

Statutable Half-yearly meeting - 1st December 1909.

The Statutable Half-yearly meeting of the Wexford County Council, was held in the Council Chamber, Courthouse, Wexford, on 1st December 1909.

Present :- Mr. E. Hore, (Chairman) presiding.
Other members :- Messrs A. Kinsella, J. S. Hearne, J. Bolger, Mr. A. Ennis, C. H. Peacocke, James Codd, John J. Kehoe, P. J. Fanning, Mark Codd, Michael Doyle, Thomas Asple, P. Fortune, and J. Cummins.

The Secretary, the County Surveyor, and Mr. R. W. Elger, Solicitor to the Council, were also in attendance.

Confirmation of minutes.

The minutes of last meeting were read & confirmed.

Deposit with Tenders.

Proposed by Mr. Fanning, seconded by Mr. Kehoe and passed :-

"That in order to prevent the lodgment of non bona fide tenders for works, the Enniscorthy Rural District Council be requested to adopt the suggestion of the Local Government Board, that a deposit be made with each tender and that this deposit be forfeited should intending contractors not answer to their names without giving some valid reason to the Council."

Mr. M. J. O'Connor, Solicitor, applied on behalf of John Kenny, Ballymore, Camolin; Contractor for Road No. 92 in Enniscorthy District to have the contract broken.

"Referred to County Surveyor."

Mr. O'Dempsey, Solicitor, applied to have Michael Nolan, Ballydair, Contractor, for Nos. 812 & 813 Enniscorthy paid £15 and £30.

These amounts had been deferred.

The Secretary explained that it was illegal to

interfere with amounts deferred by County Surveyor.

The Co. Council decided to take no action in the matter.

— Questions re Road Payments & Works. —

The following letter under date 11th November was read from Mr. Patrick Kavanagh, D. C., Bourduff; Newtownbary; relative to payment to James Connors, Enniscorthy District :-

"I Patrick Kavanagh, councillor for the division protest against the action of the Co. Surveyor in awarding payment to James Connors, of Glaslacken contractor for the cutting of Bourduff Hill, as I am of the opinion that the work is not done satisfactory. and I think the Co. Surveyor's attention should be drawn to this matter, as it is not done at all according to specification."

The Secretary stated that in this case it appeared from the Recommendations of the District Council that the contractor was being paid £10 while a sum of £13 was deferred.

"No order as it appeared that the Co Surveyor had deferred £13 in this work."

Under date 11th November the following was read from Mr. James Bruin, Glentique, Glenbrien :-

"I beg to call your attention to Road No. 25A. Enniscorthy Road District. The County Surveyor has "struck off" £3. from my payment for not cutting the hedge on part of road. The owner of the hedge would not allow me to cut it until the proper time, and under the circumstances I respectfully ask you to re-instate the £3 struck off."

This contractor at last meeting of the Council disputed the measurement of Mr. O'Reilly, Assistant Surveyor on Road No. 24. Enniscorthy District and it had been re-measured by Messrs M. A. Ennis, John Bolger, and J. Asple, members of the Roads Committee who were accompanied by the County Surveyor.

Mr. Moffat brought forward the question of the payment on 25A and 24 in Enniscorthy District

(Contractor James Bruin, Glentique). Mr. Moffat said that this man had been deferred £3 on this road for not having hedges, weeds, etc., cut, and contended that from the time that Mr. Bruin entered into his contract he could not according to the Act of Parliament cut any hedges."

Mr. Ennis said that three members of the Roads Committee visited this road recently. The measurements taken by the Surveyors were practically correct, as there was only a couple of yards difference in what Roads Committee found. The contractor was using gravel instead of broken stones to some extent on account of some arrangement made by the contractor with Mr. Webster former Co. Surveyor but the committee had nothing to do with this and they were bound to stick to what was in the specification."

No Order.

Under date 9th November the following letter was read from Mr. P. Caulfield, Coolroe, Ballycullane:-

"As a road contractor I want to draw your attention to the unfair way I am paid. I have taken a contract last April, and doubting whether I get the first ^{2 years} payment now, as on a former contract the first payment was held back for five years, which if done now I will get no payment until next May, which is very unfair to work a year before I get any money. I had full tonnage out at measurement time.

