

Annual Meeting - 13<sup>th</sup> June 1901.

The Annual Meeting of the County Council was held in the Council Chamber Court House Wexford on June 13<sup>th</sup> 1901

Present - In the Chair - Sir Tho<sup>s</sup> H. G. Esmonde B<sup>t</sup>. M. P.

Also present Messrs Edmund Hore, J. Cummins, J. F. Walsh, John Bolger, Capt Walker, J. Sinnott, M. Browne, D. Dempsey, C. H. Peacocke, James Donohoe, William Whitty, M. Hickey, James Codd, Capt Bryan, M. J. Redmond, J. E. Mayler, L. Murphy, P. Ryan, and James A. Doyle.

Capt Pigott, Secretary to the Council, Mr H. Webster Co. Surveyor and Mr R. W. Elgue Solicitor to the Council were also in attendance.

*Re-election of Chairman* Mr Walsh proposed "That Sir Thomas H. Grattan Esmonde B<sup>t</sup>. M. P. be elected Chairman of the Council." Mr J. Bolger seconded. Passed unanimously.

*Re-election of Vice Chairman* Mr Browne proposed, and Mr Donohoe seconded That Mr Edmund Hore be elected, Vice-Chairman of the Council. Mr Cummins supported the motion which was adopted *nem con*. The Chairman and Vice Chairman then returned thanks.

The Chairman made the following financial statement which was ordered to be inserted on the Minutes.

Financial Statement for year ended Mar 31<sup>st</sup> 1901.

In considering our financial position it would be well to bear in mind the following extract from the last report of the Local Government Board which explains in general terms the great difficulty from a financial point of view in which the County Councils found themselves when they took up the fiscal administration of the County:-

"One of the chief difficulties which the new County Councils had to face was the striking and crying of a rate to meet their requirements after they came into office.

The Agricultural Grant which had accumulated during the six months prior to 1<sup>st</sup> April

1899



was paid over to the new councils, and enabled them to finance the Guardians and Rural District Councils to a certain extent; but this Grant was, of course, wholly inadequate to meet the expenditure for any considerable portion of the half year. Power was given by the Local Government (Transitory Provisions) (No 2) Order in Council to County and District Councils, and to Boards of Guardians to borrow, with our approval, to meet their expenditure pending the striking and collection of the new rates. This power was largely used owing to the necessarily late period at which it was possible to strike and put in collection the first rates, under the Act, and without such a power the business of the country could not possibly have been carried on.

The Wexford County Council could have availed themselves of this power, but wisely preferred to meet their liabilities as far as possible, without imposing upon the Ratepayers a liability that might have taken years to clear off and would have created an undesirable legacy for their successors. Borrowing, to tide over the crisis might have had its advantages on the score of expediency and popularity, but when the result meant a continuous charge for years there would have been subsequent murmurs as to the wisdom of the step. It was unpleasant to be compelled owing to the faulty construction of the Local Government Act to adopt measures which may have led some to suspect the County Council of extravagance or waste, or of imposing taxation without necessity, but the policy we adopted was the sound policy, and its effects will be felt in years to come.

The amount of County charges in the standard year was £13504.15.7. The amount of County expenditure for year ending March 1901 was £27757.15.9, showing



an increase in County charges of £14253 . 0 . 2. to be accounted for. The following table will explain in detail the amounts raised under each head in the standard year and for the year which has just past.

Heads of Expenditure	Standard year Expenditure			Last year			Increase			Decrease		
	£	s	d	£	s	d	£	s	d	£	s	d
Asylum	4000	.	.									
Loans do.	976	18	10									
	4976	18	10	14647	17	4	9670	18	6			
Roads	2572	13	2	3677	2	9	1104	9	7			
Printing & Advertising	410	.	.	275	19	9				134	.	3
Loans	196	13	8	179	5	.				17	8	8
Industrial schools	596	17	3	751	1	8	154	4	5			
Valuation	195	.	.	203	14	.	8	14	.			
Infirmary	1000	.	.	1000	.	.						
Salaries Rent & Council House	2448	8	11	3678	6	7	1229	17	8			
Wexford Urban & Rail Roads	40	.	.	10	.	.				30		
Superannuation	101	4	2	161	10	.	60	5	10			
Bought & Measures, Food & Drugs, &c.	314	4	4	148	18	6				165	5	10
Voters & jurors	560	7	6	1048	15	9	488	8	3			
Costs	92	7	9	516	.	5	423	12	8			
Diseases of Animals &c.				20	5	6	20	5	6			
Collectors Poundage				1438	18	6	1438	18	6			
	13505	15	7	27757	15	9	14599	14	11	346	14	9

Taking the several heads under which there has been an increase they can be dealt with separately. Asylum:- Giving credit to the Committee for the Capitation Grant of £4454 . 4 . 3 (formerly paid to them direct but now received by the Council) we find the net increase £5216 . 14 . 3. This is a matter on which the Asylum Committee and officials can afford a full explanation. Roads:- There is here an increase of £1104 . 9 . 7 which can be accounted for by the Main Roads scheme. There was no increase in expenditure on roads throughout the whole County.



suppose the County Council had decided there should be no "main roads" the County at large would be only debited with cost of upkeep of bridges and other County works.

