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WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL

MEETING 14TH SEPTEMBER 1931

M I N U T E S.

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 14th September, 1931.

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

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

The Minutes of last meeting were confirmed.

VOTES OF CONDOLENCE

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr Hall seconded by Col. Gibbon:- "That we offer our deep sympathy to Mr Thos. A. Frizelle, Assistant Secretary, to this Council, on the death of son Jerome James."

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Col. Gibbon seconded by Mr Roche:-

"That we offer our sympathy to the relatives of Mr William Stafford, late Clerk to No. 1 Old Age Pension Subcommittee an old and valued official and whose demise is much regretted by all who knew him."

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF COMMITTEES.

Finance:

The Minutes of Finance Committee in respect of meeting held on 13th August, 1931, were submitted as follows:

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The fortnightly meeting of the Finance Committee was held in County Council Chamber, County Hall, Wexford, on 13th August, 1931.

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

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

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

The Minutes of last meeting were confirmed.

PAYMENTS

Treasurer's Advice Note for £2938: 17: 7d was examined and signed.

PROPOSED SALE OF FORTVIEW

Mr. Elgee, Solicitor, reported that at the auction of above premises on the 12th instant the reserve of £1000 was not reached, the highest bid having been £870. Since the auction he had received a further bid of £900 from Mr. Andrew Nolan, North Main Street, Wexford.

Mr. Kehoe, Auctioneer, who was in attendance considered it would be difficult to get any higher offer as the value of house property had depreciated considerably since the property was purchased by the Council. Anyone going into the place would have to spend £200 or £300 on it.

Mr. O'Byrne said the reserve price was reasonably low and he considered they should not recommend the acceptance of anything lower.

The other members concurred in this view and accordingly no action was taken.

RATE COLLECTION

The State of the Rate Collection to date was submitted as follows:-

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Name of Collector.	Percentage of Warrant collected.
1. J. Curtis	19.7
2. P. Nolan	19.2
3. M. McCarthy	18.9
4. J. Quirke (No.1 District)	18.8
5. S. Gannon	14.9
6. P. Carty	13.8
7. W. Doyle	13.7
8. J. Cummins	13.3
9. J.J.O'Reilly	13.2
10. Thos. Rowe	13.2
11. J. Deegan	11.8
12. T. Bolger (No. 14)	11.3
13. W. Cummins	11.2
14. A. Dunne	11.2
15. T. Bolger (No.12)	11.0
16. P.O'Byrne	10.2
17. E.J. Murphy	10.0
18. J. Quirke (No. 2)	9.7
19. J.J. Sinnott	9.3
20. P. Doyle	9.3
21. M.M. Kelly (dismissed)	1.8

It was decided that a reminder be issued to the Collectors that they must have lodged by 31st August, 1931, at least 25 per cent of their warrants.

A QUESTION OF RATE PAYMENT

Mr James Bent, Burrow, Rosslare, came before the meeting and complained that he had paid rates for which he had not been given receipts. He produced several receipts for the inspection of the Committee. He asked for an adjournment of his case as he wished to look for other receipts which he considered important.

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The Committee considered the various items of Rates for the collection of which Mr. P. Nolan, present Collector, was responsible. These amounted to £4: 13: 11d and Mr. Bent admitted that he paid £4: 11: 6d only.

Mr. Nolan, Collector, who was in attendance, said that Mr. Bent had promised to pay the 2/5d difference.

Mr. Bent denied this but Mr. O'Kennedy, Rate Inspector, was positive in his statement that he had heard Mr. Bent making such a promise.

The Committee came to the conclusion that Mr. Nolan issued official receipts to Mr. Bent for all monies received from him and had carried out his duties in the matter in a proper manner.

Under date 11th August, 1931, the Department of Local Government wrote (G.62052/1931 Loch Garman Pa) stating that the Minister had sanctioned the temporary appointment of Collector S. Gannon (No.10) as Rate Collector for No.6 District for the current financial year.

Under date 7th August, 1931, the Department of Local Government wrote (G.61184/1931 Loch Garman Fa) that the Minister agreed to the proposal to make, in the present financial year, a contribution of £3 towards the cost of the Fidelity Guarantee Bonds of whose Collectors who are paid a poundage of 5d and whose remuneration for poundage does not exceed £150 per annum.

INCOME TAX ASSESSMENT

The following under date 30th July, 1931, (P.C.45 - PJM/MG) was read from the Inspector of Taxes:-

"With reference to letters dated 1st September last and 7th April last I have now had an opportunity of dealing with the case and I agree that there is no liability to Schedule D tax for the years up to and including 1927/28. I have, accordingly, cancelled the estimated assessment for the year 1924/25.

'Would you kindly arrange to forward me copies of the Accounts for such subsequent periods as they are available.'"

SCHOLARSHIP SCHEMES

Secondary. The following under date 21st July, 1931, was read from the Department of Education (Secondary Branch):-

"I have to inform you that the Department is prepared to sanction the renewal, for the School Year 1931/32, of the Scholarships awarded by your Council to the undermentioned pupils:-

Mary C. Daly:	Loreto Abbey, Gorey.
Daniel F. Butler:	St. Peter's College, Wexford.
James M. Druhan:	" " "
Richard R. O'Donnell:	" " "
Mary E. Doyle:	Loreto Convent, Wexford.
Kathleen F. Donnelly	" "
Margaret M. O'Neill	" "
Mary A. Ronan	" "

The Department's decision in the case of the undermentioned pupils will be conveyed to you in due course:-

James Donnelly:	St. Peter's College, Wexford.
Johanna Cooney:	Loreto Convent, Wexford.
Katie Doyle:	" "
Patrick Sheehan:	Christian Schools, Gorey. "

In reply to query addressed them by the Secretary, the Department wrote, under date 31st July, 1931, that they would be unable to give a decision in the cases of the four outstanding Scholarship holders until the results of the Intermediate Certificate Examinations 1931, were available.

University:-

The following, under date 11th August, 1931, was read from the Secretary, University College, Dublin:-

"The following are the results of the Summer Examinations of students holding Scholarships from your Council in this College in Session 1930-31:-

Michael O'Keeffe	(1st Year)	Passed the First University Examination in Arts.
John Dunphy	(1st Year)	Passed the First University Examination in Commerce with Second Class Honours in Commerce.
Patrick G. Hickey) (3rd Year)	Satisfied the Examiners at the Second Year College Examinations.
Arthur J. Nix) (2nd Year)	
John J. Hunt) (2nd Year)	

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Catherine Kickham	(2nd Year)	Passed the First University Examination in Arts.
Liam O'Leary	(3rd Year)	Did not reach the required Pass standard in the subsidiary subject for the B. A. Degree.
Joseph Cullen	(3rd Year)	Passed the subsidiary subject for the B.Sc.Degree. Further report after the Degree Examination in the Autumn.'"

TOURIST TRAFFIC (DEVELOPMENT) ACT 1931

The Committee considered the various provisions of the above Act and expressed their agreement with the manner under which rate for development of tourist traffic and tourist resorts was to be administered.

INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL CASES

Applications were read in connection with the proposed committal of the following children to Industrial Schools:-

Brenda Murphy, Stoneyford, Tagoat, James Doyle, Margaret Doyle and John Doyle, Old Boley, Taghmon.

The applications had been referred to Mr. Elgee, County Solicitor.

In connection with application of Mr. Lacey, Inspector Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, already considered by the Finance Committee, the following under date 8th August, 1931, was read from Mr. Elgee, Solicitor:-

"The application herein came before the District Justice in Dublin yesterday when he made an Order committing George Merriman to Rathdown Industrial School, and he held, that the Wexford County Council were not liable to contribute towards his maintenance.

'I enclose copy of a letter from my Representative who attended to the matter, from which you will see, that he asks for a Fee of £2: 2: 0d, and I assume I am at liberty to pay this, as

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if I had gone to Dublin myself on the case I would have been entitled to charge reasonable travelling expenses."

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr. O'Byrne, seconded by Mr. Shannon:- "That we recommend the payment of £2: 2: 0d to Mr. Carter S. Draper who represented Mr. Elgee, Solicitor, at the hearing of the application on 7th August, 1931, at the Dublin District Court to commit George Merriman to an Industrial School"

FURTHER LEAVE OF ABSENCE - MR. T. MOORE

The following from Anchor Hotel, Newcastle, County Wicklow, and under date 8th August, 1931, was read from Mr. Tim Moore of the County Surveyor's Clerical Staff:-

"As my leave of absence from duty expires on the 27th inst., I interviewed the doctor here and he has recommended me for a further month's treatment. He states my progress has been very good. I shall be very glad if you will bring my application for the necessary leave before next meeting of the Finance Committee and oblige."

A certificate under date 5th August, 1931, was read from Dr. G. F. Cullen, Assistant R.M.O., Newcastle Sanatorium, that Mr. Moore would benefit by at least another month's treatment.

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

"That we recommend the Council to grant Mr. Tim Moore of County Surveyor's Department, a further month's sick leave as from 27th August, 1931".

DRAINAGE ACT 1924

The General Council of County Councils asked for information as to how the provisions of the Drainage Act 1924 had worked out in County Wexford and whether any amendments could be suggested.

It was decided, on the motion of Mr. Shannon, seconded by Mr. O'Byrne, to forward the following statement to the General Council of County Councils:-

The Drainage Maintenance Act 1924 has not worked satisfactorily in this County.

The only Scheme taken over is Kilmannock and the rate-payers concerned have held all along that the work there, while fairly effective, was entirely too costly.

Another Scheme:- The Sow, was improved by the Commissioners of Public Works but the Council, over two years ago, declined to take it over since the ratepayers responsible held that the work was carried out at exorbitant cost and had been absolutely ineffective - in fact they contend that instead of obviating the flooding the new work has had the contrary effect.

The amendment which Council ~~should~~ suggest is that modification be made in the statutory provisions compelling a Council to take over a Scheme which fails to satisfy the local ratepayers and obliging them to be at continual war with disgruntled people.

Before carrying out any Scheme the nature and description of the work should be submitted to the Council concerned and their approval obtained.

At present they have no "say" in this matter. Where even very slight improvements are effected by the Office of Public Works the latter can pass the Scheme over to the County Council who has no redress.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE MR. F. S. RINGWOOD, V.S.

Under date 11th August, 1931, the Department of Agriculture wrote (L.3340-31) that the Minister had no objection to the temporary employment of Mr. R. J. Roe, V.S., as substitute for Mr. Ringwood, V.S., Enniscorthy, during the absence of the latter on ten days' leave as from 11th August, 1931.

PLOT OF GROUND AT COURTOWN HARBOUR

The following, under date 11th August, 1931, was read from Mr. John Lyons, Courtown Harbour:-

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"I beg to make application to your Council for permission to purchase what presently appears to be a waste piece of ground situated immediately at the rear of your Council's Weigh Office at Courtown Harbour. I require same as a site for building a dwelling house. Should this application have the kind consideration of your Council I am prepared to pay any reasonable price either for the letting or complete purchase of site referred to."

It was decided to refer this communication to the County Surveyor for report after his interview with Mr. Lyons on 14th August, 1931.

COMPENSATION STOCK

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

"That 5% Compensation Stock No.E.28202 and 28636 be redeemed at £100.

That Seal of the Wexford County Council be affixed to Form of Request to National City Bank Ltd., Dublin for transmission by post of Warrants for Redemption money.

"That 5% Compensation Stock No.28199/201, 28238, 28637/39, 28652 be sold at par value viz., £400 plus accrued interest in accordance with Contract arranged by Mr. James J. Keating, Stockbroker, Wexford.

That Seal of the Wexford County Council be affixed to letter of Attorney transferring 5% Compensation Stock No.28199/201, 28238, 28637/39, 28652 to Hubert Briscoe, Desmond Butler and Victor Charles Cole, 18 & 19, College Green, Dublin."

CINEMATOGRAPH ACT 1909

The following, under date 12th August, 1931, was read from Mr. B. Downes, Duncannon:-

"I beg to notify your Council that I have let my hall here to a travelling Picture Company (Daniells & Son) for six days commencing Monday next, 17th August, 1931. I would have notified you earlier had I known it was necessary to do so. I would like to

know if it is necessary at present to have this hall licensed for dancing purposes.

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

"That in view of the provisions of Section 7(2) of the Cinematograph Act 1909 the Finance Committee cannot accept as in order the application of Mr. B. Downes received in County Council Offices on 13th August, 1931, to exhibit pictures for six days as from 17th August, 1931, the said section providing that Mr. Downes should have given to the County Council and to the Chief Superintendent of the Garda Siochana, not less than seven days, before the first exhibition of pictures, notice in writing of his intention so to use the premises."

'That copy of this resolution be furnished Chief Superintendent Garda Siochana, Wexford, for his information.'

PROPOSED INSTALLATION OF DICTOGRAPH

The following quotation was read from Dictograph Telephones Ltd., 57, Dame Street, Dublin:-

"THIS ESTIMATE provides for the complete installation of a DICTOGRAPH EXECUTIVE CONTROL AND INTER-CONVERSING SYSTEM consisting of:-

- One. 5 key Dictograph Master Station
- Five. L.4-1 lamp Dictograph sub-stations.
- Two. K.4 Dictograph sub-stations.
- one. Type "T" Dictograph sub-station.

Together with one Plug and two Jacks for use with Master Station, also cable, Junction Boxes and all other necessary material.

The whole to be installed in an efficient manner, upon payment of the sum of £15: 0: 0d (FIFTEEN POUNDS) towards the cost of installation, thereafter quarterly payments in advance of £4: 14: 6d (FOUR POUNDS, FOURTEEN SHILLINGS AND SIXPENCE), for a period of ten years, after which time the installation

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shall become your own property.