Hoping your Council will allow a payment this time."

"The Secretary stated that the contract for the road commenced in June, and the contractor was being paid a full quarter's pay to September 30th £4:13:9."

No. Order.

Under date 22nd November '09 the following was read from Mr. Mythen, Ballyruan, Screen:-

"I wish you to bring before the Co. Council the road leading from the main road at Glentough to the sea road at Mr. O'Neill's, Kilmacoe, which I took the contract on in November 1904, and had completed in May 1909 and was certified by Mr. Brennan, which I was led to believe my work was done. But I see I am deferred £10 which I consider very unfair."

"The Secretary said as this work should have been completed by December 1908, he could not see that the contractor had any grievance."

"No. Order."

In connection with the question of re-instatement of "struck off" money the following letter No. 135,736-'09 under date 18th November was read from the Local Government Board :-

"I am directed by the Local Government Board for Ireland to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 10th instant; relative to certain payments to contractors in Wexford County struck off by the County Surveyor, and, in reply, I am to state that the Co. Surveyor's certificate is final when given and the County Council have no power to alter it.

I am also to add that the Board have no functions which would enable them to authorise the Co. Surveyor to make any alterations in the certificate."

One of the contractors mentioned in the letter to Local Government Board (Thomas Finn) in whose case the County Surveyor had "struck off" 10/- wrote as follows under date November 12th :-

"This specification is required before the Board. It requires no gravel material on Road No 58. On the same account there is not 10/- to be struck off in payment. That was the conditions of the Chairman and County Surveyor at Enniscorthy Road Sessions."

"No. Order."

The following resolution was received from the Enniscorthy Rural District Council :-

"That we ask the Roads Committee to take steps to ascertain if Mr. Joseph Bullen, Ballyrannell, Glenbrin, has put out the specified quantity of material of metalling on the roads for which he is contractor, and if he has not done so, that in view of the fact he has got full payment, we ask the County Council to take steps to prevent the Assistant Surveyor from certifying for payment in

such cases in future."

The following letter under date 28th November '09, was read from Mr. H. O'Reilly, Assistant Surveyor, with reference to above resolution:-

"I desire to draw your attention to the attack made upon me at the adjourned half-yearly meeting of the Enniscorthy Rural District Council, and to the resolution in support of it passed unanimously by the District Councillors, notwithstanding the Co. Surveyor's explanation that there was no foundation for the statements made regarding me. Its publication in the Press give it a greater importance than it would otherwise possess. I depend upon you to take such steps as you may deem advisable to secure that your officer shall not be subject to such attacks in future.

The County Surveyor very kindly put himself to the trouble of explaining that I had met with an accident, and I may add for your information that that accident occurred in the evening twilight when I was endeavouring to accomplish the almost impossible task of covering over 1,200 miles on a bicycle to make the necessary measurements and inspections between the 1st September and the 25th October. I was often obliged to ride as many as sixty miles a day.

My report for some of the roads, as the County Surveyor will inform you, was late. This I regret as it placed the County Surveyor in an extremely awkward position."

Mr. Gaffney said that Mr. O'Reilly had been laid up and could not carry out his work. Mr. O'Reilly did not see these roads at all, in consequence of his illness. He (Mr. Gaffney) had to certify for the roads on 4th November, and the roads in question were not measured until 9th November. The return produced showed that Mr. O'Reilly did not see these roads until 9th November. He (Mr. Gaffney) would have next half year in which to deal with this case. The measurements on these roads were very bad, and he (Mr. Gaffney) was about to ask for permission

to prosecute Mr. Bullen."

Mr. O'Connor appeared for the contractor and stated that on his five contracts he was only between 30 or 40 tons of stones short now. He would undertake to have all the stones out immediately and if not he would be satisfied to have all the money coming to him retained."

On the motion of Mr. Fanning, seconded by Mr. Ennis, the following resolution was adopted:-

"That whilst we thank the Enniscorthy Rural District Council for calling our attention to the fact that contractor Joseph Bullen had not provided the full quantity of stones certified, the County Council after careful investigation find that Mr. O'Reilly, Assistant Surveyor did not certify for these payments, as stated in the resolution of the Enniscorthy Rural District Council of the 24th November, but that the County Surveyor did."