At present the estimate for the County on roads is £5820 whereas under the old system the cost was never more than about £1500.

Industrial Schools - £154 : 4 : 5. This increase is accounted for by the decision of the Council to pay the Wexford schools at the same capitation Grant as was paid for Wexford children in schools outside the County.

Valuation - £8 : 14 : 0. amount paid for printing and posting notices of revision of valuation &c. and which formerly came out of Union funds.

Salaries - In considering this item it is necessary to recollect that there are several salaries now paid from County at large charges that were formerly defrayed from Union funds. These include the Veterinary Surgeons' salaries which in the year under consideration stood at £295 : 17 : 8. For the preparation of rate books a sum of £411 : 19 : 11 was paid but this includes the expenditure for three half years. Checking Rate Collectors Accounts by clerks of District Councils, and Mr Finn, New Ross, cost £131 : 17 : 3. salaries of clerical staff of Wexford County Council come to £273. and there was an addition to Secretary's salary (being average of yearly amount formerly received for fees from Road Contractors. £75 : 6 : 8. of the £100 voted Mr Webster for bringing the Act into operation £75. was paid last year; then there was an increase in the insurance of £1 : 13 : 9 and contingent expenses of £5 : 2 : 3.

Owing to the new method of preparing the Rate Books, three-fourths of the sum given under this head would represent an increase, so that it may be fairly said that the new



rate system adds a sum of £200. at least, to the county expenditure for preparation of books alone. This is another of the many blots in the Local Government Act.

The work of checking the Rate collectors accounts was previously performed by the clerks of the unions, and the charge in respect of it was a union, not a county charge.

The entire of the salaries of the clerical staff should not be put down to the Local Government Act, as the Secretary paid out of his own pocket £80 for clerical assistance under the Grand jury which was taken into account when his salary was fixed.

Taking every circumstance into consideration the so called improved system of preparation of Rate Books and Account keeping cost the county council directly a sum of about £500 annually, for which huge expenditure as the act stands we have no remedy.

Superannuation - Under this head the council decided to pay £40 a year to Mr William Ryan late Assistant County Surveyor. In addition there was a sum of £17. 14. 8 paid the Explosive Officers and the balance of the increase of £60. 5. 10. arises through payment of arrears to these officials.

Voters and jurors - Heretofore the Grand jury paid only for the printing of the Registry of Voters, a small amount to the Sub-sheriff for jurors, and fees to the clerk of the Crown and Peace.

The county council are now responsible besides these payments, for the payment of fees to the clerks of unions and Rate collectors. Last year under the Voters and jurors Act, the clerks of the unions were paid £243. 15. 6 and the Rate collectors £343. 3. 11 while there was a further new payment of £10 for postage on



franchise forms for Wexford Union which brought the total to £596. 19. 5 formerly paid by the Boards of Guardians. Against this is placed a saving on printing and contingent expenses amounting to £108. 11. 2.

Law Costs - The following are the items which make up the entire amount of the law costs for the year - opposing Malicious Injury claims £51. 15. 1. Explosions Officers cases in County Court and Assizes £44. 8. 4. Miscellaneous costs £134. 1. 5. cost in case of Pennick v. County Council before the County Court Judge and Assize Court £4. 8. 0. Cost of Co. Council v. Local Government Board £180. 4. 1. amount advanced for costs of inquiry £100. cost advanced to Board of Works on loan for Asylum £1. 3. 6. Total £516. 0. 5.

Collectors Poundage - The amount raised for County at large charges and District Roads, &c. in the "Standard" year was £29,972 which at 1/- in the £ came to £1498. 12. 0.

In addition there was the amount of the poundage received from "Union" Funds by the Poor Rate collectors during the "Standard" year and of which we have no particulars.

It will be seen therefore that a substantial saving has been effected in poundage fees, and as the rates become lower the reduction will be greater. It is but fair to admit however that even if the old rate of remuneration had continued for County cess and Poor Rate collections there should be a decrease owing to the amount of the agricultural Grant for which there is no poundage rates. Of the decreases in County Expenditure the only saving is in the printing and advertising. The decrease in the amount repayable on loans (outside of asylum loans) arises from the natural reduction of the indebtedness to the Board of Works.



under the heading Weights and Measures. there is a decrease of £165 . 5 . 10. but in the "standard" year, expenses of Inquests were paid out of this Account and they are now paid out of the salaries Account.