During the period of the Contract, the installation shall be maintained by our own Engineers, who will inspect same at least three times each year. Should any faults occur, they are attended to at your calling without charge.

Subject to the terms and conditions of the Company's Hire Purchase Agreement.

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

"That we recommend the County Council to instal Dictograph Executive Control and Inter-Conversing System in County Council Offices as per quotation from Dictograph Telephones Ltd., submitted to this meeting."

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The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr O'Byrne seconded by Mr Hall:- "That the Minutes of Finance Committee in respect of meeting held on 13th August, 1931, be received and considered."

The Secretary explained that items dealing with the proposed sale of Fortview, leave of absence of Mr Tim Moore, Drainage Maintenance Act 1924, Plot of ground at Courtown Harbour, Compensation Stock and proposed installation of Dictograph in County Council offices had been dealt with at the meeting of the Council on 24th August, 1931.

Cinematograph Act 1909: Under date 22nd August, 1931, the District Superintendent, Garda Siochana, New Ross, wrote that the exhibition of pictures at Duncannon Hall started on the 17th inst and were, he understood, to continue each night during the week.

Col. Quin proposed and Mr O'Byrne seconded the following resolution:- "That proceedings be instituted against Bartholemew Downes, Duncannon, for breach of provisions of Cinematograph Act 1909."

As an amendment the following was proposed by Mr Shannon seconded by Mr Gaul:- "That we inform Mr B. Downes, Duncannon, this Council views with grave disapproval his action in allowing his hall at Duncannon to be used for exhibition of pictures without having complied with the provisions of Cinematograph Act of 1909 and point out to him that if he offends in this matter in the future the Council will press for severe punishment."

After discussion a poll was taken on the amendment. This resulted as follows:-

For:- Messrs Armstrong, Cline, Cooney, Cummins, Gaul, Hayes, Jordan, Keegan, McCarthy, Murphy, O'Ryan, Shamon and Walsh (13).

Against:- Messrs Brennan, Corish, Culleton, D'Arcy, Gibbon, Hall, O'Byrne, Quin, Roche and Smyth - (10).

The Chairman who did not vote declared the amendment carried.

It was then adopted without dissent as the substantive resolution.

The following resolution was then adopted on the motion of Col. Quin seconded by Mr O'Byrne:- "That the Minutes of Finance Committee in respect of meeting held on 13th August, 1931, be and are hereby confirmed."

The Minutes of Finance Committee meeting of 27th August, 1931, were submitted as follows:-

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The fortnightly meeting of the Finance Committee was held in Co. Council Chamber, County Hall, Wexford, on 27th August, 1931.

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

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

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

Subsequently Mr Walsh, Vice Chairman, County Council, attended and presided.

The Minutes of last meeting were read and signed.

PAYMENTS

Treasurer's Advice Note for £4724:10:11d was examined and signed.

VOTE OF CONDOLENCE

The following resolution was adopted in silence on the motion of Mr O'Byrne seconded by Mr Hall and spoken to by the Chairman and Secretary:-

"That we offer our heartfelt sympathy to Mr W.F. Barry County Surveyor, on the death of his cousin Mrs Helen Brennan."

RATE COLLECTION

The State of the Rate Collection up to 26th August, 1931, was submitted as follows:-

<u>COLLECTOR.</u>	<u>PERCENTAGE OF WARRANT COLLECTED.</u>
1. John Curtis	27 Per Cent
2. Jas. Quirke (No.1)	23.5 "
3. Patrick Nolan	22.7 "
4. M. McCarthy	22.5 "
5. W. Doyle	20.9 "
6. Joseph Cummins	20. "

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COLLECTOR	PERCENTAGE OF WARRANT COLLECTED.
7. Thos. Rowe	18.3 Per Cent
8. Art Dunne	18.1 " "
9. Patrick Carty	18.1 " "
10. Sean Gannon	17.8 " "
11. E.J. Murphy	17.5 " "
12. John Deegan	17.1 " "
13. J.J. O'Reilly	16.6 " "
14. W. Cummins	15.9 " "
15. Patrick O'Byrne	14.9 " "
16. Thady Bolger (No.14)	14.6 " "
17. Phil. Doyle	14.6 " "
18. Jas. Quirke (No.2)	13.6 " "
19. Thady Bolger	13.2 " "
20. J.J. Sinnott	11.5 " "
21. Sean Gannon (No. 6)	5.1 " "

In reply to the Chairman the Rate Inspector said he was not satisfied that all the Collectors were doing as well as they should. Sinnott had been ill for 10 days and his collection had in consequence been held up. He has now resumed duty. Quirke had heavy arrears (practically 21 per cent of the warrant) to collect in No. 2 District, Gannon 30 per cent in No. 6 District and Thady Bolger 13 per cent in No. 14 District.

It was decided as Finance Committee had directed Collectors to lodge 25 per cent of their warrants by 31st August to defer action until next meeting of the Committee.

SEIZURE OF SHEEP

In connection with the seizure of 109 sheep on Bantry and Blackstairs Commons by Collector O'Byrne, the Rate Inspector reported that the locks of the gates of Enniscorthy Show Grounds where the sheep had been put to graze after

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seizure, had been broken and the animals taken away. The Garda Síochána were endeavouring to procure information as to who was responsible for this but had not succeeded up to the present.

Mr O'Byrne, Rate Collector, submitted a bill for £26:10: for expenses in connection with the seizure .

In reply to the Chairman the Rate Inspector said the amount of arrears of rates due on Mr O'Byrne's portion of the two Commons was £158 and on Mr Murphy's portion something about £200.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr Hall seconded by Mr Shannon:- "That the bill presented by Mr O'Byrne, Rate Collector, for £26: 10s. relative to seizure of sheep in Bantry and Blackstairs Commons be recommended to the Council for payment subject to the sanction of the Local Government Department and the production of vouchers by Collector O'Byrne from the persons who received payments set out on the account."

Under date 15 th August, 1931, letters were received from Patrick Murray, Ballinacarrig, Gorey, and John Connors, Kildermot, Gorey, ~~for~~ personal sureties of Mr Sean Gannon, that they had no objection to the latter carrying out the duties of Rate Collector in No. 6 District.

ILLNESS OF MR JOHN KEHOE, ASSISTANT SURVEYOR.

Under date 21st August, 1931, the Department of Local Government (Roads) wrote (R/RS/32) inquiring the reason why it was proposed to make a payment for travelling expenses to Mr Kehoe, Assistant Surveyor, in respect of the period from 27th December, 1930, to 9th March, 1931.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr Culleton seconded by Mr O'Byrne:- "That on reconsideration of the question of allowances to Mr Kehoe owing to sick leave this Committee recommends that as no travelling was carried

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out by this officer from the period 27th December, 1930, to 9th March, 1931, payment of travelling expenses for said period be disallowed."

DUPLICATE PAY ORDER

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr O'Byrne seconded by Mr Shannon:- "That duplicate be issued for Pay Order No. 423 General Account - 10th August, 1931 - to Thomas Walsh, Kereight, Kyle, amount £3: 9: 4d, original having been lost in course of post, and that original order be estopped by Treasurer."

PRINTING ABSTRACTS OF ACCOUNTS.

For the printing of the abstracts of accounts of Co. Council for the two half years ended 31st March, 1930, and 30th September, 1930, quotations at £10 were received from "The People" and "Free Press".

Lots were drawn and the tender of "The People" was selected.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr Hall seconded by Col. Quin:- "That the Minutes of Finance Committee in respect of meeting held on 27th August, 1931, be and are hereby confirmed."

The Minutes of Finance Committee in respect of meeting held on 10th September, 1931, were submitted as follows:-

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The fortnightly meeting of the Finance Committee was held on 10th September, 1931, in County Council Chamber, County Hall, Wexford.

Present:- Messrs Sean O'Byrne, James Hall, Thos. McCarthy, and James Shannon.

The Secretary, County Solicitor and Rates Inspector were also in attendance.

On the motion of Mr O'Byrne seconded by Mr Hall the chair was taken by Mr McCarthy.

The Minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed.

PAYMENTS

Treasurer's Advice Note for £3123: 9: 4d was examined and signed.

RATE COLLECTION

The Rate Collection to 10th September, 1931, was submitted as follows:-

1.	J. Curtis	33.1	per cent
2.	P. Carty	28.9	"
3.	M. McCarthy	27.8	"
4.	P. Nolan	26.6	"
5.	J. Cummins	26.5	"
6.	W. Doyle	26.3	"
7.	J. Quirke (No.1)	25.6	"
8.	Art Dunne	25.2	"
9.	Thos. Rowe	24.5	"
10.	J.J.O'Reilly	23.7	"
11.	E.J. Murphy	23.5	"
12.	J. Deegan	21.7	"
13.	Sean Gannon	20.4	"
14.	W. Cummins	20.2	"
15.	T. Bolger (No.14)	19.6	"
16.	J. Quirke (No. 2)	19.5	"
17.	Philip Doyle	19.2	"
18.	P. O'Byrne	19.0	"
19.	Sean Gannon (No.6)	18.7	"
20.	T. Bolger (No. 12)	17.6	"
21.	J.J. Sinnott	15.1	"

this

In connection with/statement Report under date 10th September, 1931, was read from the Rate Inspector that fifteen collectors had failed to carry out the directions of the Council to have lodged by 31st August, 1931, 25 per cent of their warrants. None of the Collectors in Ennis-corthy or Gorey districts had carried out this direction.

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In New Ross District J. Curtis, P. Carty, and W. Doyle and in Wexford District M. McCarthy, P. Nolan and J. Quirke (No. 1) had lodged over 25 per cent of their warrants.

In the opinion of the Rate Inspector 25 % of the year's warrant was a reasonable figure to expect by 31st August. Since the opening of the collection the rates on 19 derelict farms had been paid to September 1931. He submitted particulars of twelve ratings in respect of which the lands had been let by agreement between the owners, the Land Commission and the Rate Collectors concerned.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr O'Byrne seconded by Mr Shannon:- "That the attention of Rate Collectors be again directed to the resolution of the Council instructing them to issue proceedings forthwith against ratepayers who are able to pay, but who neglect or refuse to do so. The law provides that first moiety is payable immediately after the Rate is struck and second moiety on 1st October. Rate ^{payers} ~~collectors~~ who are able to pay and hold up payment until the last day of the half year are setting a bad example to the general body and the Finance Committee expect in the future that no delay will occur on the part of Rate Collectors in taking the necessary legal proceedings in all such cases.

That Rate Collectors who have failed to lodge 25 per cent of warrant by 31st August last be asked for an explanation for their failure to carry out the directions of the Council.

That Collectors who fail to lodge 40 % of the current Rate by the 1st October next be informed that the Finance Committee will not recommend the County Council to apply to the L. G. D. for permission to pay them full poundage as calculated on last year's warrant.

That we approve of the lettings of the 12 holdings referred to in report of Rate Inspector to this meeting."

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ILLNESS OF MR JOHN KEHOE, ASSISTANT SURVEYOR.

Under date 29th August, 1931, the Department of Local Government (Roads) wrote (R/RS/32) that no objection would be made to the proposal to pay full salary to Mr Kehoe, Assistant Surveyor, for the period 27th December, 1930, to 27th June, 1931, and half salary from the last named date to the 6th September, 1931, when it was expected Mr Kehoe would return to duty.

Under date 2nd September, 1931, certificate was read from Dr. S.V. O'Connor that Mr Kehoe was still under his care, suffering from Asthenia (post operation) and would be unable to resume duty for one month.

It was decided that copy of medical certificate be furnished L.G.D. (Roads) for their information.

SALE OF FORTVIEW

Mr Elgee, Solicitor, reported that Mr Andrew Nolan, Selskar House, Wexford, had purchased Fortview, former County Council offices for £1000, the figure agreed on by the County Council.

MESSENGER OF COUNTY COUNCIL OFFICES

The Secretary reported that owing to the sale of Fortview the position of Nicholas Roche who acted as caretaker at Fortview and Messenger to County Council offices came up for review. He was paid 30/- per week less Insurance and had free quarters in Fortview.

Mr O'Byrne proposed and Mr Hall seconded the following resolution which was adopted:-

"That Nicholas Roche, messenger, County Council Offices be retained for three months as messenger at 30/- per week less insurance. That, as Fortview has been sold the Co. Council are no longer able to supply him with free quarters,

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and that he be furnished with a copy of this resolution.

"That the position be reviewed by Finance Committee meeting of 3rd December, 1931."

SCHOLARSHIP SCHEMES

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr O'Byrne seconded by Mr Hall:- "That the Office of National Education be requested to furnish as soon as possible their decision in connection with renewals of primary scholarships in the cases of James Donnelly, Johanna Cooney, Katie Doyle and Patrick Sheehan in view of the fact that the secondary school term has begun."

The President, University College, Dublin, forwarded the following result of applications for award of four University Scholarships:-

1. Michael Tobin, Bohreen Hill, Enniscorthy (1047 marks)
2. Mary F. Kelly, 18 North Main Street, Wexford (964).
3. Barbara Lowe, Maudlintown, Wexford (957).
4. Margaret M. O'Hanlon, Faythe, Wexford (947).

Joseph A. Flynn, Ballyvoclare, Campile (939) and Mary Kavanagh, Hollyfort, Gorey, (912) were regarded as eligible for scholarships if available.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr O'Byrne seconded by Mr Hall:- "That we recommend the County Council to award University Scholarships to Michael Tobin, Mary F. Kelly, Barbara Lowe, and Margaret M. O'Hanlon. That, in the event of any of those students failing to avail of award, vacant scholarships be awarded Joseph A. Flynn, and Mary Kavanagh, in the order named."