Mr. Ennis proposed, Mr. Fanning seconded:-
"We request the Co. Surveyor, should one of the assistant surveyors become ill or unable to measure the roads of his district within the specified period in any particular year, to employ one of the other Assistant Surveyors or other qualified person to finish the measurements in proper time."

Passed.

Encroachment on Road.

The following letter under date 1st December was read from Mr. Matthew Harte, Campile:-

"I am renovating my premises at Campile, part of which includes the putting in of a shop window. This proposed window extends towards the public road and would be as I thought on my own grounds as there are houses of mine running by the same road for 50 yards.

The County Surveyor who has seen the place says the ground belongs to the Co. Council and informed me I should make application to them for permission before I could go on with the work. I would ask you to kindly lay the matter before the meeting for me to-day, and apologise for not giving you earlier notice. The tradesmen are idle now

until I get this matter decided, so you see the necessity of getting the matter through to-day, I will present myself to answer any questions I may be asked. I also annex map."

Mr. Hearn proposed, Mr. Bolger seconded:—"That the permission requested by Mr. Harte in his letter of 1st December be granted, Mr. Harte to pay 1/- per annum to the Council; the cost of the agreement which is to be prepared by the Co. Council's Solicitor Mr. Elger to be defrayed by Mr. Harte."

Passed.

Tenders for Works.

Proposed by Mr. Ennis, seconded by Mr. John Bolger, and passed:—"That we hereby approve of the several contracts as appearing on form 20 for the Rural Districts of the County, and from the Proposal Committee, subject to the modifications and other orders noted thereon and initialled by the Chairman."

Proposals for Payments.

Proposed by Mr. Ennis, seconded by Mr. J. Bolger, and passed:—"That we approve of payments as recommended by the Co. Surveyor to the Rural District Councils of the County, and to the Proposal Committee for the half-year ended 30th September 1909, and as appearing on Forms 22, also the payments for matters other than Public Works, and recommended by the Proposal Committee, subject to the modifications and other orders noted thereon and initialled by the Chairman."

Proposed by Mr. Kehoe, seconded by Mr. J. Bolger and passed:—"That as we understand applications have been made to our Secretary to have Paying Orders on foot of Road contracts transmitted to persons other than those to whom payments have been certified by the Co. Surveyor; we approve of the action of our Secretary in adhering strictly to the provisions of article 18 of the Public Bodies Order."

Resignation of Mr. D. Kavanagh, M. C. C.

The following letter under date 22nd November, was

read from Mr. D. Kavanagh, M. B. C. :-

"I wish to resign the Co Council, as I am going under treatment for cancer, if there be any fine attached to it, I will hold on, but we can get a lot better men than me. I enclose Doctor's certificate. This resignation applies to Asylum, and Old Age Committees."

The following certificate from Mr. B. Connolly, was read :-

"I hereby certify that I have examined Mr. Denis Kavanagh, of Killincooley, and that in my opinion he is suffering from cancer."

The following letter from the Local Government Board, under date 29th November (No. 142,486-09) was read :-

"In reply to your letter of the 23rd instant, relative to the proposed resignation of Mr. Denis Kavanagh, of his office as a member of the Wexford Co Council, I am directed by the Local Government Board for Ireland, to state that the question of the remission of the fine on resignation is one for the determination of the County Council in the first instance.

The Board would, however, refer the Council to articles 9 (b) (a) and 10 (1) of the Schedule to the Local Government (Application of Enactments) Order 1898, the effect of which is that any person who is disabled by permanent infirmity of body is exempt from fine on resignation."

On the motion of Mr. Ennis, seconded by the Chairman it was decided to accept Mr. Kavanagh's resignation; the office was declared to be vacant by the signature of Chairman, and two members of the Council; it was directed that the vacancy should be published in the "People", "Free Press" and "Echo" newspapers, and that said vacancy be filled at next meeting of the Co Council."