The rates for the past year have been relatively high but look at our present financial position, we have a moderate balance in our favour with the Bank and we have advanced to the county bodies the following sums:-

	£	s	d
Guardians.	14736	3	3
District Councils	3563	11	8
Asylum	7451	3	7
	<u>25750</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>6</u>

Not a penny of the rate for the current year had been collected when these amounts were paid; in fact the rate was only struck when the second portion of the amounts above set out, were passed.

The Agricultural Grant for all purposes amounts to £24,045 . 0 . 0 and anyone who is curious as to the employment of this subsidy will now readily understand what became of it. The true explanation of the relatively high rate during the past year is the extraordinary construction of the Act we have to administer. But now in spite of our difficulties, we have reduced the rates all round for the current year, and next year we confidently expect to be in a position to give the Ratepayers the full benefit of the Agricultural Grant. Eventually the fiscal administration of the County Council will be as "cheap" as the Grand jury system. It would be cheaper now if we had a free hand, if we were not hampered by a badly drafted Local Government Act, and an extravagant Local Government Board, but Rome was not built in a day, and those who adversely criticize county council manage-



ment in Ireland, omit to make allowance for the initial difficulties we are compelled to face.

With reference to Union and District Council expenditure, I submit no figures for obvious reasons. It is for the various Boards of Guardians and District Councils to examine and agree to their own estimates.

The County Council have no power to interfere with the demands of these bodies beyond a request for an explanation as to particular items. The able officials by whom this Council are faithfully served, are as anxious as anyone in the County to see the rates go down, and they work energetically towards that end. The County Council have been as careful of the County funds, as if they were dealing with their own money, and the ratepayers I trust, will find in the course of another year that their representatives on the premier County body in their action as County Councillors have consulted the true interests of the County and are able to render a good account of their stewardship.

Contagious Diseases (A) Committee

The Chairman moved - "That the Executive Committees be appointed without change with the exception of adding the name of Mr Walsh to the Contagious Diseases (Animals) Act Committee and that this Committee be left to fix the date of their meetings."

Co. option

Mr Cummins proposed - "That Capt Samuel Barrett-Hamilton be co-opted in the room of the late Lord Maurice Fitzgerald (deceased) County Councillor."

Capt Walker seconded - The resolution was adopted.

Member to Infirmary Committee

The Chairman moved - That Lady Maurice Fitzgerald be elected a member of the County Infirmary Committee in the room of the late Lord Maurice.



Fitzgerald - Passed

Local Inquiry

The following letter under date 25<sup>th</sup> May (No 30149 - 1901 Wexford Co) was read from the Local Government Board.

"I am directed by the Local Government Board for Ireland to acknowledge the receipt of the resolution of the County Council of Wexford of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Inst referring to the report of the Boards' Inspector in connection with the inquiry recently held respecting the claims of the County Surveyor and Assistant Surveyors for increased remuneration under Sec 115 (8) of the Local Government (Ireland) Act 1898, and in reply to the Councils request on the subject, I am to state that the Local Government Board based their decision with regard to this matter entirely upon the evidence given at the inquiry and not upon the summary of it contained in the Inspectors report.

It would be entirely contrary to the practice of the Board to furnish a copy of their Inspectors report as such reports are confidential documents and are merely intended to facilitate the Board in dealing with the evidence.

In the present case the report contained no recommendation as to the amount of increased remuneration which should be determined by the Board in the case of these officials."

The Council having resolved itself into committee -

The following resolution, proposed by Mr Donohoe seconded by Mr Browne was arrived at -

That Mr Elgee be instructed to take the necessary steps to have the sealed orders of the Local Government Board set aside on the grounds that the decision of the Local Government Board is prejudiced and against the weight of evidence taken at the Local Inquiry; that the Finance Committee assist Mr Elgee

Sealed Orders.



in preparing the instructions for counsel in the matter and that we defer action on this matter pending the result of that opinion.

The Meeting of the Finance Committee was fixed for Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> Inst at 10 o'clock

Calling Co. Surveyor to resign

The following resolution adjourned from last Meeting was considered:-

"That having regard to the fact that the County Bridges, vizt- Deepo, Ferrycarrig and Wexford have cost for the past five years £1106 : 5 : 0 for maintenance, and to the report of Mr J. H. Ryan, C.E. that Ferrycarrig Bridge would require an outlay of £500. to have it put in perfect order, and whereas Mr Webster at the Meeting of the County Council on the 7<sup>th</sup> August 1900 stated that £40 would make the bridge perfectly safe, and on the 6<sup>th</sup> November that it would take £246 : 16 : 9 to do the same work and also having regard to the fact that Mr Webster stated to the Committee of investigation that they would find that the Wexford Bridge was in perfect order, though Mr Ryan states it would take an outlay of £105 to effect this purpose, under above circumstances we are of opinion that he has shown incompetence and neglect of duty of such a character as deserves dismissal. We consider he is not a suitable servant for this Council and would point to the fact that on the 6<sup>th</sup> August 1900 he admitted he was to blame for the neglect of Ferrycarrig Bridge though he gave the futile reason that a great deal of extra work had been put on him for the previous six months. And in view of all these circumstances we recommend the Council to call upon Mr Webster to resign his position."

