. Councils under date 9th May, 1931 (adjourned from last meeting of the Council)



asking the Council to furnish their views on the Report of the De-Rating Commission and the proposals of the Government for the relief of the agricultural industry was discussed.

The Secretary gave a resume of the findings of the majority and minority reports.

Miss O'Ryan - We should express our greatest dissatisfaction with the majority report. We should not be surprised in that when you see that not a single member responsible for the majority report was representative of the agricultural industry. They were big people with fat salaries, who were afraid it would touch income tax, and who have no sympathy with agriculture, and no sympathy with the country at all. They tell you that you would want to provide this and that, to go in for better farming stock, better sheds, markets, and so forth, but they did not tell you where you were to get the money. Three years ago we brought forward a resolution in favour of De-Rating, and we were put back in the first instance on the plea that it was a question not to be discussed - that it was a political matter. Later it came on again, and we were told by some of the members it was not advisable to do anything about it, that there was a Commission sitting, and that the report would be favourable to the agricultural community. Some time ago when I suggested a resolution whereby relief to the extent of one million pounds should be made available for the farmers, it was turned down in favour of the one that the De-Rating Commission was sitting, and from which it was contended we would get at least a million. The Commission has now reported, and you can see we are not getting that much, and I notice there is no complaint at all from the Farmers' Party. We here, as a county council, should express our total dissatisfaction with the majority report, and I wish to propose a resolution to the effect that we turn down in the most emphatic manner the majority report of the De-Rating Commission.



Mr D'Arcy - I second that resolution. What Miss O'Ryan says is perfectly true - that the people who composed the majority report have very little sympathy with the farmers. It was the same with the Dublin Chamber of Commerce. They talk about producing more and adopting better methods, and so forth, forgetting that no matter how much is produced the sale of that production is always controlled by supply and demand. The Government went to a lot of trouble passing Acts of Parliament, and expending a lot of money in improving the method of marketing the export of eggs. But did they improve the price of eggs? They disimproved it. The report is an insult to the agricultural community, and we should take it as such.

Mr McCarthy - I would not say that the De-Rating Commission has been entirely a failure. The Commission was composed of a body of men - very intellectual men of high standing in the country, and included men who were keen and practical farmers. There were some, who issued the majority report, in other spheres of life, but, at the same time they gave great attention to the business, heard a large number of witnesses from all over the country, and collected a mass of evidence. They devoted considerable time to the studying of the items, and I certainly would not agree that their conclusions are going to go for nought. They made certain recommendations, and if these recommendations were taken <sup>up</sup> wholeheartedly all over the country, they would form the basis of agricultural prosperity. De-Rating, went on Mr McCarthy, is all very good in its own way, but is de-rating going to make the farming community prosperous? I have seen in the report of the Commission that two-thirds of the farmers have a valuation of £15 and under. On that valuation these people would save, through de-rating, £3 or £4 per year. That amount is, so small, that it would not make any farmer prosperous. On the other hand the man with a valuation of £45 would save from £10 to £12 per year or scarecely that. Is that



going to make farming prosperous? I don't think it is. Something else must be done. The recommendation as to better marketing facilities and an easier method of credit are important points in their findings, and ought to be taken up and put into operation by legislation or otherwise. It is not three, four or five pounds that a farmer is going to save is going to make him prosperous, but he should be put into the position to earn ten times that. We are all inter-dependent, and it ought to be for everybody to see that the farming community is prosperous, and every effort should be made, instead of decrying the recommendations of the Commission, that they be taken up and studied, and see whatever good is in them, and I believe there is, put into operation. It frequently happens that farmers are forced to sell immature stock to meet a pressing liability. He is not, perhaps, otherwise able to meet it, and if he could get ready money to meet that pressing liability it would put him on his feet. There is also the question of providing seeds and manure, and of the man not being in the position to purchase them. At our doors, in England, there is a big market which could be developed, and instead of the present trade we are doing with England it could be considerably increased, instead of having it captured by foreign countries like Denmark and elsewhere. There is a great scope for development in that respect. I agree that the overhead expenses of the farmers should be reduced, and it was for that the £750,000 was given. I am sorry it was not more, and would be glad to see it more, for it is desirable that the overhead expenses should be reduced. The whole difficulty is where the money is to come from, and any substantial sum to be raised must come through taxation.