Forthcoming General Election

Mr. Devlin, M. P., Secretary United Irish League wrote asking the County Council to appoint delegates to Divisional Conventions for the selection of Parliamentary

candidates in view of a General Election.

The following delegates were appointed :-
North Wexford :- messrs J. Bolger, A. Kinsella, Michael Doyle, and Mark Codd.

South Wexford :- messrs E. Hore, James Codd, M. Hickey, and J. J. Kehoe.

Dates of meetings.

The following dates of meetings of Co. Council, Proposal Committee, and Rural District Councils, were fixed :-

Enniscorthy Rural District	Tuesday	April 5 th 1910	at 11 O.C.
Gorey	"	Wednesday	" 6 th " " 11-30 "
Wexford	"	Saturday	" 9 th " " 10-30 "
New Ross.	"	Tuesday	" 12 th " " 11-30 "
Proposal Committee	Thursday	" 14 th	" " 10. "
Co. Council	Wednesday	May 4 th	" " 10-30 "
" Quarterly meeting	"	February 9 th	" " 10-30 "

Removal of Wrecks - Wexford Bay.

Under date 18th November, the following letter (No. 8932-09 J. B) was read from the Department of Agriculture & Technical Instruction :-

"Adverting to your letter of the 13th instant embodying the following resolution passed at a meeting of the Wexford Co. Council on the 12th instant :-

"That as the Co. Council have been advised by their solicitor that they have no power to contribute to the cost of removing the wrecks in Wexford Bay, altho' anxious to do so, the Department of Agriculture be asked to carry out the work.

"The parties who tendered for the removal had already gone to considerable expense in providing the necessary gear."

I have to request that the Council will be good enough to state whether they have made application for the removal of wrecks to the Lighthouse Authority under section 581 of the Merchant Shipping Act of 1894.

The Department will not themselves undertake the removal of the wrecks; but they are prepared to

consider the question of contributing to the expenses incurred by a valid authority in removing them."

The Secretary stated he had forwarded the following letter of reply, under date 20th November:-

"With reference to your letter of 18th instant, and N^o 8932. F. B., relative to the proposed removal of wrecks in Wexford Bays, I desire to state in reply to query in paragraph 2. that my Council made application to the Commissioners of Irish Lights relative to removal of anchors at Courtown Harbour. I enclose you copy of their reply, and it would appear from it that their position as regards the removal of wrecks would be the same, as no one has contended that the wrecks in question are a danger to life-boats or navigation."

The letter of the Secretary of Irish Lights, was as follows; (under date 12th January 1909):-

"With reference to your letter of the 13th November, last, in which you convey a request of the Wexford Council that the Commissioners of Irish Lights will take the necessary steps to have the anchors removed from the vicinity of Courtown Harbour, I am directed to inform you that, as these anchors are in positions where they are no danger to navigation or lifeboats, the Commissioners have no jurisdiction in the matter. As the work of removal is solely in the interests of the local fishermen it should be undertaken by the men themselves, or the Department of Agriculture (Fisheries Branch) may perhaps see their way to take steps in the matter."

Proposed by Mr. Ennis, seconded by the Chairman and adopted:-

"The County Council desire to point out to the Department that in the interests of the fishermen of the County Wexford, it is most essential that these wrecks should be removed as fishing nets are being constantly destroyed owing to their presence. The Co. Council if they had any legal power to do so would gladly contribute to the expense of removal and the Co Council consider in these circumstances as the Department have power by the act of

Parliament under which the Department was constituted to have them removed, they should take the necessary steps to carry out this work."

— Irish National Teachers' Organization. —

Under date 13th October, Mr. Michael Doyle, Central Secretary, Irish National Teachers' Organization forwarded a statement of claim to full rights of citizenship by Irish National Teachers, which was read for the meeting:

On the motion of Mr. Kinsella, seconded by Mr. Kehoe, the following resolution was adopted:—

"That we approve of the action of the National Teachers Association in their attempt to secure full rights of citizenship and promise them our hearty support in their movement towards that end."

— Town Tenants' League. —

Under date 22nd October the General Secretary of the Town Tenants' League, wrote that an all Ireland meeting of Town Tenants would be held on 9th December at 8 p.m., in the Mansion House, Dublin; and asked for the appointment of delegates to same.