Mr Webster submitted the following statement-  
Gentlemen

With your permission, I beg to make



a few remarks on the resolution before you. With regard to the cost of the maintenance of the three bridges, put down as being £1106.5/- for the past five years I wish to point out of this total a sum of £480.10.0, was spent on Wexford Bridge for painting and tarring and surface repairs only, the balance for Ferrycarrig and Deeps Bridges would be only £625.15.0. This expenditure in five years on all the repairs (including painting and tarring) of two timber structures cannot be considered lavish.

On Mountgarrett Bridge there is no maintenance contract, and yet I find that the expenditure for repairs on this bridge averages between £90 and £100 per annum, and this bridge is much smaller than Ferrycarrig Bridge.

Mr Ryan's estimate of £500 for Ferrycarrig Bridge included new iron handrails and new machinery as well as a new arrangement of the flooring.

The Finance Committee are in error in their statement that in November 1900, I reported that it would take £216.16.9 to make the bridge perfectly safe. That estimate of mine was for putting the bridge in perfect order, which is a totally different thing to making it perfectly safe. I may say that the bridge is being put into very good repair without any extra expenditure over the maintenance contract.

With regard to Wexford Bridge, the fact that Mr Ryan estimates that a sum of only £105 is required to make the bridge perfect is a point in my favour especially when you bear in mind that Mr Ryan had gone out of his way to find fault, as pointed out in my written reply to his report dated the 2<sup>nd</sup> of last month.

The paragraph about my admission of neglect of Ferrycarrig Bridge is in my opinion unfair and misleading. The fact that I had the



manliness to admit that I was to blame because a couple of timbers escaped my attention when pointing out to the old contractor the work I required to be done, ought not to be construed into an admission that I was to blame for my neglect of the bridge. Taking everything into consideration, it is hardly necessary for me to add that to request me to resign my appointment would be in my opinion, unjustifiable, and I am willing to face the strictest enquiry into the matter.

Henry Webster

June 13<sup>th</sup> 1901.

With reference to the timber produced at the Meeting by Capt Walker, Mr Webster said that he had directed the contractor to replace it.

The resolution which was also a recommendation of the Finance Committee was put and passed unanimously.

asking L. G. B. to dismiss L. Surveyor.

Mr Whitty proposed and Mr Walsh seconded the following resolution which was passed:-

"Having regard to Mr Webster's reply to the foregoing resolution, we hereby call on the Local Government Board to dismiss Mr Webster from the position of County Surveyor to this County; and as Ferrycarrig Bridge requires an immediate expenditure of a considerable sum of money and as the Council are not willing to entrust this expenditure to Mr Webster; under these circumstances, we request the Local Government Board to take immediate action so as to enable the Council to appoint Mr Webster's Successor without delay, and that our Secretary be instructed to send a copy of the report of Mr Ryan L.E. on the condition of the bridges to the Local Government Board, with Mr Webster's reply thereto."

With reference to a report of Ferrycarrig Bridge Committee, Capt



Walker made a personal explanation as to some statements made by Mr Webster County Surveyor with reference to Ferrycarrig Bridge and produced specimens of some of the timbers. He gave notice of the following resolution - "That the Local Government Board be asked to sanction a loan from the National Bank, for a sum not exceeding £500 to put Ferrycarrig Bridge into perfect repair until the required sum is passed by the Wexford County Council at the next proposals Committee and that tenders be at once advertised for not to exceed £500 to carry out these repairs".

Capt Walker said Mr Webster had denied that the hand-rail of the bridge was like snuff but if the timbers which he produced and which represented pieces taken from 20 places was not snuff he could not say what was. He also considered the rails he produced were not safe.

Proposed by Mr Broune - "That as in the opinion of the Council the Ferrycarrig Bridge is now in an unsafe condition we hereby order the contractor to close it for the present and to suspend repairs".

Mr Donohoe moved as an amendment -

"That the Ferrycarrig Bridge be closed by the contractor".

At the request of some of the members of the Council Mr Donohoe withdrew his amendment.

Mr Bolger seconded Mr Broune resolution which was passed.

The Chairman moved - "That the question of the contractor receiving his quarters pay should be referred to the Finance Committee".

Mr Cummins seconded - "Passed".

The Chairman moved - "That the specimens of timber from Ferrycarrig Bridge be preserved by our Secretary and kept in his custody under seal for production if necessary".

Capt Bryan seconded. "Passed".

Solicitors Costs to be Passed.