COURTOWN HARBOUR COMMITTEE

Under date 1st September, 1931, Mr Thomas McGarry, Chairman, Courtown Harbour, Commissioners, wrote asking for copy of rules dealing with the powers of the Committee, as some members of the Council claimed the Committee had no

power. He also asked for a map of the ground at Courtown Harbour owned by the County Council.

Under date 31st August, 1931, Lord Courtown wrote that if Mr Keegan (County Councillor) was referring at last meeting of the Council to the removal of huts etc erected on the sand hills to the North of the Harbour the County Council had no authority over them as they were not erected on County Council property, which only extended from a line drawn five yards on the North side of the stone bridge to the sea.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr O'Byrne seconded by Mr Shannon:- "That Courtown Harbour Commissioners be informed that the County Council have no legal power to delegate their powers in respect of Courtown Harbour to a Committee, but at the same time desire to point out that in the past the various requests of the Committee have been very favourably considered by the Council and we have no reason to anticipate that similar action will not be taken in the future."

EASEMENT OF KAVANAGH'S CORNER - CURRACLOE

Mrs Owen Morris, Barnahask, Curracloe, wrote under date 2nd September, 1931, that she was satisfied to accept £3 as compensation for her land taken to secure easement at Kavanagh's Corner but she expected to be paid an extra £7 for the cutting of her summer house and destruction of her fruit trees.

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

"That we regard £3 as ample compensation for land etc taken in connection with easement at Kavanagh's Corner, Curracloe. In future Assistant Surveyors should procure from land owners a written undertaking that they are prepared to accept an agreed on figure for compensation before any work of this nature be undertaken."

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VERIFICATION WEIGHTS AND MEASURES - FERNS DISTRICT

Under date 2nd September, 1931, the Chief Superintendent Garda Sióchana wrote forwarding petition from the traders in Ferns District - to have Weights and Measures adjusted in Ferns and held they had a grievance in being obliged to bring these to Enniscorthy for verification. About 30 traders were concerned. The question of providing, equipping, and maintaining a Weights and Measures Office in Ferns would arise if the request was agreed to though the office would be in use only for about three weeks each year and the transport of standards etc would have to be undertaken at the expense of the Council.

In a further letter under date 9th September, 1931, the Chief Superintendent stated that the traders concerned had been approached with the suggestion they should provide office accommodation and furniture but they adhered to their decision not to defray any expense whatever in the matter.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr Hall seconded by Mr O'Byrne:- "That in view of the fact that the traders concerned have refused to supply even the use of office we recommend the County Council to refuse their application to have Weights and Measures adjusted etc at Ferns, instead of at Enniscorthy."

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The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr Brennan seconded by Col. Quin :- "That the Minutes of Finance Committee in respect of meeting held on 10th September, 1931, be received and considered."

Illness of Mr John Kehoe - Assistant Surveyor: The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr Gaul, seconded by Mr Hall:- "That Mr John Kehoe, Assistant Surveyor be granted subject to sanction of L. G. D. (Roads) a further month's sick leave as from 2nd September, 1931."

Sale of Fortview: The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr O'Byrne seconded by Mr Hall:- "That the seal of Wexford County Council be affixed to deed of Conveyance of the Fortview premises from County Council to Mr Andrew Nolan, Selskar House, Wexford."

Scholarship Schemes:- Under date 12th September, 1931, Very Rev Wm. F. Murphy, President St. Peter's College, Wexford, wrote that James Donnelly, Ballymitt, Primary Scholarship Holder for the past three years was this year going to Rockwell College, Cashel. He expected to be appointed to a Pupil Teachership and as there was no provisions for such pupils at St. Peter's, Donnelly was joining the special class for Pupil Teachers at Rockwell College. Father Murphy hoped no difficulty would be made in allowing the boy to enjoy the last year of his Scholarship in Rockwell.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr O'Byrne seconded by Mr Hall:- "That the attention of Fr. Murphy, President St. Peter's College, be called to the following provision in Primary Scholarship Scheme:- "Scholarships under this Scheme are not to apply to candidates holding pupil teacherships or places in Preparatory Colleges."

Courtown Harbour:- The County Surveyor submitted letter under date 10th September, 1931, from Messrs Stopford & Turner, Estate Agents for Lord Courtown stating they were

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unable to supply a tracing showing the boundary of the property of the Co. Council at Courtown Harbour as they had no plans of the Harbour.

The County Surveyor was instructed to arrange for interview with Lord Courtown with a view to obtaining from him ^{particulars} in order to make a map of the harbour.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr Hall seconded by Col. Quin:- "That the Minutes of Finance Committee in respect of meeting held on 10th September, 1931, be and are hereby confirmed."

THE PLIGHT OF AGRICULTURE IN COUNTY WEXFORD

Arising out of discussion in connection with payment of rates, Mr Roche said that as far as he could see, in the near future, instead of devising means to collect rates, they would have to devise means to help the people to make the rates. He thought that matters were never in as poor a way concerning farmers as at present, and, in his opinion, unless something was done in the very near future, they would be practically bankrupt. They should ask the Government to adopt some means of economy, and pass the result on to the farmers. Unless that were done he was afraid everything would be in a bad way in a short time. He thought a deputation from the Council should be appointed to approach the Minister for Agriculture and lay very fully before him the plight of the farmers, who were selling cattle, pigs, and other things below even pre-war rates. He saw a statement in the Press recently that pigs were lower in price than for the past thirty years. Yet salaries and everything else remained high. If that state of affairs continued, the farmers could not carry on and if the producer went down the country would fall. There were really only two producers in the country - farmers and farm labourers - and these were the people that could not get a living. The Minister for

Agriculture seemed to be pretty conversant with the state of affairs, but evidently he did not fully realise it. There was no use in allowing matters to get into a condition when it would be too late to realise the state of things. There were several ways of arriving at economies, and he believed there was a lot of very highly paid officials in the country that could do with a reduction of pay. Those officials should be asked to throw in their lot with the country, and let the country go ahead, because once the agricultural community went down the whole country was down.

Mr Hall said he agreed with Mr Roche. No one wanted to work on the land at present, but there was new vacancies for officials every day and salaries and bonuses, etc, were fixed. He knew the country could not maintain that.

Mr Cummins - Didn't a deputation from this Council wait on the Minister for Agriculture at Enniscorthy last year or this year ? I didn't hear the result, only that the deputationists were there for the purpose of laying all the grievances that Mr Roche complains of before the Minister. The matter is not of mushroom growth; it has been going on for the past three years. I suppose the answer the deputation got was that the country was in a prosperous condition.

Chairman - It was only on the question of derelict farms we approached the Minister; it was not on the general state of the country.

The Chairman said that the depression affecting farmers was not of mushroom growth, but matters had been growing fast for the last three months. He thought the past three months had been the hardest that people engaged in agriculture had ever met. He was hampered for finances himself, and if matters continued as at present he could not hold out much longer, and he could tell them there was no extravag-

ance or waste.

Col. Gibbon referred in detail to the uneconomic prices paid for live-stock and farm produce. He agreed with Mr Roche that the position was now such a very serious one for the farmer that it almost required an emergency measure similar to that taken in England. In striking the rate for next year they would have to consider the position of the people of the country, and they would have to estimate for a very much lower expenditure for next year than even for this year. They should start very soon to see what economies could be effected. At the same time rates would have to be paid as already struck.

Miss O'Ryan said that the Government should be asked to try to curtail general expenditure, and not wait, as their neighbours (Great Britain) waited, until the crisis came. Expenditure should be cut down all round.

Mr Keegan mentioned that stock was unsaleable except at a loss at recent fairs which he attended. When Mr Cummins raised the question of withholding the land annuities he did not get much support but after a while they would be withheld automatically as there would be no one to pay them.

Mr D'Arcy stated that the last fair in Gorey was the worst for a great ^{many} years. Stuff was practically unsaleable, because there was no one to buy, and he thought it was not an exaggeration to say that a state of emergency practically existed as far as the farmers were concerned. The Government should give a lead to the people and start economies.

The Chairman advocated sending the deputation to the Executive Council.

Mr Hall said the producer got nothing for his produce, but the consumer had to pay very big prices. The farmer had now to pay a hundred per cent more for machinery than he paid

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before the war, and present-day machines were not nearly as good as pre-war machines. So long as that state of affairs existed the country could not stand.

Mr D'Arcy said they were back to pre-war prices with regard to everything that was sold off the land, but their production costs for any crop were practically ninety per cent above pre war.

The Chairman said he could not see that there was a wonderful reduction in the cost of living, notwithstanding the price they were getting for their produce. He paid exactly the same for fresh meat at present as he paid six months ago in spite of the reduction in the price of cattle. They might say that anything labour was touching at present was unnecessarily high, and if a farmer wanted machines, the purchase of a couple in any one year did away with a tremendous amount of what was made on a farm.

Col. Quin thought the standard of living was higher, which was a good thing. Everyone was better "turned out". They might see a woman coming out of a labourer's cottage dressed as well as anyone. She deserved credit for it, but it did run up prices.

Mr Colleton remarked that there was a co-operative bacon factory in Wexford, and he suggested that that factory should be able to turn out stuff at a reasonable figure.

Chairman - There is a very big staff to be upheld by that factory, and fairly big salaries are paid in it, and that accounts for the very high retail costs.

Mr Cummins said that the cost of living might be higher for some people but he did not see ~~why~~ it should be higher for a farmer, who was producing the greater part of what he used. It was not necessary for a farmer to depend on a bacon factory for bacon; he could kill pigs himself.

Chairman - There is more than that coming into the cost of living on a farm. What about machinery and labour and everything a farmer has to pay for ?

Mr Cummins said he was talking about actual living. A man did not buy a suit of clothes or a machine for ploughing every year, as such a machine would last from ten to twenty years. Mr Roche was on the wrong track with regard to going to the Government. "The time has arrived" added Mr Cummins, "for this country to give a lead. With regard to Mr Keegan's remark, on a public platform I stated that in view of the depression affecting agriculture the time had come when annuities should be withheld."

The Chairman ruled the discussion of the withholding of land annuities out of order. He would agree if the stoppage could be brought about legally.

Col. Quin thought that if a resolution was sent to the Government which knew the state of the country perfectly well it would not be necessary to send a deputation.

Mr Corish said that while recognising the position of the farmers he wanted to know what the deputation was going to put before the Government before he could agree to support Mr Roche's resolution. Everyone knew that the farmers were going through a difficult period. Suggestions had been made that salaries should be cut, but if all the salaries of officials in Government Departments were cut it would not help the farmers a bit. What contribution would it make towards solving the problem? He thought the matter referred to by the Chairman should be investigated - the question of the cost of living. It had been brought to their notice on many occasions that although farmers were only getting pre-war prices, and in some cases, he understood, less than pre-war prices, the cost of living had not appreciably changed, and there must be a margin between farmer and consumer that called for investigation. He thought if they asked for such an inquiry they would be doing far better work than if they asked for a decrease in wages and salaries, because he did not believe that decrease of

salaries were going to do any more than touch the fringe of the situation. He also suggested that a resolution from that council, as one individual council, was not going to achieve any useful purpose. He thought they should bring the matter before the General Council of County Councils so as to get the whole country moving in it.

Mr Roche said he thought the whole trouble in the country was the result of waiting for others to move. Unless some council or members of a council made a start they would get nowhere, because if they remained quiet everyone would think they were going on all right. The only thing to do was to voice their grievances. With regard to getting the whole country moving in the matter, that would take a very long time. If Wexford County Council made a start as he had proposed it was quite probable that every council in the country would follow in a short time. Most of the farmers in the county were living on credit from business houses and on overdrafts from the banks, and if business places or banks called in their money he believed that 95 per cent of the farmers in the country would be bankrupt in the morning. Only for the credit he received the farmer could not exist, and if the times got any worse that would be curtailed. Business people would begin to get afraid that they would not get their money back. For that reason he proposed the sending of a deputation to the Minister for Agriculture. He thought there should also be an investigation into the difference between the cost of production and the retail cost, and there should be some means of curtailing the immense profit, which profit was sometimes caused by the handling of stuff for, perhaps, a couple of hours. He agreed to embody in his resolution the suggestion made by Mr Corish with reference to an inquiry into prices, and moved that while waiting for a deputation to be received they should try to arrive at solutions of the

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problem for submission to the Minister.

Mr Cummins - I believe it is only loss of time, and that you will get nothing from him, as he has nothing to give to you. I am giving my opinion and I have told you what/do .

After further discussion Col. Quin proposed the following which was however, not seconded:- "That a resolution be forwarded to the Government calling attention to the plight of agriculture and asking that something should be done. And that no deputation in this matter be appointed."

The following resolution was then adopted on the motion of Mr Roche seconded by Mr Hall:- "That a deputation be appointed from this Council to wait upon the President of the Executive Council with the Ministers for Finance and Agriculture to submit recommendations in connection with the present plight of agriculture, and that a sub-committee be appointed to draft such recommendations for consideration at the meeting of the County Council to be held on 28th September, 1931."

"And that said Sub-Committee act as the deputation referred to in this resolution."

The following Sub-Committee were then appointed:-

The Chairman, Messrs Corish, D'Arcy, Jordan, McCarthy, and Roche, to meet in County Council Chamber, Wexford, on 19th September, 1931, at 10.30 a.m.

FLOODING AT ASKAMORE

The following under date 12th September, 1931, was read from Mr Elgee, County Solicitor,:-

"As instructed I attended at the above Premises yesterday with Mr Barry the County Surveyor, and inspected same.