Mr McCarthy referred to the various methods which had been suggested to cut down taxation but held they were not practicable. Continuing he said then there was the suggestion to retain the land annuities. That contention is persevered in, and I say it has been shown over and over again by people who are in position to make those statements, that we have no legal or moral right to



these annuities. The annuities belong to the bond holders - the people who subscribed to the stock to enable the farmers of Ireland to become proprietors. This advocacy of the retention of land annuities is in direct contravention to the teachings of Parnell. When the question to buy out the landlords first arose, where was the money to come from? It was first suggested that a land bank be instituted to finance the purchase from the landlord, and the land banks were to have a mortgage on the farms, and the tenants were to pay to the land bank a certain amount of money annually until the mortgage was cleared off. That did not happen. Instead the British Government created stock, which was issued to the public, and the public were asked to subscribe to it, and the British Government guaranteed the interest and created a redemption fund. If they had not given that guarantee nobody would have subscribed, with the result that there would be no money available for the farmers to buy out their land. When the money, through the stock being subscribed to, was made available, the tenants signed a contract to pay so much in annuity for a certain number of years, in clearing off that interest and redemption fund, and if that contract is not carried out the whole question of his title arises. This very question as to the non-payment of land annuities was raised in the height of the land agitation. In 1883 Parnell had an interview with the editor of an influential Parisian newspaper, "The Clarion", and some months ago that interview was published in "The Wexford People" newspaper. The editor asked Parnell what would happen if the tenant farmers of Ireland refused to pay. Parnell replied - "The day that the Irish farmer became proprietor and refused to pay he will be expropriated and the land sold." That is in short, continued Mr McCarthy, what they were asked to do today. That is one of the means strongly suggested for raising the money for de-rating, but whatever method is suggested to raise the money I do not think that this is one that commends itself to the farmers of Ireland.

Mr Roche in criticising the majority report the recommend-



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ations of which he said had come upon him with surprise said there was only one practical farmer on the Commission and when he proposed a recommendation for relief he could not find a seconder. If the large farmer benefited by de-rating the Unemployment Bill would be cut down. As regards the benefit of £3 or £4 to the small farmer it would surprise many if they could realise what a real benefit even this small sum was to a small farmer. It was all very well to urge the farmer to produce more but all crops at the present moment were being sold below the cost of production. Then a man could not stock his land without capital which was not available except at an exorbitant rate of Interest. The Government instead of giving them-in the County Wexford - relief, sent down a County Medical Officer of Health costing £1000 a year and which would probably be increased. This appointment was made at a time when the children of the small farmer and of the labourer were actually hungry. There was little use in having childrens' teeth or tonsils looked after if they had not got their breakfast.

Mr Keegan said that if any farmer had to take the advice given by the Minister for Agriculture two and a half years ago to keep one more cow and one more sow he would now be in the County Home.

Mr Culleton said that the Report of the Commission was disappointing, and the action of the Government more so when they had many intelligent farmers and people in their evidence before the Commission to tell them of the ways and means to provide for de-rating. He went on to say that an attentive hearing was given to the Chambers of Commerce, and the deaf ear given to the evidence on behalf of the agricultural community. The farmers had themselves to blame, and at the next general election it was up to them to see their business properly attended to.

Col. Quin - I don't like that last remark. I may say thank God we have a good Government. I don't think we could



get any better in this country. Of course we should like if they did more, but I don't know if they could. It is very easy to say: "You are enemies to this, if you don't agree with me." Where are you to get the money? Is it from the air? If you get it from one place you must take it from somewhere else. I agree that de-rating is very nice. I lose on my own farming, but at the same time I don't know where the money is going to come from for de-rating. But thank God we have the Government we have now, and I will certainly vote for them until the end.

Colonel Gibbon thought that more attention could have been given by the De-Rating Commission to the question of the roads, and not have all the cost fall on farmers. There should have been something in the report that they had reached a time to cry "halt" to all benefit schemes until the County could really afford to pay for them. Proceeding Colonel Gibbon referred to the cost of sewerage and other schemes in this connection, which were all very good, but were leading to ever increasing expenditure, and where, he asked, was the halt to be called. The Commission had not suggested any limit to where that expenditure could be stopped. Something, he said, should have been done on that question. If they had more farmers on the Commission he believed more attention would have been probably paid to that side of the question.