Ordered - That Mr Elgee's costs against the Council for the half year be taxed that a requisition



"to tax them be sealed, and that Mr J. J. Healy  
Sol<sup>r</sup> Wexford be appointed to represent the  
Council on the taxation"

#### Appointment of Rate Collector

Mr John Barden, horse, Tethard was the only applicant for the position of Rate Collector. He offered as surety the National Guarantee Association and submitted Testimonials from Canon Doyle, Dr. Shee, Mr H. J. Bell, and Mr Godfrey L. Taylor.

Mr Cummins proposed: - "That Mr Barden be appointed subject to entering into security with the Guarantee Society named and that same shall receive the approval of the Local Government Board"

Mr J. A. Doyle seconded. passed.

A letter from Messrs M. J. O'Connor & Co Solicitors for Mr Webster County Surveyor requesting payment of £392 amount of two years' increased remuneration as fixed by sealed order of the Local Government Board was read.

Application for  
payment of  
salary

Under date May 22<sup>nd</sup> 1901 the following letter was read from Mr M. Huggard Solicitor -

"Mr J. P. Murphy Assistant County Surveyor having attended the meeting of your Council to-day expecting to receive cheque for £130. the arrears of increase in his salary as ascertained by inquiry and fixed by Local Government Board order of the 14<sup>th</sup>. Mr Murphy was greatly surprised and disappointed to find that the Council have by resolution refused to carry out said order, and although Mr Murphy thinks the increase an inadequate remuneration for his increased duties yet for peace sake he is willing to accept same and he therefore now requests me to apply to your Council for payment of the sum of £130. now due to him under said order and awaiting your reply"

Ordered: - That we adjourn the consideration of these letters and instruct our Secretary to inform Messrs O'Connor and Huggard of the terms of our resolution in this matter.

#### Main Roads - Local Inquiry

With reference to the Local Inquiry held by Mr Lynch Staunton



Local Government Inspector relative to the main Roads in the County the Local Government Board, letter No 83 M: 1901 (Miscellaneous) requested the County Council to forward them a paying order for £12. 11. 0 being the sum payable to the Board in relation to the matter. The Local Government Board had to recoup the public funds this amount.

In a second letter No 27.377. 1901 Wexford County under date May 13<sup>th</sup> the Local Government Board wrote, they considered that the expenses of the inquiry in question should be a County at Large charge.

On the motion of the Chairman it was decided to refer this letter to the Finance Committee with an instruction that if they consee their way to refuse payment, and the Council would do so.

Re Payment to District Bols & Unions

The Local Government Board letter no 25,941. 1901 (Miscellaneous) asked for the opinion of the Co. Council as to whether they would find any difficulty in providing funds in April and October to enable the Lunatic Asylum Committee the Rural District Councils and Boards of Guardians to meet their loan liabilities in addition to paying the quarterly amounts for ordinary expenditure.

Ordered:- That the Local Government Board be informed that the Council have always advanced the sums referred to in their letter, when requested.

Collector M<sup>o</sup> Grath

Under date 3<sup>rd</sup> June Mr O'Neill J Kelly D. J. R. I. B. Wexford wrote that all possible steps to ascertain the absconding Rate collector M<sup>o</sup> Grath's whereabouts and ensure his arrest are being made. He considered it would not be advisable to give publicity to the matter at present but the County Council could feel assured that everything possible is and will be done."

County Inspector Talbot R. I. B. wrote under date 6<sup>th</sup> June that Government were prepared to make the necessary application for the arrest and extradition of M<sup>o</sup> Grath but that some reliable information as to his present whereabouts must first be forthcoming. His description and if it could be procured his photograph should also be furnished together with a certified copy of the information on which the warrant was issued and he requested the County Council should



let him have these as soon as possible.

Ordered: "That the Secretary be directed to make inquiries"

Checking collectors a/c<sup>s</sup>.

The following recommendations of the Finance Committee were unanimously confirmed

"That the system of checking the Rate collectors' accounts be continued as in the past."

Security of checkers.

That the clerks of the Unions of Wexford, Enniscorthy and Gorey, and Mr. M. J. Finn New Ross, be requested to enter into security by a Guarantee Society as Examiners and checkers of the Rate collectors' Accounts for the due performance of their duties in the sum of £500.

Reports to be made by Checkers.

That the Checkers and Examiners of the a/c<sup>s</sup> of the Rate collectors be directed to forward to the Secretary a special report in the event of any collector not appearing on the date fixed for the examination of his books, this report to be forwarded on the same date on which the collector fails to appear, and that he also furnish the Secretary with his confidential views on the manner in which the collector, whose conduct is thus brought under notice is performing his duty, and that the Secretary thereupon call the Finance Committee together to deal with the matter.