The position is as follows:-

The County Road runs down to Mr. Doran's Gate, and then turns sharply to the left. There is a slight fall down to the gate, and the surface water from the Road is carried through a Gullet under the Farmyard wall whence it runs in a stone channel, about one foot deep, down through the farmyard

for about twenty or twenty five feet, and then runs into another Gullet which carries the water off Mr Doran's premises.

From enquiries which I made it appears that the above mentioned Channel, through the yard, is quite sufficient for the purpose of carrying off the surface water, and that such water does not overflow from the Channel over the Farmyard, and from my inspection of the premises it does not appear that the Channel is ever choked by sand or gravel, from the Road, at least there are no signs of it, having been cleared out.

In the opposite corner of the Farmyard from where the surface water runs into the Channel, there is a small Pool or Pond which is supplied from water from a Stream on the opposite side of the County Road - This Stream passes under the Road through a Gullet.

The surplus water from this Pool runs through a drain across the yard to the before mentioned Channel and thence down the Channel.

I was informed by Mrs Doran that the water from this Pond was used for household purposes such as making tea, although Ducks and Geese, Mr Doran's property, have access to, and use same, as I saw them doing yesterday.

From the appearance of the Channel in the Yard it must have been there for a long number of years past, and the water supply to the Pond must also have run in the same channel for a considerable time. This being so, I am of opinion, that the County Council are not under any legal obligation to Mr Doran in the matter, and cannot be called on by him to alter the present arrangement of carrying the surface water off the County Road."

It was decided to inform Mr Doran that the County Solicitor had advised the County Council they were not responsible as regards the flooding of his premises.

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MOTEBOWER LANE

Mr O'Byrne reported that the Committee appointed to deal with this matter met on 11th August, 1931, the following being present:- Messrs Hall, Keegan, O'Byrne, D'Arcy, and Col. Quin, with the County Surveyor and Mr Treanor, Assistant Surveyor.

When Col. Quin had left the Committee decided to recommend the expenditure of £100 which with the work the local people agreed to do would put the lane into fair repair. The larger portion of the lane had been put in repair by Wicklow County Council.

Col. Quin objected. There were only three people - well-to-do farmers living on the lane and it was grossly unfair to unload it on the County.

Mr Keegan advocated the work.

Mr D'Arcy contradicted Col. Quin's statement as to the number of people benefited. The lane would serve a whole district and provide a short way to the fairs at Shillelagh, Tinahely, Gorey and Carnew.

The County Surveyor said that the local people had offered to do £40 or £50 worth of work.

After further discussion the following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr O'Byrne seconded by Mr Hall (Col. Quin dissenting) :- "That a proposal to expend £100 for the improvement of Moteybower Lane be brought forward in the Road Works Scheme for financial year 1932-33."

ROAD GRANT - FINANCIAL YEAR 1931-32.

Under date 3rd September, 1931, the Department of Local Government (Roads) (SGH/32) wrote that the Minister had approved of the scheme of Road improvement proposed to be carried out by Wexford County Council, amount £16,215.

The County Surveyor said that the figure mentioned in a previous communication from the Department was £16375

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and he had written calling attention to the discrepancy. He was informed they would have to wait till next year to receive the difference viz., £160.

The L. G. D. (Roads) in connection with this improvement grant forwarded under date 12th September, 1931, (S.G.H./32) letter stating that £4,500 had been forwarded to the Treasurer of the County Council.

ANALYST'S REPORTS

Under date 4th September, 1931, the Department of Local Government wrote (P.H. 67757/1931 Loch Garman H) suggesting that in future Minutes of Co. Council meetings, statements showing the action taken in regard to samples of Food and Drugs which were found on analyses to be defective should appear with the report of the Co. Analyst.

The Secretary stated that he had arranged for reports of Garda Síochána in each case of adulteration as it occurred and these particulars would for the future appear with the report of the Analyst.

LINOLEUM FOR COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Under date 26th August, 1931, the Department of Local Government wrote (S) that it was necessary for the due transaction of the business of the Court that the floor of the Courthouse should be covered with linoleum or some form of matting so as to lessen the noise in the Court. The Minister trusted that the representations made to the Council in the letter of L. G. D. of 6th August, 1931, would be favourably reconsidered.

Col. Quin handed in notice of motion to rescind the resolution of the Council refusing to provide a covering for the floor of the Co. Courthouse and in accordance with standing Order No. 29 the Notice was backed by the names of four other members.

The motion will be considered at the meeting of the Council on 28th September, 1931.

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ROADS OVER RAILWAY BRIDGES

The following under date 12th August, 1931, from Mr. T. R. Leonard, District Engineer's Office, Great Southern Railways, Waterford, to the County Surveyor was read:-

"It was proposed shortly to renew overbridge No. 373 New Ross Branch, in reinforced concrete. This bridge is situated about 1½ miles to the Wexford side of Palace East Station. It will be necessary to regrade the approaches to the bridge and I send you herewith Plan No. 767/82 showing our proposals.

"I shall be glad to know whether they meet with your approval."

This letter was adjourned from last meeting of the Council.

The County Surveyor said there was no objection to the proposal as the strength of the bridge would be increased.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Col. Quin seconded by Mr Hall:- "This Council will offer no objection to the reconstruction of Railway overbridge No. 373 New Ross Section in accordance with the terms of letter from Railway Engineer under date 12th August, 1931."

KILMORE ROAD

With reference to Road from Kilmore Quay to Wexford described by Mr Roche as the worst road in the County, it was arranged after discussion, that Messrs Roche, Hayes and the Chairman should inspect the road and report to first available meeting of the Council.

ROAD AT CLONARD, BATHROE

Mr Murphy stated that Mr Ward complained to him that owing to the condition of this road he was constantly breaking the springs of his lorries. A tenpound note would repair it.

The matter was referred to the County Surveyor.

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CUTS IN ROAD AT CLONROCHE

Mr Corish said his attention had been called to dangerous cuts in the road at Clonroche and he asked when they would be filled in.

The County Surveyor stated that the cuts had been caused by work done at the place by the County Board of Health. He had written the Board and had been informed that the Engineer was arranging for the Contractor to restore the road.

TRIMMING HEDGES ON ROADS

Mr Culleton proposed:- "That the trimming of sides of ditches by road men be discontinued. That water tables be cleaned by one foot up and that money saved on this work be spent in procuring road metal and on road maintenance."

Mr D'Arcy seconded.

The County Surveyor said if this was done generally road drains would become choked.

Mr Corish moved the following as an amendment:-

"That, so far as is possible, the work of trimming hedges be curtailed the work to be done to be left to the discretion of the Co. Surveyor."

Col. Quin seconded.

As a further amendment Mr Gaul moved and Mr Hayes seconded the following:-

"That the work of trimming sides of roads be carried out as heretofore."

A show of hands was taken on this last amendment, seven voting for and fourteen against.

It was declared lost by the Chairman who then took a show of hands on amendment of Mr Corish, fifteen voting for and six against.

The Chairman declared this amendment carried.

On being put as the substantive motion it was adopted with out dissent.

ERECTION OF HOUSE ON ROAD 530

The following report was submitted by the County Surveyor from Mr T. Cullen, Assistant Surveyor, under date 22nd August:-

"Mr John O'Connor, Glenbrien, intends erecting a new house within 30 feet of centre of above road at Glenbrien.

The proposed building shall have a frontage of 15 feet to the road, and shall be in line with existing house, which is 6 feet (approx.) from road surface.

The road is straight at this point, and in my opinion proposed building will not form any obstruction."

Mr D'Arcy proposed and Mr Hall seconded the following resolution, which, after some discussion, was adopted:-

"That the County Council take no action relative to erection of house at Glenbrien by Mr John O'Connor although it is within 30 feet of the centre of road No. 530 as the proposed building will not cause any obstruction to traffic."

FATAL INJURY TO HAULIER

The following letter under date 8th September, 1931, was submitted by the Co. Surveyor from McDonagh & Boland, Insurance Brokers, Dublin, in connection with fatal accident to T. Larkin:-

"With reference to your letter of the 20th July, relative to the above, we understand the Company has since interviewed you and from the information received consider that the deceased was an independent contractor and not a workman within the meaning of the Statute. We believe so far no claim has been received, but, if a claim is put forward at a later date, the company consider that there is no liability on your part for same, and if you receive any documents kindly send them along to us for the Company's attention.

Would you kindly inform us whether the payments made

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to the deceased for the work he has done have been included in the annual wages return."

The County Surveyor stated that the payments made to Larkin were not submitted in the annual wages returns. This man was engaged hauling material for the County Council; his horse ran away and the cart went over him inflicting fatal injuries.

Mr Shannon asked if it would be possible for the Co. Council to do anything for the widow and children with the sanction of the L.G.D.

Mr Elgee, Solicitor, said the Council had no legal liability in the matter.

It was decided that no action be taken for the present.

COURTOWN HARBOUR MASTER'S REPORT

The following under date 1st September, 1931, was read from Harbour Master, Courtown:-

"With reference to report at meeting of County Council held on 24. 8. 31 of horses and vehicles crossing the foot-bridge at Courtown, I wish to state that Mr Fitzpatrick, a member of the Harbour Committee reported to me that a man had ridden a horse across the bridge. I immediately went to the fellow and chastised him for doing so. He apologised saying he was in a hurry and that he would not offend again. No vehicle of any description crossed the bridge as your Council were led to believe, only the one horse and this occurred at 7 o'clock in the morning. There were three vans on the North side on the Council's ground for five days. They paid at the rate of 2/- each van for the time, and this man owned one of them. With regard to obstruction of either view on traffic there was none, as otherwise cars and buses would be parked where they stood. Hoping this explanation will suffice, as the Council and public in general might assume I was neglecting my duty."

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This explanation was regarded as satisfactory.

OLD AGE PENSION ACTS

Under date 4th September, 1931, the Local Government Department wrote in reference to the death of Mr William Stafford, Clerk Old Age Pension Sub-Committee No. 1, which occurred on 26th August, 1931, that the appointment of new clerk to fill the vacancy was a **matter** for the Sub-Committee concerned who were empowered to elect a suitable person to the position.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr Corish seconded by Mr Hayes:- "That our Secretary summon a meeting of members of Old Age Pension Sub-Committee No. 1 to be held on Wednesday 23rd September, 1931, at 4.30 (Old time) in Bridgetown Dispensary for the purpose of taking the necessary steps for the appointment of new clerk to the Sub-Committee,"

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Col. Quin seconded by Mr O'Byrne:- "That Rev D. Murphy P.P. Kilanerin be appointed a member of Old Age Pension Sub-Committee No. 4 Vice Rev. Nicholas J. Codd P.P. deceased."

USE OF WEXFORD MANUFACTURED TAR FOR ROADS

Under date 3rd September, 1931, the Manager, Wexford Gas Consumers Co. Ltd., wrote that as regards the viscosity they could increase this to the figure required but the Co. Surveyor did not wish this done as it would make the tar unsuitable for his purpose. They were only too willing to comply with either specification, as it was only a question of making the mixture light or heavy.

In letter under date 11th September, 1931, the Manager Wexford Gas Consumers Co. wrote that they noted the difference between their tar and the L. G. specification was in three items.

The distillates below 200° C 1.7 in excess. This could be easily eliminated by increasing the temperature of distil-

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lation which would also bring the phenols within the desired zone. They proposed to increase the viscosity to 12 seconds by admixtures or further as desired by the utilisation of horizontally produced tar or pitch.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Col. Gibbon seconded by Mr Shannon:- "That the County Surveyor make further representations to the L.G. (Roads) as to use of Wexford manufactured tar for roads"

BRIDGE ON 47M (Ballyrankin)

The County Surveyor submitted report from Mr Ennis, Assistant Surveyor, under date 11th September, that a small three arch bridge near Ballyrankin on the road from Clohamon to Ferns ~~which~~ required repair at once, and it would be necessary to spend about £14 on the work.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr O'Byrne seconded by Mr Shannon:- "That a sum of £14 be provided from appropriate Contingency Fund to enable urgent repairs at Bridge on Road 47 M being carried out."

CINEMATOGRAH LICENCE

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr Gaul seconded by Mr D'Arcy:- "That renewal of Cinematograph licence be granted to Mr Raymond Doyle in respect of Broadway Parochial Hall."

IRISH TOURIST ASSOCIATION - GUIDE BOOK

Under date 5th September, 1931, letter was read from the above Association asking to be allowed to issue an official guide book with the official approval of the County Council.

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

"This County Council is prepared to authorise the Irish Tourist Association to issue official Guide Book for

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Co. Wexford on condition that the information to be embodied in the Guide Book be submitted to the Council before printing and that no financial responsibility for publication will attach to the Council."

CIVICS INSTITUTE

Memorandum from Civics Institute of Ireland, Courthouse, William Street, Dublin, in regard to the Housing of the Poor in Saorstát Éireann for submission to the Government and Municipal authorities was read, but no action was taken in the matter.

CLEAN MILK

The following resolution from Cork County Borough was adopted on the motion of Col. Quin seconded by Mr Corish:-

"That the Council of the County Borough of Cork protests against the undue delay of the Government in introducing legislation which would secure to the people a supply of hygienically clean milk, conforming to a reasonable standard as to its chemical composition, more particularly since the vital necessity for such legislation has been admitted by the Ministry.

"That we call on the Ministry to allot the necessary time for the passing of this legislation during the next session of the Oireachtas and we further request that measures be introduced directed towards the eradication of tuberculosis from our dairy and meat supplying herds."

Mr D'Arcy suggested they should also demand the regulation of the price of milk. Milk was being sold from Co. Wexford for Dublin at 8d a gallon and it was selling in Dublin at 2s. a gallon.