Mr Cummins at some length referred to the retention of the land annuities in respect of which he said £128,000 was exported every year. This money was the produce of the land and he wanted it to come into the County Council. No matter what proposals were made by the De-Rating Commission there would be <sup>no</sup> prosperity in the County so long as this £128,000 was sent across the Channel. Mr McCarthy had stated this was a legal question Eminent Counsel had advised that the retention of the annuities was perfectly legal and the next Government when in power would prove its legality by withholding the money.



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If the Commission had to bring into their report that there would be no rate it would make the country and community independent at the moment. The people would go to work with a will, and would not be in fear of the process server. As soon as you make up your minds - Mr McCarthy, I hope I will convert you, you are an able advocate if you were on our side - go and vote for Fianna Fail at the next election, and they will tell you all about the annuities.

Mr Corish said that complete de-rating would do the farmer some good but not sufficient to get over the present situation. There was certainly very little use, in view of the position of affairs, in telling the farmers to keep one more cow and one more sow and till another acre of ground. The position at the moment was that the farmer, at the beginning of the year, did not know whether he should till his land. It was a huge gamble as he could not foresee how he was going to dispose of his produce. What was required was for the Government to give a guarantee or set up national granaries as outlined by Arthur Griffith, and see that the price for the produce was commensurate with the cost of production. The matter, he said, would have to be approached that way. A man with a valuation from £10 to £15 - and there were a huge number of farms in the country with a low valuation - would not derive any good from full de-rating. It was only a quack remedy, and something greater would have to be done. Mr De Valera found out in the Dail that the million of relief for farmers which his party had proposed would do very little good. The amendment of the Labour Party asking for a relief on a valuation basis would, however, have afforded real relief. He heard a lot about de-rating of farms but nothing about the additional tax on sugar. It was plain that the poor people who had to pay that were in a worse position than the farmer. Even the man trying to live on 6s. Home Help would have to pay 2d per week extra for sugar. It looked very small but 2d taken off 6s. was a very big sum. Mr Corish then made a strong appeal to farmers to purchase Irish



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manufactured machinery. In connection with Land Annuities he said that if a conference could be arranged between the British Government and the Irish Government some relief could be obtained. He did not think they would do any good by shouting and telling the people not to pay. That would injure the credit of the country. If a conference of the different parties was arranged, and they agreed to the sinking of their differences for a short time, to go into the question of the land annuities, he believed something could be done. But so long as <sup>they had</sup> catch cries and counter cries on the subject between the two big political parties nothing would be done, and the farmers will suffer.

The Chairman said that the report of the majority of the De-Rating Commission could not be justified but they should not be surprised at this when they considered the personnel of the Commission, many of whom had no interest in agriculture. It was difficult to get over people who did not know the rudiments of agriculture making a number of pious recommendations to practical farmers. He denied the statement in the majority report that even if they had full de-rating it would not improve production. He Chairman denied this most strongly. A man who would be relieved of rates amounting to £40 or £50 more would certainly produce more. It was a downright lie to deny that this would not happen. The ways and means to find the money for full de-rating had been put before the Commission but they were not listened to. The Commission had treated the farmers most unjustly. Agriculture was the mainstay of the County and if it was let down the County was let down. Continuing the Chairman said that our farmers' representatives did not put the question they should about de-rating in the Dail, and if they had I believe myself that de-rating could have been got without any commission at all, and full de-rating, too. I have nothing further to add, but am very glad to have a full expression of opinion from the County Council. It won't do any harm. The



agricultural relief we got will help to a considerable extent, but I believe we should have had full rate off the agricultural land. The question of de-rating in England is always drummed into our ears , and it has been said it is not an agricultural country. Remember agriculture is not alone de-rated in England, but industry to the extent of three-fourths, and it is on a par or in proportion to what our relief on agricultural land would amount to if we got full de-rating. If we got full de-rating it would go a long way to relieve distress in the country. Does anybody seriously tell me that £100 put into my pocket would not do me any good. I cannot understand that. I would have power to spend it. I know it would do me some good and I could provide employment with it. In conclusion the Chairman said the recommendations of the Commission were the biggest insult ever offered the farming community.

Miss O'Ryan's resolution was then put and adopted nem con.

Michael Doyle