That the checkers will be held strictly responsible for the reconciliation of the amounts as shown per the collectors' sheets with the amount of the warrant supplied to them, this duty to be performed to the satisfaction of the Secretary.

With regard to the question of the collection of the rate generally, the following recommendation was made:—



collections in some instances having been unsatisfactory we recommend the County Council to consider if the collector is properly fulfilling his duty or is eligible for continuance in office if he fails to collect his rates in equal or fair proportion in each month.

#### Security of Collectors.

With reference to the question of guarantees given by the collectors, the Secretary was directed to ask the Local Government Board, "if the Council were in a position to change the existing securities, and call on the collectors to give security by an approved Guarantee Society"

In reply to the query of the Finance Committee, the Local Government Board under date 7<sup>th</sup> June 1901 Letter No 31.493 wrote that they considered the County Council may require any collector to give the security of an approved Guarantee Society, either in addition to, or in substitution for existing personal security. It appeared to the Local Government Board, however, that in the case of existing collectors the Council should defray the expenses caused to any collector by reason of any change of security of this nature.

on the motion of the Chairman, it was agreed that the letter of the Local Government Board should be referred to the Finance Committee.

#### School Attendance Comtee Gorey

Mr R. Broughton, Clerk to Gorey District Council wrote that his Council recommended that the School Attendance Committee for the District, should consist of ten members, and that the County Council, as the Local Authority should appoint the following:-  
Sir Thomas H. Grattan Esmonde Bart. M.P. Lord Viscount Stopford  
H.M.L. Messrs. J.J. Byrne Rahen Ballyduff Ferns, E. O'Donoghue  
Blonmore Ballycanew, M. Lyons, Blonamona, Craanford.

on the motion of Mr Redmond seconded by Mr Cummins it was decided to appoint the gentlemen recommended by the Gorey District Council; also to adopt the sample regulations of the National Education Commissioners

on the motion of Mr Redmond seconded by Mr Cummins it was decided that the Committee should



serve from 1<sup>st</sup> July 1901 to the 1<sup>st</sup> July 1904. and the half of the Committee to be elected by the Local Authority should be appointed not later than the annual meeting of the County Council to be held in June 1904.

A communication was received from the National Education Office stating that Rev J. M. Browne P.P. Kilmuckridge, Rev J. Mehan P.P. Ballindaggin, Rev P. Sheill P.P. Bree, Rev Canon Gibson M.A. Ferns, and Rev M. A. B. Fay M.A. Newtownbarry as their representatives on the School Attendance Committee for the Enniscorthy District.

The following copy of a report made to the New Ross Guardians by their clerk Mr P. A. Pope was submitted for confirmation.

*Overseers Requisition Forms.*

I beg to report that having learned that Mr Michael M'Grath, had left the County I directed the Assistant clerk to go down to Boole, and take up the overseers' Requisition Forms (Registration of Voters Acts) which Mr M'Grath had not distributed. He did so and I have entrusted the duty of serving them in the divisions of Ballyhack, Fethard Killick, Rathroe, and Templetown, to Mr John Barden of Borse, who has a good knowledge of the District and had some experience under his father. The forms must be all served within three weeks.

"May 4<sup>th</sup> 1901"

The report was confirmed on the motion of the chairman analysts report.

The Secretary read the report of the County Analysts for the quarter ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 1901 and stated that copies of it had been furnished to the Local Government Board and the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction.

Date of Checking Collectors' a/c's

Under date 31<sup>st</sup> May. Mr Kehoe, clerk Wexford Guardians wrote asking that the day for checking the Rate collectors' accounts for Wexford be changed from Monday to Tuesday.

The Rate collectors of the Gorey District wrote asking that a similar change be made.

It was decided on the motion of the chairman -

"That the checking of the accounts of the Gorey Rate collectors take place on Wednesdays.



and for Wexford, Enniscorthy and New Ross  
on Tuesdays.

Valuation - D. W. & W. Kly.

Under dates, May 30<sup>th</sup> and June 7<sup>th</sup> the Solicitors to the Dublin Wicklow and Wexford Railway Co forwarded lists of works &c for revision of valuation, on the ground of the reduced annual value therefor.

"It was agreed that for the present the Council would not take any steps in the matter"

Mr John Sweetman Hon Sec. to the Irish County Councils General Council wrote under date 14<sup>th</sup> May returning thanks to the members of the Wexford County Council for their resolution voting a sum of £5 towards the expenses of the General Council.

Postage Franchise Form.

Mr Kehoe, Clerk, Wexford Guardians, wrote under date 14<sup>th</sup> May, calling attention to a surcharge made by Mr J. A. Baker Local Government Auditor, on his audit of the Union accounts and amounting to £10 . 6/- for postage on Franchise forms, as he considered this expense should have been borne by the County Council.

"No order" - Mr Bodd, Chairman of the Wexford District Council stating that a letter had been received by the District Council, that the Auditor had remitted this surcharge"

Postal Arrangement.