Col. Quin - That means the farmers are not co-operating and will not trust one another.

THE TRANSIT OF GOODS → STATE OF RAILWAYS

The following resolution was received from Tuam Town

Commissioners:-

"That we, Tuam Town Commissioners, voicing the feelings of the people of town and country are grievously alarmed at the Government's long delay in dealing with the question of the transit of goods by road which is causing perpetual destruction to them and inflicting a severe burden on the Ratepayers and unwarranted competition to the Railway which is the life of the nation."

Mr Gaul said that Wexford Corporation had passed a resolution viewing with grave alarm the wholesale dismissal of railway employees in the county. He was sure that the members of the county Council were all aware that that was a very serious matter for the men and their families and also for the traders in the county owing to the loss of wages that would result from the dismissals. He moved the following resolution :- "That this Council views with grave alarm the wholesale dismissal of railway employees on different portions of the G. S. R. in the County and ask the Government to approach the directors with a view to having the men retained."

Miss O'Ryan said that traders themselves used lorries for the transit of goods more than anyone else. She thought it would be considered by the county a dire necessity to put back the traffic to the railways, and keep the people employed on them. They certainly could not keep the road and rail traffic going. The roads should be preserved for private traffic, and that might be done if the people took up the question.

Mr Roche thought the loss of traffic to the railways was entirely the fault of the railways themselves, because any time they got a chance they raised freights. Last year the railways raised the freight for beet and he considered it was absolutely unjustifiable and absolutely wrong of the company to do that. Farmers could hardly be expected to pay

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higher rates for carriage by rail than by road, and until the railway company were prepared to come down he did not think there was any use in doing anything in the matter.

Mr McCarthy said that before Mr Gaul's resolution was seconded he wished to move the following:- "That this Council views with grave alarm the present position of the railways and requests the Government to enact such legislation as would preserve the railways for the country." He believed everyone would agree that the railways were absolutely necessary for the nation and for its development, and apart from that they were very large employers of labour. In Co. Wexford alone they paid in wages in a year £76,000, and they contributed about £3,500 to the Co. Council yearly in rates. As matters appeared at present there was grave danger that the train services would be closed down. That would be a serious matter for the farmers as fairs and markets would disappear, and the towns would suffer also. He agreed with Mr Roche that, perhaps, the railway company, taking advantage of the position that existed, did fleece the people with freights but it should be within the power of the Government to control those rates and see that nothing unreasonable or unjust was charged.

Col. Gibbon suggested that the matter should be postponed to next meeting. It could be specially mentioned on next agenda paper.

After discussion it was decided to consider the matter at the present meeting:-

Col. Gibbon proposed and Col. Quin seconded the following resolution:- "That we view with alarm the policy of the Railway Companies which is forcing unsuitable traffic on to the roads and involving the dismissal of employees by the railways."

Mr Keegan seconded Mr Gaul's resolution. He wished to support the men, but it would not be fair to those who had

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capital sunk in lorries to remove them from the roads.

Mr D'Arcy remarked that the freights on the railway were prohibitive.

Mr Corish said that transport generally in the country must be in a state of absolute chaos, and he thought they should have Government intervention. In his opinion Agricultural produce should get more preference than it was getting. Agriculture was the staple industry and some special ^{freight} preference should be given to it.

The Chairman instanced increases of charges for the carriage of corn and livestock. He said that some years ago he sent corn from Wexford to Dublin at 3s. a ton but now the rate would be £1 a ton or near it. Some years ago they could send a horse to Dublin for £1 or a little more, but now the charge was nearer to £3. He thought the resolution was rather dangerous. Were it not for the lorries they could not afford to pay the rates charged.

Miss O'Ryan held that in the interests of the country the railways should be preserved but controlled by some competent authority elected by the people.

Mr Hall remarked that if they had no railway services they would have no fairs in any town.

Mr Gaul said he understood that eleven men were dismissed from Wexford North Station last week, and he supposed the same state of affairs applied to all other towns. Those men had nothing to support ~~their~~ families on, and they would have to be kept up by someone.

Mr Hayes suggested that they should call on the Government to take up the matter with a view to regulating traffic.

After further discussion all motions were withdrawn in favour of the following which was proposed by Mr Corish and seconded by Col. Quin and adopted:-

"That we view with alarm the wholesale dismissal of men from Railways caused by diversion of traffic to roads. That

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we request the Government to take immediate action to ensure the **proper** control of traffic with special attention to secure the conveyance of agricultural produce at a cheap rate."

TAKING OF LAND FOR PUBLIC PURPOSES

The adoption of the following resolution from Buncrana Urban Council was moved by Mr O'Byrne seconded by Mr Hayes:-

"That we request the Government to pass legislation to enable local authorities to acquire land for public purposes through the District Courts, the District Justice to be empowered to deal with such applications, and with the assistance of two assessors, to fix compensation, so as to expedite procedure and lessen the costs."

Col. Quin expressed his strong dissent.

Mr. D'Arcy considered that the resolution would mean confiscation.

Mr Corish disagreed, and said the resolution proposed provided cheaper machinery for what had to be done in the higher courts.

Mr D'Arcy - Doesn't it mean to give authority by law to any local council to acquire land ?

Mr Corish - They must make their case in court.

A poll was taken with the following result:-

For:- Messrs Armstrong, Cooney, Corish, Gaul, Hall, Hayes, McCarthy, O'Byrne and O'Ryan - 9.

Against:- Messrs Breman, Culleton, D'Arcy, Gibbon, Jordan, Quin, Roche, Smyth, Walsh and the Chairman - 10.

Mr Keegan (1) did not vote.

Messrs Clince, Cummins, Murphy and Shannon (4) were not present when poll was taken.

The Chairman declared the resolution lost.

POACHING TRAWLERS

The following resolution from Donegal County Council

was adopted on the motion of Mr Gaul seconded by Col. Quin:- "That this Council calls on the Minister for Fisheries to take adequate steps to prevent trawlers poaching within the three-mile limit."

W. Quin

25 Sept. 1931

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WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL.

MEETING 28TH SEPTEMBER 1931.

MINUTES.

COUNTY HALL,
WEXFORD.

N.J. FRIZELLE,
SECRETARY.

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The monthly meeting of the Wexford County Council was held in County Council Chamber, County Hall, Wexford, on 28th September, 1931.

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

The Secretary, County Surveyor, County Solicitor and the following Assistant Surveyors were in attendance:-

T. Treanor, J.F. Birthistle, R.J. Ennis, P.O'Neill and T. Cullen.

The Chair was taken in the absence of the Chairman and Vice Chairman by Col. Gibbon on the motion of Col. Quin seconded by Mr D'Arcy.

The Minutes of last meeting were confirmed.

After this business the Chairman and Vice Chairman attended and the former presided for the remainder of the Business.

PAYMENTS

Treasurer's Advice Note for £1818: 16: 11d was examined and signed.

REPLIES TO VOTE OF CONDOLENCE

It was decided on the motion of the Chairman (Mr Doyle) seconded by Col. Quin that the following replies to votes of condolence be inserted on the Minutes of the day.

From Mr T.A. Frizelle, Assistant Secretary, on the death of his infant son:- "Please convey to County Council my grateful thanks for their expression of sympathy in my recent bereavement."

From Miss Margaret Stafford, Baldwinstown Castle,
Wexford, on the death of her father, late Clerk No. 1 Sub-
Committee Old Age Pension Acts:-

"On behalf of my family and myself I wish to thank
the members of the County Council, you and your staff, for
the very kind expression of sympathy offered to us in our
recent bereavement."

COUNTY SURVEYOR'S REPORT

The following report from County Surveyor was sub-
mitted:-

"On the 8th instant I made full inspection of Ferry-
carrig Bridge, with an Inspector from the Department of Local
Government, and he has reported in detail to the Local
Government Department, and forwarded copy to the Secretary.
In regard to the defective concrete where reinforcement has
been exposed I had already reported on this matter to the
County Council, and had allocation for its repair, which
work was delayed pending the consideration of the under-pin-
ning of abutment. If it be possible to obtain Parliamentary
Powers to permanently close opening span I consider it most
advisable, and ask the County Council to approach the Local
Government on the matter. In any circumstances, however,
the abutment must be made safe, as it would not be, in my
opinion, advisable to attempt any interference with the
opening span until this work is done. I submitted ap-
proximate quotation from the Pressure Piling Company for the
under-pinning, and I ask for authority to get the work put
in hands.

I have to report that the reconstruction of Ballygarvan
Bridge is now completed, and it is a satisfactory job. By
direction of the Council the work was carried out by Direct
Labour, and has been completed within the Estimate.

On the 22nd instant, the Committee appointed by the
Council to inspect the Kilmore Road met, and their report on

the matter will be before you.

The laying of the concrete roads under Grant is now in progress. The Pioneer Road Construction Company commencing at Poulpeasty, and working towards Wexford have completed Slab for about three-quarters of a mile, and the work is proceeding satisfactorily. On the second section, between Cushinstown and Ballymacar, the Company is shaping the road, and will be ready to commence laying the slab at once. Messrs Lee have commenced the slab at the Bunclody end of their job, working towards Ballycarney. On this work I have found it necessary to object to the Contractor's Foreman being continued, as instructions given him by the Assistant Surveyor were not being properly attended to. I have notified the Contractor to this effect.

At last meeting of the County Council there was a discussion on the subject of the bounds of the Council's property at Courtown Harbour, and I was directed to interview Lord Courtown. On the 25th instant I received a letter from Lord Courtown on the matter, but have not yet been able to arrange an appointment. However, on the 25th instant I was in the office, in Gorey, of Messrs Stopford and Turner, and obtained some particulars. It appears that at a meeting of the Harbour Commissioners, held on the 14th July, 1904, a resolution was adopted agreeing to the transfer of the Harbour to the County Council with the powers held under the Act of 1824. Up to the present I have not been able to obtain copy of this Act, but shall arrange for it later.

I inspected the Harbour on the 25th instant, and found that Messrs Lee have all but completed the gates, and will be putting them in position/ⁱⁿ the course of a few days. Owing to the lateness of the Season it will not be possible now to dam the site, and to make good rollerway on the bottom. I propose getting Contractor to hang gates, and defer this matter until next Spring, but, of course, he will be res-

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possible for their efficient work in the interval.

I arranged with Mr Lee in regard to repair of the Pier Head at Courtown , but, up to the present, no actual work has been carried out. He has some gravel on the site, and a number of metal plates for casing, and I hope to have these put in place during the week.

As directed by the Council Mr Birthistle has been making observations of tides at the Burrow, Rosslare, and later I shall have full details for the Council."

Ferrycarrig Bridge: The following under date 19th September, 1931 (R/RG/32) was read from the Department of Local Government (Roads):-

"With further reference to your letter of the 28th ultimo relative to Ferrycarrig Bridge, I am directed by the Minister for Local Government and Public Health to forward for the information of the Wexford County Council a copy of a report furnished by Mr O'Maille, Engineering Inspector, of the Bridge on the 8th instant.

I am at the same time to state that , having regard to the more urgent demands on the Road Fund, the Minister cannot see his way to recommend a grant for the work in question."

x Mr O'Maille who inspected the Bridge on 8th September, 1931, reported as follows:-

"The abutment on one side was not brought down to a proper foundation and was not properly designed to resist earth pressure at back. Consequently there is a forward movement towards opening span, with the result that opening gear is all out of action. Pile heads are cracked and fastening bolts shorn out.

In addition to the above there are several beams which have the cover of concrete broken and the steel is exposed and rusting. In one case I saw a tensile member reduced to at least half of its original sectional area.

This latter work is urgent to save the structure and I

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told Mr Barry to put on a few men to get all loose concrete broken off and a new waterproof plaster substituted.

In regard to the abutment, I think Parliamentary powers should be sought to make this opening span a fixture, i.e. substituting a R.C. concrete span. This bridge has only been opened once during the past eighteen years. It is now impossible to open or close. The renewing of opening span would be more expensive than fixing it.

The fixing would help to check the forward movement of faulty abutment."

Col. Gibbon proposed:- "That before considering further any repairs to Ferrycarrig Bridge application be made to the L. G. D. for instructions as to the procedure to be followed by the County Council to enable them to apply for Parliamentary powers to have span on Ferrycarrig Bridge converted to a fixed reinforced concrete span instead of an opening span as at present."

Mr D'Arcy seconded.

In reply to Col. Gibbon the County Surveyor said there was no immediate danger of the bridge collapsing.

Mr Gaul opposed the motion: it might be found necessary in the future to have an opening span.

Col. Gibbon said if that were found necessary the cost would be very small in comparison to the huge expenditure necessary to carry out such dredging as would make the river navigable for ocean going steamers.

Mr O'Byrne considered that before an opening span in the bridge would be necessary the river would have to be dredged for ocean going steamers to Enniscorthy - a distance of practically 12 or 14 miles.

A poll was taken on the motion with the following result:

For; Messrs Brenman, Colloton, D'Arcy, Gibbon, Hall, O'Ryan, Quin, Roche, Smyth and the Chairman - 10.

Against: Messrs Colfer, Cummins, Gaul, McCarthy,

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and O'Byrne (5)

Did not vote - Mr P. Hayes (1).

Messrs Armstrong, Clince, Cooney, Corish, Meyler, Murphy, Shannon and Walsh (8), were not present when poll was taken.

The Chairman declared the motion carried.

Wexford-Kilmore Road: The following report was submitted by the Committee:-

"The Committee consisting of the following members:- Colonel Gibbon, Messrs Roche and Hayes met on the 22nd September, 1931, at Sheepwalk Parting Roads, and proceeded to Kilmore. The County Surveyor, and Mr Birthistle, Assistant Surveyor, were also present.