Very Rev Canon Doyle, P.P. Ramoengrange wrote calling the attention of the County Council to the defective postal arrangements in the barony of Shelburne, particularly in the District of Ramoengrange.

On the motion of Mr Cummins seconded by the Chairman it was decided -

"That the attention of the Postmaster General be called to the defective postal arrangements in the barony of Shelburne, and that a copy of the letter of the Very Rev Canon Doyle be forwarded to the Postmaster General."

Piers & Harbours Committee

Proposed by the Chairman seconded by Mr Cummins -

"That the Assistant Secretary (Mr Frizelle) be



directed to attend the committee meeting of the Piers and Harbours Committee, for South Wexford, at Slade, on Saturday June 15<sup>th</sup> 1901.

On the motion of the Chairman it was decided that the following be inserted on the Minutes-

Johnstown Castle  
Wexford  
May 10<sup>th</sup> 1901.

Lord Walter Fitzgerald presents his compliments to Mr Pigott, and has been requested by Lady Maurice Fitzgerald to express her heartfelt thanks to the Chairman and members of the Wexford County Council for their very kind resolution of condolence with her, in her great loss.

#### Deepening river Slaney.

A resolution from the Enniscorthy District Council as to the necessity which existed for deepening the Slaney, which had been postponed from a previous meeting was brought forward and marked 'read'

The following resolution was received from the Gorey District Council -

"That this District Council shall stand by the County Council in whatever action they deem wise to take with regard to raising by the Local Government Board the salaries of the County Officers."

A resolution was received from the Enniscorthy District Council promising to support the County Council, in whatever steps they might be legally advised to take in the same matter was also read at the meeting.

#### Auditor's Reports of District Boards & Unions

Reports as to audit of the accounts of Gorey Rural District Council and New Ross and Wexford Unions by J. H. Baker, Local Government Auditor were laid before the meeting.

#### Half yearly payments

A resolution was received from the Meath County Council stating that as Contractors would have to wait for their money for about two months after the close of the half year the members did not consider the half yearly system now practicable especially when



the contractors were men of small means

The Secretary of Down Co. Council wrote that they had taken no action on the question of half yearly payments, and the Secretary of Carlow Co. Council, that his body disapproved of the system of half yearly payments.

The Secretary of Kildare County Council wrote that his council had postponed the consideration of the question

#### Kilmore Pier

Under date 18<sup>th</sup> May the Assistant Secretary Board of Works pointed out (letter No 5769 : 01 Kilmore Pier)

"With reference to the direction of the County Council meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup> May that their Engineer inspected the Breakwater thoroughly on three occasions namely 16<sup>th</sup> February 1899 10<sup>th</sup> October 1900 and 21<sup>st</sup> February last. The Board could not accept the statement in the order of the County Council referred to "that the defect was caused by the action of the Board of Works and not by the Co. Council," and as regards the latter part of this statement, while the Board have not alleged that original defect as distinguished from its present state of development was caused by the County Council or its predecessors, it is not necessary to do so in order to establish the responsibility of the Co. Council for keeping the works in repair."

"No order was made"

#### Level Crossing - Rosbercon

The Secretary of the Dublin, Wicklow and Wexford Railway Co. under date May 11<sup>th</sup> forwarded copy of a letter which they had addressed to the New Ross Urban Council on the subject of the Level crossing at Rosbercon road.

The letter in question stated that the Directors of the Company had arranged to provide automatically worked gates of modern design and would be prepared to erect a passenger footbridge, if when the railway was constructed it was found necessary for public convenience. As the goods accommodation will be situated at the opposite end of the station there is no intention of using the level crossing for shunting. Occasion



may arise to throw off from a down passenger train a vehicle such as a horse box on the opposite line of rails necessitating the engine crossing the road, but it is assumed that such a case is not intended to be covered by the conditions set out in the letter of the Urban Council.

The Secretary said he had not received any communication from the Urban Council "with reference to this letter."

"No order" as the views of the Urban District of New Ross had not been furnished to the Council.

#### National Teachers Organization

The following resolution was received from the Irish National Teachers Organization:-

Resolved - That we earnestly request the serious attention of the members of the new Councils to the urgent necessity that exists for putting into force throughout the country the compulsory clauses of the Irish Education Act of 1892 and we further request those local authorities who have appointed School Attendance Committees and have elected Attendance Officers to see that the compulsory clauses are really and not nominally enforced."

"Postponed till next meeting"

#### Co. Courts (I) Bill 1901.

A resolution was received from the Dublin Corporation with reference to the County Courts (Ireland) Bill 1901, stating that the Corporation were of opinion that the Bill should either be withdrawn or amended so as to meet the requirements of the Public

"Marked Read"

#### Sale of Dog Licenses.

A communication was received from the office of the Registrar of Petty Sessions Clerks under date May 31<sup>st</sup> stating that a sum of £335. 16. 5 proportion of surplus moneys arising from the sale of licences under the Dogs Regulation (Ireland) Act 1865 had been lodged to the credit of the County Council.