"This is a Link Road - a Main Road - of the Second Class, and up to the present has not been held by the Local Government Department as eligible for Improvement Grant, therefore, the Road must be maintained out of County Funds with a subsidy of 40 % of cost from the Department.

"The Road is upwards of ten miles in length, and the money allocated for the current year is only £37 per mile.

"The Committee specially noted the surface of the Road, and work done at a number of places. Parts are a mass of pot holes, and these are now becoming accentuated by the use of tar in filling former potholes. Where tarred stone patches have been laid the surface is much improved. The County Surveyor pointed out that funds will not allow of more extended work of this nature. Old patches laid with Wexford tar have proved economical and lasting, and the Committee recommends that the Local Government Department should be again asked to sanction this tar for local use.

"This road has increasing motor and lorry traffic, and cannot be maintained without special treatment. As almost the entire length of first class Main Roads (Trunk) have now been improved the Committee recommends that the Local Government Department be asked to allocate the Improvement Funds in future

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years to the more important Link Roads. We consider that a modified system of improvement may be adopted, such as was sanctioned for the Wexford-Killinick Road. In this case a light dressing of tarred stone was laid, and rolled in with a subsequent surface dressing of coarse chippings and bitumen. This work is satisfactory and economical, and will enable long lengths to be done each year. No doubt sections of road will not stand up to traffic with this light coating, but defects, as they appear, can be subsequently strengthened. For a very large percentage of the lengths this class of work will be sufficient, and has the merit of giving a large mileage of fairly good roads in the shortest time.

In connection with the allocation of 40 % towards the Maintenance of Main Roads the Committee draws attention to the inequitable system prevailing, and recommends that the local Government Department be asked to reconsider the matter. Under the present system, if the County Council makes provision to expend say £1,000 on a Main Road, the Department will refund 40 %, i.e., £400, leaving £600 to be raised by rates. On the other hand, if the County Council propose an Improvement job at a £1000, to be raised by loan, then no 40 % subsidy will be forthcoming. We consider that in such cases the subsidy (£400) should be given, and that the County Council should be asked to raise only £600 by loan, or rates as may be. The present system which puts a ban on the Council adopting extensive improvement works, should, we believe, be altered."

Mr Hayes advocated the adoption of the report. There were other roads in the district notably the road from Kerlogue to Murrintown and Sleedagh equally as bad which proved the foolishness of cutting down the estimate of the County Surveyor.

Col. Gibbon said that as the deterioration of the Kilmore Road had been caused by heavy motor traffic, it would be very unjust that any necessary improvement to it should fall on the

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farmers who were not responsible and who did not require roads made up to motor standard. Such roads should be provided as allowed by the funds in the Motor Taxation a/c. If the County Council agrees to carry them out at a more rapid rate it would inflict a heavy and unjust burden on the ratepayers. The grants limited hitherto to trunk roads should now be made available for link roads and main roads used by motor traffic in view of the fact that the trunk roads are now in a very fair condition.

Mr Roche said that the Kilmore Wexford Road was in its present condition partly owing to beet haulage and the road was now as rough for a pony and trap as it was for a motor car. The cost of repair would be a very minor matter compared to the amount spent on other jobs which were not half as beneficial for farmers.

The County Surveyor in reply to Mr Roche said that the Committee did not advocate that an excessive amount be spent on this road. They advocated for main and link roads similar improvement work as had been done from Kerlogue to Ashfield where, by spreading sheets of stone and tar, a fairly good road had been obtained, at an outlay of £500 or £600 a mile, Whereas with slab concrete the cost would run to about £3,000 per mile. The Committee recommended that motor tax grants should be now available for ordinary main and link roads.

Mr O'Byrne proposed and Mr McCarthy seconded the following resolution:-

"That the report of Wexford-Kilmore Road Committee be adopted and that the special attention of the Local Government Department (Roads) be called to the recommendations of the Committee that Improvement Grants for roads should in the future be spent principally on ordinary main and link roads and also that in case a County Council is sufficiently enterprising to borrow money to carry out necessary works of

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road improvement the 40 % maintenance grant should be available for the repayment of the loan."

Mr McCarthy seconded the resolution which was adopted unanimously.

Dismissal of Foreman : Enniscorthy- Bunclody Road: Mr McCarthy said that Mr. O'Hanlon, the Contractor's foreman, had been with him and appeared to have a terrible grievance. He stated he had carried out every instruction he had received and was satisfied that the work which he supervised should be inspected by any Engineer in Ireland.

The County Surveyor said that on Saturday 19th September, the road which should have been wet was quite dry. The attention of the Contractor, ^{Foreman} was called to the matter but up to late on Sunday evening it was still dry.

Mr McCarthy said that O'Hanlon's explanation was that the men had arranged to look to the road after last Mass on Sunday but they did not turn up until 3 o'clock in the afternoon and O'Hanlon considered he should not be held responsible.

Mr Ennis, Assistant Surveyor, said that he was not satisfied with the quality of the work which had been carried out. The road had been left dry from 1 o'clock on Saturday 19th September to 5 o'clock on Sunday afternoon. O'Hanlon had not carried out the directions of the Clerk of Works.

Mr McCarthy - O'Hanlon told me that the Clerk of Works had never called his attention to anything and any time he was asked about the work he said it was all right.

Mr Ennis said he could scarcely believe that.

Mr Hayes considered that the observations of the Clerk of Works in the matter should be invited.

Mr Murphy proposed and Col. Quin seconded the following resolution:- "That the Council proceed to the next business."

Col. Gibbon proposed and Mr Culleton seconded the

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following:- "That a Committee be appointed to examine the work on Enniscorthy-Bunclody Road, and the circumstances in connection with the dismissal of Contractor's foreman and report to next meeting of the Council."

Mr Ennis did not think it fair to him to appoint a Committee. He was in charge of the work and, if he recommended the Council to take a certain course of action they should agree. He professed to know something about the laying down of concrete roads and considered that in any action he took he should have the support of the Council.

A poll was then taken on the resolution of Mr Murphy with the following result:-

For:- Messrs Armstrong, Brennan, Clince, Colfer, Hayes, Meyler, Murphy, O'Ryan, Quin and Roche - 10.

Against:- Messrs Culleton, Cummins, D'Arcy, Gaul, Gibbon, Hall, McCarthy, O'Byrne, Smyth and the Chairman - 10.

Messrs Corish and Shannon (2) did not vote.

Messrs Cooney and Walsh (2) were not in attendance when poll was taken.

The Chairman gave his casting vote against the motion which was declared lost.

Mr Roche proposed and Col. Quin seconded the following resolution:- "That no action be taken by the County Council as regards dismissal of Contractor's foreman for work on Enniscorthy-Bunclody Road."

A poll was taken on this proposal with the following result:-

For:- Messrs Brennan, Clince, Colfer, Hayes, Meyler, Murphy, O'Ryan, Quin and Roche - 9.

Against:- Messrs Armstrong, Culleton, Cummins, D'Arcy, Gaul, Gibbon, Hall, McCarthy, O'Byrne, Smyth and the Chairman - 11.

Messrs Corish and Shannon (2) did not vote.

Messrs Cooney and Walsh (2) were not in attendance when poll was taken.

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The Chairman declared the motion lost.

The resolution of Col. Gibbon to appoint a Committee was then put and passed nem con.

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

"That the Committee to consider the work etc on Ennis-corthy - Bunclody road be composed of the County Councillors for Gorey Electoral Area with Mr Thos. McCarthy."

"That the County Surveyor arrange for day of meeting and summon thereto:- The Contractor, his late foreman (Mr O'Hanlon) and the Clerk of Works.

"That County Surveyor and Mr Ennis be instructed to be present."

Courtown Harbour: In reply to Mr O'Byrne the County Surveyor said he expected to have the sluice gates hung this week.

In reply to Mr D'Arcy the County Surveyor said the work at the Pierhead was being carried out on a piece rate basis by Mr Lee.

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

THE LATE MR JOHN J. BYRNE

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr O'Byrne seconded by Mr Hall:- "That we offer the relatives of the late Mr John J. Byrne, Camolin, our heartfelt sympathy in his demise. In 1921 when it was dangerous to act as Co. Councillor Mr Byrne came forward and joined the Council. He rendered great service to the County during troubled times, and we desire to place a record of his public spirited action on our minutes."

The Chairman associated himself with the vote. He and deceased had been school fellows and since Mr Byrne had gone to reside in Dublin they met very constantly.

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Mr Cummins and other members also referred to Mr Byrne's demise and the Secretary on behalf of himself and staff expressed sorrow with Mr Byrne's relatives in their bereavement.

THE LATE MR C. B. WALDRON

Col. Gibbon proposed a vote of condolence with Mr and Miss Waldron in the death of Mr C.B. Waldron, Chief Executive Officer, Wexford Urban Vocational Education Committee. Col. Gibbon said that for many years Mr Waldron had acted as Engineering Instructor to Co. Wexford Committee of Agriculture and Technical Instruction and had proved himself a most valued servant of that Committee. A large number of young men had greatly benefited by the teaching of Mr Waldron whose demise was deeply lamented.

Miss O'Ryan seconded the vote which was spoken to by the Chairman, Mr O'Byrne, the County Secretary, County Solicitor and others.

Both motions were adopted in silence.

UNEMPLOYED MEN IN GOREY AREA

Consideration of report of Committee as to employment of men in Gorey area was postponed to next meeting to enable Mr Keegan (who was unable to be present at meeting owing to his son's illness) to attend.

ROAD AT FURLONGSTOWN

Miss O'Ryan referred to the Road Taghmon to Wexford about 1½ miles from Furlongstown. This was a main road and had been subject to three long periods of trunk road traffic as an alternative route. This extra traffic had been caused by motorists and it was unfair to the local people that the cost should fall on them.

The County Surveyor said that the pot holes in this road had been repaired with chips and tar but as was the general experience this caused second pot holes.

Mr Hall said the reason for the second pot holes was because

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the first ones were raised too high.

The County Surveyor said that the amount in main road Contingency Fund was £580. They were down to about £40 on this road and had only a similar sum for the repair of the Kilmore Wexford road.

The Chairman proposed and Miss O'Ryan seconded the following resolution which was adopted nem con:- "That a sum of £50 be withdrawn from Main road Contingency Fund for the repair of road from Wexford to Taghmon, via Furlongstown and a similar sum from same Contingency Fund for repair of Wexford-Kilmore Road."

ROAD GRANTS

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

"That as it would greatly convenience County Councils to have information as to amount available for road grants when Road Estimates are under consideration we request the Local Government Department (Roads) to endeavour to induce the Department of Finance to supply this information at the earliest possible date."

GOREY WEXFORD DIRECT ROAD

In reply to Mr Corish the County Surveyor said that the greater portion of the money available for Gorey- Wexford Road (Castlebridge Section) had been spent.

Mr Corish asked if there was any possibility of getting it into a decent condition.

The County Surveyor said the road had been much improved by the tar patches but in between those there were stretches which were bad.

The Chairman said they could not have good roads and low rates and at the moment the farmer preferred the low rates. The ratepayers were prepared to do with the existing roads ~~on~~ if

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the rates could be brought down.

No order.

FLOODING AT RATHPHAUDIN

Mr Shannon called attention to this matter and suggested that the place should be inspected by a couple of Councillors with Mr O'Neill, Assistant Surveyor. If pipes were supplied he believed the land owner would put them across the road.

Mr Hall said as the gullet was too small to take away the water the road was torn away at this point. A few pounds spent now would save the road.

It was decided that Messrs Brennan and Shannon with Mr O'Neill, Assistant Surveyor, should inspect the place and report to the next meeting of the Council.

DANGEROUS CORNER AT FORRESTALSTOWN

Mr Shannon called attention to the necessity of easement of dangerous corner at Forrestalstown, Rathmure. A fatal accident was narrowly averted there recently.

The County Surveyor said there were a number of dangerous corners which would have to be dealt with. But at present he would prefer to see the money spent on the maintenance of roads.

It was decided that Mr O'Neill, Assistant Surveyor, inspect and report to next County Council meeting.

GULLET AT KILMANNON

In connection with above Mr J.F. Birthistle, Assistant Surveyor, reported that he inspected gullet on 18th September, 1931, and found that the centre wall had collapsed and there was little or no covering on the flags forming the top of gullet. The County Surveyor's Department could not afford to reconstruct this gullet out of existing proposals. To do a good job would necessitate an expenditure of about £25 to £30.

Mr Hayes said that every time a traction engine passed

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over the road it broke down the gullet, and he was afraid that some time a serious accident would occur.

Mr Gaul proposed and Mr Hall seconded the following resolution which was adopted:- "That a sum of. £20 be withdrawn from appropriate Contingency Fund for repair of defective gullet at Kilmannon, Cleariestown."

RECOMMENDATIONS OF FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. T. Moore: The following extract from Minutes of Finance Committee in respect of meeting held on 24th September, 1931, was submitted:-

"Under date 17th September, 1931, Mr T. Moore, County Surveyor's Department, wrote from Anchor Hotel, Newcastle, Co. Wicklow, applying for a further month's sick leave.

Dr Hanan, Newcastle Sanatorium, certified under date 16th September, 1931, that Mr Moore had done very well indeed during the previous month and while almost fit to resume duty he (Dr Hanan) strongly recommended that Mr Moore should remain in the Sanatorium for a further four weeks as from 27th September. There was every hope of complete cure in this case.

Mr O'Byrne proposed and Mr Shannon seconded the following resolution which was adopted:- "That we recommend the County Council to grant Mr T. Moore, (County Surveyor's Department) a further month's sick leave as from 27th September, 1931."