#### Chairmen of Dist. Cols.

The Clerks of the District Councils of the County wrote that the following had been elected chairman of these bodies:-

Gorey - Sir Tho<sup>s</sup> H. G. Esmonde Bart. M. P.

Wexford - James Dodd - Enniscorthy - Thaddeus



Bolger, - NewRoss - John Cummins.

As Sir Tho: Esmonde and Mr Cummins were elected members of the Co. Council, Messrs M. J. Redmond, and Michael Hickey respectively were appointed to represent Gorey and NewRoss District Councils on the County Council.

#### Declaration of Office

Messrs Bodd, Redmond, and Hickey subscribed the usual declaration of office before the business of the meeting began, and the Chairman and Vice Chairman also subscribed the declaration of office after their elections.

#### Half yearly payments.

The following was read from Mr J. B. Dougherty Dublin Castle under date 15<sup>th</sup> May -

I am directed by the Lord Lieutenant to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 9<sup>th</sup> Inst respecting payments by County Councils being made half yearly instead of quarterly as at present.

#### Income Tax.

A demand for Income Tax on County Council Interest amounting to £2. 5. 9. and £1. 13. 6 on Harbour dues was received.

"It was decided to request the Secretary to ask for some explanation as to how this assessment came to be made."

The Financial Statement Books of receipt and Expenditure and the Financial Minutes written up to date were produced by the Secretary and signed by the Chairman.

The following books written up to date were also produced by the Secretary - Register of separate charges, Register of Applications and Proposals, and Abstract of Poor Rate collectors' Lodgments.

#### State of Rate collection.

The Secretary laid before the meeting a statement of the current poor rate collection, and explained that Mr Moore had not collected any money up to the present owing to illness.

"No order was made."



The Bank Book showed a balance in favour of the Council of £ 7653 - 18 - 11.

List of Attendances - County Council Meetings

There were sixteen Meetings of the County Council since last annual Meeting. The following is a list of the attendances -

M. Browne, C. H. Peacocke - 16 each -

James Donohoe, W. Whitty, James Codd, J. F. Walsh - 15 each,

E. Hore, J. E. Mayler, P. Ryan, D. Dempsey 14 - each.

Sir Thos Esmonde and John Cummins - 11 each

M. Hickey - 10. James A. Doyle - 9.

M. J. Redmond & Capt J. J. Walker - 8 each

Lord M. Fitzgerald, J. B. Hearn, James Sinnott, D. Power, L. Murphy - 7 each

Owen Doyle - 6 Patrick Connor - 5.

Lord Stopford, John Bolger, M. Smyth 4 each

C. M. Doyle - 3.

Bryan Bolger, Thaddeus Bolger - 2 each

Capt L. A. Bryan - 1.

Finance Committee

There were twenty one Meetings of the Finance Committee held since last annual Meeting. The following is a list of the attendances

John F. Walsh - 20.

C. H. Peacocke - 18.

Patrick Ryan and James Codd - 17 each.

E. Hore - 15

M. Browne - 13

J. Donohoe - 11

Sir Thos Esmonde 6

John Cummins 8

J. B. Hearn 4

C. M. Doyle & Lord Stopford - 3 each

Proposals Committee

There were seven Meetings of the Proposals Committee of the Council held since last annual Meeting. The following is a list of the attendances -

C. H. Peacocke, Jas Codd, & M. Browne - 7 each



E. Hore, J. E. Mayler, Lord M. Fitzgerald, William  
 Whitty, J. Donohoe, D. Dempsey - 6 each  
 P. Ryan, J. J. Walsh, Capt Walker, Sir Thomas  
 Esmonde, James Sinnott - 5 each  
 Michael Hickey, Laur<sup>d</sup> Murphy - 4 each  
 O. Doyle, John Cummins, J. A. Doyle, J. B.  
 Hearn, - 3 each  
 M. Smyth, M. J. Redmond, & Lord Stopford - 2 each  
 J. Bolger, D. Power, P. O'Connor, Thaddeus Bolger  
 & M. Doyle - one each.

Diseases of Animals Act Committee.

Only five meetings of the Committee under the Diseases  
 (Animals) Act were held for the year. The following  
 is a list of attendances

E. H. Peacocke - 5.  
 Jas. Codd & D. Dempsey - 3 each.  
 W. Whitty, J. E. Mayler, M. Hickey - 2 each  
 E. Hore - one  
 Lord Stopford, James Sinnott, Sir Thos. A.  
 Grattan Esmonde & Jas. A. Doyle - Nil.

Edmund Hore,