Mr O'Byrne proposed and Mr Murphy seconded the following which was adopted:- "That the recommendation of the Finance Committee at meeting of 24th September, 1931, granting a further month's sick leave to the 27th October, 1931, to Mr T. Moore (Assistant Co. Surveyor's Department) be and is here by confirmed."

Secondary School Scholarship Scheme: The following resolution from Finance Committee meeting held on 24th September, 1931, was confirmed on the motion of Col. Quin seconded by Miss O'Ryan:- "That the County Council be recommended to approve

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of renewal of Secondary School Scholarships to Johanna Cooney and Katie Doyle and of bursary to Patrick Sheehan, Gorey. As James Donnelly has taken up residence at Rockwell college under pupil Teachership Scheme he cannot be awarded renewal of County Council Secondary Scholarship."

University Scholarship Scheme: The following recommendation from Finance Committee meeting of 24th September, 1931, was confirmed on the motion of Mr O'Byrne seconded by Col. Quin:-

"That in view of satisfactory reports from Academic Council, University College, Dublin, the County Council be recommended to grant renewals of University Scholarships to

1. John Dunphy, 21 Convent Hill, New Ross.
2. John J. Hunt, Seafield, Duncormack.
3. Catherine Kickham, Abbey House, Enniscorthy.
4. Arthur J. Nix, 7, South Street, New Ross.
5. Mr. J.O'Keefe, 61, Faythe, Wexford.

Letters were read from Mary Kelly, Barbara Lowe and Mr. Tobin that they were about taking up their studies at National University on 12th October, 1931.

A telegram was received from the Convent, Castlecomer, on behalf of Margt.O'Hanlon, as follows:- "Failing holding over Scholarship will be accepted now."

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr O'Byrne seconded by Col. Quin:- "The Council considers that University Scholarship of Miss Margt.O'Hanlon should be taken advantage of this coming year, as we see no reason for holding it over."

LOAN FOR COURTTOWN HARBOUR WORK

The following notice of motion which had been circulated to members of the Council on 26th August, 1931, was moved by Mr O'Byrne seconded by Mr Gaul, and adopted without dissent:-

"That application be made to the National Bank Ltd., The Treasurer of the Council, for a loan of £750 to cover the cost of completing essential and necessary work at Courtown Harbour."

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COVERING FOR FLOOR OF WEXFORD COURTHOUSE

The following notice of motion by Col. Quin (and which according to Standing Order 29 was backed by the names of four other Councillors) was moved by him and seconded by Mr Corish:-

"That the resolution of the County Council at meeting of 10th August, 1931, refusing to provide a covering for the floor of Wexford County Courthouse be rescinded and that said covering be provided at the expense of the Council."

Letter of L. G. D. under date 26th August, 1931, (S) was read. In this it was pointed out it was necessary for the due transaction of the business of the Court that the floor of the Courthouse should be covered with linoleum or some form of matting so as to lessen the noise in the Court and the Minister for Local Government and Public Health trusted that the representations made to the Council in the letter of 6th August would be favourably reconsidered.

Letter of Local Government Department under date 6th August, 1931 (G5964/1931 Loch Garman Pg) was also read.

A poll on the motion was taken with the following result:-

For:- Messrs Armstrong, Colfer, Corish, Cummins, Gaul, McCarthy, O'Byrne, Quin, Shannon and Walsh - 10.

Against:- Messrs Brennan, Cooney, Culleton, D'Arcy, Gibbon, Hall, Hayes, Meyler, Murphy, O'Ryan, Smyth and the Chairman - 12.

and Mr Cline
Mr Roche/(2) were not present when poll was taken.

The Chairman declared the motion lost.

DUNCANNON HARBOUR

Under date 24th September, 1931, the Secretary and General Manager to Waterford Harbour Commissioners wrote stating that in reply to the resolution of the County Council he was asked to point out that the Commissioners did not charge harbour dues at Duncannon to fishermen. The Council might not be aware that there was ample water for the fishermen at the outside pier ~~on~~ harbour, but, of course, there is not and never had been at the

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inner harbour which the fishermen use.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr Corish seconded by Mr Hall:- "That the Minister for Fisheries be asked if, in view of the fact that Wexford County Council have to maintain Duncannon pier, while the dues thereat are taken by Waterford Harbour Commissioners, what steps should be taken by the County Council to compel the Harbour Commissioners to have the harbour (inner and outer portions) properly dredged.

"That the County Surveyor be directed to carry out the necessary work of pointing at Duncannon harbour for the convenience of the fishermen."

THE TAKING OF GRAVEL FROM ROSSLARE FORESHORE.

The following under date 24th September, 1931, (M.S.1447) was read from the Department of Industry and Commerce (Transport and Marine Branch):-

"I am directed by the Minister for Industry and Commerce to state that it has been reported to the Department that John Barry, Woodtown, Rosslare, has recently removed gravel from the foreshore at Rosslare in contravention of the Prohibitory Order. On the 11th instant Barry was observed drawing the gravel from the seashore to the Golf Links where about three tons of the material had been heaped - apparently taken from the shore. It would appear that the gravel is required for road repairing in the locality.

"The Department will be glad to be informed as to any action taken by the County Council in regard to the matter."

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of the Chairman seconded by Mr Shannon:- "That the Department of Industry and Commerce (Transport and Marine Branch) be informed that the County Council gave no instructions to any Road Contractor to take material from Rosslare foreshore since the issue of the Prohibitory Order."

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NEW ROSS BRIDGE

Under date 26th September, 1931, the following was read from the Secretary, Kilkenny County Council:-

"With reference to your communication of the 14th ult., relative to formation of Committee for inspection of New Ross Bridge, I desire to state that the County Council, on the report of the County Surveyor, decided at quarterly meeting on the 21st instant there was no necessity for the inspection proposed. The County Surveyor is satisfied only minor repairs are required, and arrangements for the carrying out of same will be completed with your County Surveyor in due course."

Mr Walsh proposed and Mr Cooney seconded the following:-

"That before any structural alterations be carried out at New Ross Bridge the services of an Engineer familiar with this class of work be obtained to examine and report on the condition of the structure."

After some discussion this motion was withdrawn and it was agreed that the County Surveyor prepare detailed report on the condition of the bridge and that it be inspected by the members of Wexford County Council appointed on Joint Committee, the Co. Surveyor to arrange for date and hour of inspection.

OLD AGE PENSION ACTS - SUB-COMMITTEE NO. 1

Under date 24th September, 1931, Miss Margaret Stafford, Baldwinstown Castle, Bridgetown, wrote that at the meeting of the No. 1 Sub-Committee held on 23rd September, 1931, she had been appointed Clerk to fill the vacancy caused by the death of her father.

MOUNTAINMUCK LANE

A Memorial was read from a large number of ratepayers asking the Council to put in repair Mountainmuck Lane, about one mile in length, and leading from Lambstown Road No. 610 to Ballinclair road. If this were done it would enable them to miss the hill of Ballinclair and would give them a level road to draw

beet to Killurin Railway Station and also for drawing heavy loads from Wexford Town.

Mr Birthistle, Assistant Surveyor, reported that this lane joined the two public roads 610 (C) and 622 (C). It was about three-quarters of a mile in length and was used largely by the farmers in and around Ballinclay. For the greater part of its length it is 11 to 12 feet wide between the fences. The cost of drainage and surfacing where necessary would amount to in all £80.

Miss O'Ryan said the people concerned would be willing to do a certain amount of work.

It was decided to refer the application to the November meeting of the County Council for consideration with Road Estimates.

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THE PLIGHT OF AGRICULTURE.

The following report was submitted:-

"In connection with the resolution of the Wexford County Council on 14th September, 1931, to appoint a deputation to wait on the President of the Executive Council to submit recommendations in relief of the present plight of agriculture, the members of the deputation met on 19th September, 1931, in County Council Chamber, Wexford, to draft these recommendations for submission to the meeting of the County Council on 28th September, 1931.

Mr M. Doyle (Chairman Co. Council) presided and there were also present:- Messrs R. Corish, T.F. D'Arcy, and T. McCarthy. (Mr Roche would have been present but his motor car broke down)

The Secretary to the County Council was also in attendance.

The deputation desire to point out that the position of agriculture, within living memory, has never been so bad. While, unfortunately, it grows worse daily. For everything the farmer has to sell he is receiving a poor price which is steadily dropping. His overhead charges are considerably higher than pre-war while his household and other expenditure has gone down by very small measure only.

The purchasing power of his biggest customer is greatly reduced and will further decrease in the near future.

The mere mention of a Tariff for Great Britain will send into that country colossal cargoes of dumped food supplies from abroad while the Russian Five-Year Plan is responsible for rushing the price of corn down the slippery slope.

Disaster succeeds disaster for the tillage farmer. The only crop for which an increase of price is anticipated is potatoes but this will mean very little owing to poor yield and the uncertain condition of the crop.

We are bewildered. The world is bursting with money tho'

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it would seem the richer the country the more extended the bread line.

If the farmer, especially the tillage farmer, be driven out of business the country perishes.

He is looking for help and guidance and unless something is done for him very soon he is bound to drop out - or fall into such despair as will sap his energy and efficiency.

The County Wexford farmer has been badly hit in every phase of his activities and so far not one bright spot can be seen on his horizon.

We would urge on the Government:-

(1) The necessity for the imposition of tariffs on all Agricultural produce grown in sufficient quantity by our own people.

(2) A tax on luxuries on an Ad valorem basis.

(3) The complete de-rating of agricultural land.

(4) The appointment of a Commission to deal with food prices. The farmer fails to understand why portion of the extraordinary drop in ~~the~~ prices has not been passed on to the consumer. The difference between what the farmer receives and what the consumer pays runs into hundreds of per cent for many articles. According to the Sunday Times baker's bread is 4d per 2 lb loaf in many parts of Ireland, while it is retailed in London for 2½d ! When a farmer sells a load of vegetables he usually does not receive half of what consumers have to pay.

No one would object to a reasonable return for retailers but there is evidence of profiteering in several directions.

(5) Something should be done to straighten out the transport muddle. The decision of the Great Southern Railways to close down a number of branch lines will react, most unfavourably, on agriculture, injuring, if not actually wiping out, prominent fairs and markets.

Then as regards freight charges which are almost prohibitive the motto of the Railways appears to be to put on traffic

every penny that can be squeezed out of it - never to take the long view either industrially or nationally.

Something should be done by Government to see that Railways are run in the real interests of the Country.

Recently some freights, respecting agriculture, have been reduced but essentials are not touched and the charges for these continue entirely unwarranted.

Some popular and easy method of investigation and amendment of freight charges and for their proper publication should be devised. Lists should be available in rural post offices.

The poor farmer looks now for help and assistance. He can do very little immediately for himself and immediate relief is imperative.

A few days ago the New Minister for Agriculture in Hungary arranged for measures to assist the small farmers, whose situation has become serious owing to the catastrophic harvest. The price of wheat for sowing will be reduced, and farmers owning less than twenty acres will be provided by the Government with seed and given a year's credit.

The Government will also extend its poor relief during the coming winter. In addition to these measures the city authorities are preparing to raise the number of free meals to 60,000 a day.

It will thus be seen that other Governments are directly assisting their people.

The members of the deputation desire to put before the President and the Ministers for Finance and ~~the~~ Agriculture the recommendations made in this Report,"

Miss O'Ryan said the question of the curtailment of National expenditure was considered at last County Council meeting, and it was the strongest point made - the curtailment of expenditure. The points in the report were excellent, but they do not altogether work for a definite solution, and unless national expenditure is cut down, how were they going

to save money ? One of the things recommended by all sensible people is that expenditure should be brought down to the same level. That is only going to provide for the very poor, and there is no reason why some people should have all and others none. I will not, said Miss O'Ryan, agree to the recommendations going through unless you add the points about the reduction in the expenditure.

Secretary - What is before you is the unanimous opinion of the committee. As to the question of the reduction in the national expenditure we could not get a unanimous vote at the Committee, and it was decided to let the County Council deal with that point.

Mr Cooney - I thought with all the wailing here at County Council meetings as to the condition of things that there would never be any necessity ~~for~~ to tax luxuries. I thought people had not enough to eat and drink, not to talk about luxuries, and you are now bringing on the question of taxing them. You are blowing hot and cold.

Miss O'Ryan said the farmers were taking up the question of the bacon trade, and the farmers of the Co. Wexford were sending up a deputation this week with representatives from the Wexford Co-operative Meat Supply, in which almost every farmer in the county had shares, looking for a tariff on bacon.

Mr Roche - The question of national expenditure should be the first item to claim attention and instead of putting it at the end, it should be the major point. It is a big question for the country at the present time. These things will come along afterwards, but we should see to this particular point as to the curtailment of national expenditure first.

Chairman - How are we to go into the details of that question now. If the national expenditure is to be curtailed we would want a week to go into the details as to curtailment. I think myself you might leave over that for legislation and stress the major portion in the recommendations.

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Mr Roche - The Minister may ask you as to how the money for entire de-rating is to be supplied and to combat that our opinion here is it should come from a curtailment in the national expenditure, which should give relief to the farmers as to rates.

Miss O'Ryan - That is a very vexed question and there is a party in this assembly, who have always held that the only way of raising the money for de-rating is by the retention of the land annuities. If you want it included in the report you must also take our solution as to the means of finding that money: otherwise we take objection to that particular point.

Mr Walsh - Wouldn't it be easy to ask the Government to reduce the national expenditure by ten per cent ?

Chairman - If you started on a certain percentage it would be all right, but you must have a cut in all national expenditure.

Mr Corish - It reads all right, but when it comes down to the bottom dog, he will have to pay his share. I would not favour that.

Mr Gaul - It strikes me that the whole question hinges around a reduction of the labouring man's salary here and I object to the whole report now.

Mr D'Arcy - The labouring man has no salary.

Miss O'Ryan - I would have 50 per cent reduction on a man's salary of £1,000 per year. There is no reason why people should go around "lording it" on £1,000 per year, while other people are hungry. I would have no reduction in wages.

Mr Cooney - Take the Post Office officials, who are after getting a cut already, you don't want to give them another five per cent cut? They are living on a starvation wage at the present time and nobody can say that the post office officials or the other civil servants are getting a decent salary.

Mr D'Arcy - What is the cost of the living bonus now ?

Mr Cooney - The cost of living will go up now because of higher prices.

Mr Roche proposed that they recommend all salaries over £750 per annum to be reduced by 20 per cent, that salaries from

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£500 to £750 be reduced by 10 per cent, and salaries from £500 down to £150 be reduced by 5 per cent.

Mr D'Arcy seconded.

Col. Gibbon - Has the Committee any information as to what the whole saving will be on the cuts ? How much is it going to relieve taxation or will it relieve it at all ? I don't think the reduction of salaries by 5 or 10 per cent is going to give a huge amount of money. If you get the Government Departments to amalgamate offices you might have a saving and -

Mr Corish - More unemployed on the street.

Col. Gibbon - The Government are asking you to increase production, but how can you do that without capital. The banks have raised the bank rate to a very high figure and if there is going to be heavy taxation where has the farmer the opportunity to find money for increased production which means capital ? You have got somehow, or other, to find out where cuts are to be made. At the last meeting of the County Council it was suggested that the Government should be pressed to set up an economy committee to act urgently and see how Ireland will best benefit out of the world economic position that has arisen and as to what steps could be taken to cut down taxation and increase production in Ireland. I certainly hold still that the Government ought to set up a very strong committee to reduce ruthlessly, where savings could be effected, and reduce taxation in the Free State.

Miss O'Ryan - There is an economy committee that is representative of every party and makes recommendations from time to time and points out what they regard as high expenditure.

Col. Quin - In all these economic proposals the committees want to cut down everybody's pay, but their own. What about giving up our travelling expenses for coming here, to the Government, in order to help the farmers ? That will show we are really honest.

Mr Cooney - I wonder did Col. Quin give up his travelling expenses to the Government when he was in the British Army?

Mr D'Arcy - Why did the Government cut Col. Quin 10 per cent in his pay ?

Col. Quin - Because they were able to, and we could not fight it.

Mr D'Arcy - That is what we are on here today.

Chairman - In connection with Col. Quin's proposal, for all that some of us get we might very easy hand it over. This travelling allowance is not coming from the Government - It is coming out of the local rate.

Mr Murphy - There is nothing to stop Col. Quin in not taking his own expenses.

The Chairman asked the members to give their attention to Col. Gibbon's suggestion as to the setting up of an economic committee by the Government.

Mr Corish - I am inclined to agree with the view put forward by Col. Gibbon, or a certain portion of it. He stated there ought to be a committee set up to watch the world situation at the moment, and see how this country could benefit by it. I think that is the best thing to do. If the British Government go to the country on tariffs, it will benefit this country, for if tariffs are imposed in England, it would do as much good, if not more good, as tariffs in Ireland. I think, however, it is a great mistake to be tinkering over the question by the cutting of salaries, for what they would gain by it would only be infinitesimal. We should approach it from the point of view suggested by Col. Gibbon, and I think it is a great pity, without meaning any offence to Mr Roche, that a fantastic resolution should be introduced in a report of this kind. We should look for something more than interfering with people's salaries. Supposing the Government did agree to cutting salaries, are they not entitled to presume we are satisfied then, apart altogether from any possibility that the country might not be anything better off ?

I don't like raising the question of land annuities, continued Mr Corish, but I believe the time has arrived when negotiations could be carried out with a view of getting more easement. After all, war debts have been investigated all over the world between different countries, and surely this debt is one the Irish people have a right to see to. As far as I am concerned, if this committee (County Council's) is going to Dublin to ask for a cut in salaries, I absolutely refuse to go.

Mr Roche - In reply to Mr Corish, I might say it was mentioned here that there has been a committee set up by the Government, as suggested, and nothing seems to have come from it, and now we are told our only hope is that times may be better in future, arising out of some financial position in England. That idea seems to be held in this country for a long time, and you are told every year you will be better off next year. Something else may arise now, and for that reason, I think it is gone beyond the time for setting up a Committee. People are so badly circumstanced that immediate action and nothing else is of any use. A cut in the salaries and expenditure would give them a quarter of a million towards de-rating, the amount necessary to secure the entire de-rating of agricultural land.

Mr Corish - Does Mr Roche seriously suggest that £250,000 is going to solve the problem in this country. If we are going to the Government with such a recommendation as the adjustment of salaries to give us £250,000, in relief, they are entitled to assume that it is going to settle the country's difficulties.

Mr Roche - They are not.

Mr Corish - I say they are.

Mr Roche said this was only one of the things, and it would amount to something. Even if it was only a quarter of a million if applied to the reduction of rates, it would be of some benefit.

Mr D'Arcy said that at the meeting of the Committee he stressed the points of national expenditure, and of salaries

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being on a war basis. Everyone was aware that the farmers could pay 20s. easier in the war period than 5s. today. He did not see how any sound reasoning person could say there was no need for a reduction of salaries.

Mr Cummins expressed the opinion that the deputation to the President would come back as the deputation which waited upon the Minister for Agriculture at Enniscorthy did - with nothing. He regarded the country today as a lot better off than that day fortnight when they discussed the position. They should take advantage of that. He gave them the remedy for the state of affairs through which they had been passing; he would give it again, although they might have laughed at it before, people would come out before twelve months at whom they would not laugh. Before the Government came into power and in the days of the Irish Parliamentary Party Ireland's claim to the repayment of the three or four ^{million} pounds paid to Britain in over-taxation was voiced. Today there was not a word about it. Mr Corish had suggested that the question of the payment of the land annuities should be gone into. Why did not Mr Corish as a member of the Dail raise it? He (Mr Cummins) believed that the Free State was being robbed of this money. Why should the Free State be sending their land annuities out of the country when Northern Ireland were withholding them? There was no legal or moral obligation ~~on~~ the Free State to send that money out of the country.

Col. Gibbon said that what they wanted was urgent action at the moment. To cut down salaries as proposed by Mr Roche would take time and would have to be rigidly inquired into. There were also certain agreements ~~that~~ in force which would have to be considered. The proposal would have to be considered by the Dail and it could not be dealt with by a stroke of the pen. He did not think that the saving suggested in Mr Roche's proposal would sufficiently help the farmers and the nation at the moment.

He regarded it as a drop in the ocean. His proposition was that a national emergency committee be set up representative of all parties in the Dail, not to sit down and take public evidence like commissions, but that they be given very drastic powers of recommendation which would be laid before the Dail by the Government suggesting curtailments in national expenditure with a view to reducing taxation and in order to provide a greater amount of money and to increase production. Increased production, which was asked for, was certainly the vital thing at the moment if the country were to take advantage of the rise in prices, which was bound to come from the present situation. Further to the reduction of national expenditure and to provide for increased production the committee should be asked to indicate the steps to be taken so that the country could benefit from the international crisis.

Mr Corish said that when Col. Gibbon first spoke he made the suggestion that a committee be set up to watch developments in the present financial situation so that advantage could be taken of them. Col. Gibbon was now going further by talking of setting up a committee which should insist upon drastic economies. He (Mr Corish) was totally opposed to that. He knew the kind of committee that would be set up. Economies by way of reductions of salaries would mean that it would eventually strike at the wage earners, and the saving that would be made would not be of any material advantage so far as relief was concerned. There was a splendid future for this country if only the Government took advantage of the situation that was prevailing. Whilst the £200,000 mentioned as likely to be saved by a reduction in salaries would be welcomed, it would be only as a drop in the ocean, and the position of the country would be as bad as it now was at the end of twelve months. While he was prepared to admit that the farmers, particularly the tillage farmers, were in a bad way, would the council, be in favour of in-

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cluding in the recommendations that a tariff be placed on agricultural machinery.

Mr Cummins - Why not ?

Mr Corish said a tariff was due to the urban areas of Wexford. If the farmers of Ireland purchased Irish made agricultural machinery there would be £300,000 more money circulated in Co. Wexford, a great deal of which would go to Wexford town, where the farmers could be provided with a good outlet for their produce.

Mr D'Arcy said the question of a tariff on agricultural machinery was a very "touchy" one and went on to allude to the effect a tariff would have on the price of binders sold in Ireland.

Mr Corish, intervening, said that Mr D'Arcy was talking nonsense, as he did not mean asking for a tariff on articles which were not made in the country.

Col. Quin commented that the proposal that they should watch the situation was a very nice proposition, but a vague one. He did not see what good could come from it.

Mr Corish said they had heard a great deal about Imperial preference and the unity of the Empire. What should be done, in his opinion, was that President Cosgrave who had been advocating the support of Irish manufactured goods, should go further and try to get into touch with the British Government and see that Danish produce was kept out and Irish produce given the preference.

Col. Gibbon said he would certainly be in favour of a prohibition on butter imported into the country, and they could keep it out by producing butter themselves all the year round.

Miss O'Ryan said that they were producing bacon all the year round, yet they had bacon coming into the country.

Col. Gibbon further stated in regard to the different suggestions that were made a commission should be set up, representative of all the parties in the Dail, so that when their

findings came before the Dail there would be a prospect of their acceptance, and not made a party question, which was not good enough in the present situation.

Mr Roche said that statistics showed that over-production was the cause of the existing situation.

Mr Hall said if they adopted Col. Gibbon's proposition it would mean increased expenditure. They had too many committees set up, and there was no results from them. Even when the cost of these committees were asked for the information was not given. The adoption of Col. Gibbon's proposition would mean creating more officers and officials. Mr Cummins made the remark that the country had improved during the past two weeks, but he (Mr Hall) did not know how it had improved.

Mr Cummins - Your £ is worth 20s.

Chairman - Not everywhere.

Mr Cummins - It's worth it here.

Mr Hall - I find that every article the farmer has to pay for has gone up 10 per cent since this day fortnight, but the price of anything he produces and sells hasn't increased one penny. We are promised there will be an increase, but we are being made promises for a good many years, and so far they have not materialized. We are promised that Ireland will benefit from a tariff in England. We should depend on ourselves, and we should be capable enough to do that.

The Chairman suggested in order to shorten the discussion that if the draft recommendations were adopted by the council the points raised in regard to the curtailment of national expenditure could be raised when the deputation went to the Government. They could also, if they wished, embody that in the draft recommendations. The steps taken in England were equivalent to putting on a tariff so far as the European countries were concerned.

Mr J. Murphy - Our chief competitors are the Danes, and they are not affected by the fall in the £ as they are off the gold standard.

On the suggestion of Mr Cooney, Mr Roche agreed to amend his proposition that the curtailment of 5 per cent in salaries should apply to £200 and upwards, instead of £150 and upwards.

Mr Murphy - Isn't it a fact that we are paying very big pensions to ex-judges and others ? Must we continue that ?

Mr Corish - We should pass a resolution calling ourselves Dail Eireann and have done with it .

Miss O'Ryan said she thought that the recommendations of the Committee would include the curtailment of all payments including those which came under the financial agreement.

Mr Roche - I am satisfied to have Mr Murphy's suggestion embodied.

Col. Quin - Pensions have been cut down in England. Why should they object to them being cut down here ?

In view of the suggestions made Mr Roche then altered his resolution to read as follows:- "We recommend that all salaries and pensions over £750 per ~~annum~~ be reduced by 20 per cent; from £500 to £750 by 10 per cent and from £500^{down}/to £200 by 5 per cent and that this proposal be embodied with the draft recommendations made by the County Council Committee.

Mr D'Arcy seconded.

A poll was then taken on the motion with the following result:-

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

Against:- Messrs Armstrong, Clince, Colfer, Corish, Gaul, McCarthy, O'Byrne and Shannon - 8.

Messrs Cummins and Hayes (2) did not vote.

The Chairman declared the motion carried.

Mr Hall proposed and Col. Quin seconded the adoption of the draft recommendations of the committee.

A poll was then taken on the motion the following being the result:-

For: Messrs Brennan, Cooney, Culleton, D'Arcy, Gibbon, Hall, Meyler, Murphy, O'Ryan, Quin, Roche, Smyth and the Chairman - 13.

Against:- Messrs Armstrong, Colfer, Corish, Gaul, O'Byrne, Shannon - 6.

Declined voting:- Messrs Cummins, Hayes, McCarthy and Walsh (4)

Mr Cline (1) was not present when poll was taken.

Mr Corish said he was in favour of the recommendations but in consequence of the adoption of Mr Roche's proposal for a cut in salaries and pensions he voted against them.

The Chairman declared the motion carried.

After some further discussion Mr Corish asked that his resignation from the Committee be accepted.

On the motion of Mr D'Arcy seconded by Mr Murphy the name of Mr Cooney was added to the deputation Committee vice Mr Corish.

MOUNTGARRETT BRIDGE

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr. O'Byrne, seconded by Mr. Hall:- "That the seal of the Wexford County Council be attached to the agreement between Patrick Forrestal, Rosemount, New Ross, Caretaker Mountgarrett Bridge, and also to the agreement between Thomas Doyle and John Doyle, Kylemore, County Kilkenny, Assistant Caretakers Mountgarrett Bridge."

Michael Doyle