On the motion of Mr. Cummins, seconded by Mr. Fanning, it was decided that Mr. Michael Doyle, be appointed delegate to the meeting."

— The Use of Petty Sessions Houses. —

Under date 17th November, the following letter was read from Mr. James P. Connor, Sub. Sheriff:—

"Referring to your letter of the 15th inst., I am directed by the High Sheriff to inform you that he has no objection, so far as lies in his power, to give the permission asked by the County Council."

— Sheep Dipping. —

Under date 26th November '09 the Department of Agriculture & Technical Instruction, wrote as follows:—

"With reference to your letter of 18th instant with subjoined copies of (1) a letter received from District Inspector Fitzsimons, R. I. C., Wexford, and (2) a resolution of the Co. Council bearing thereon, I have to state

that while there is no desire to question the decision of the County Council regarding the cases alluded to by the District Inspector, the Department consider that it would be appropriate if the persons concerned were at least cautioned as to the need for fully complying with the declaration requirements in future. It would be disadvantageous if any sanction appeared to be given to the idea that these requirements may again be disregarded with impunity.

In connection with your further letter of the same date, indicating that the Council have unanimously endorsed a resolution of the North Wexford Farmers' Society protesting against the enforcement of the autumn sheep dipping order, it does not at present appear on what grounds such protest is put forward. Perhaps you may be in a position to favour the Department with information in the matter."

Mr Peacocke proposed, Mr Bolger seconded and it was passed :- "That with regard to the autumn dipping of sheep, sheep owners who fail to comply strictly with the terms of the Order be informed that they will render themselves liable to prosecution."

— Fair Wages Resolution —

Under date 19th November the following letter was read from Mr John Wadding, President Wexford Branch Typographical Association :-

"I am directed by the Wexford Branch of the Typographical Association to ask you to kindly place before the Co. Council the Fair Wages Resolution of the House of Commons; at their meeting on Wednesday next for their consideration and, I hope adoption. This resolution has been placed on the books of many public bodies in Ireland, and I have no doubt that the Wexford Co. Council will see its way to embody its provisions in any contract they may enter into."

Postponed to next meeting.

Resignation of Mr. Ennis, from committees.

Mr. Ennis said he desired to resign his membership of the following committees: - Finance, Asylum, Co. Infirmary, Co. Committee of Agriculture & Technical Instruction, Diseases of animals acts committee, and Roads committee.

The Chairman proposed: - "That we request Mr. Ennis to reconsider the question of his resignation of the various Co. Council committees."

Mr. Ennis said he would be prepared to continue on the Finance committee but not on the others.

On the motion of Mr. Ennis, seconded by the Chairman - Rev J. Cloney adm., Wexford, was appointed a member of the Asylum committee."

With reference to the Co. Infirmary committee, Mr. Ennis proposed, and Mr. Kehoe seconded: - That the Enniscorthy Urban District Council be asked to nominate one of their body as a member of the Co. Infirmary committee.

Passed.

The Secretary reported that there was another vacancy on the Co. Infirmary committee in consequence of the resignation of Mr. Ennis.

Mr. Kehoe proposed, Mr. Ennis seconded: - "That Mr. Robert Stanton J. P., John St. Wexford, be appointed a member of the Co. Wexford Infirmary committee, viz Mr. Ennis resigned."

Passed.

For the vacancy on the Co. Committee of Agriculture & Technical Instruction, and Diseases of animals acts committee. Mr. Michael Doyle proposed the appointment of Mr. P. Fortune. Mr. James Bodd seconded the resolution which was adopted.

Mr. Peacocke proposed, and the Chairman seconded: - "That the County Council have received the resignation of Mr. Ennis from the various committees with extreme regret as the Council are under a deep debt of gratitude to him for his advice and assistance when a member. That this expression of our regret, be entered on the minutes of the Council."

Passed.

Recommendations of Finance Committee

On the motion of Mr. Fanning, seconded by Mr. Kehoe, the following recommendation of the Finance Committee as regards proposed working of quarry at Kilhile, Arthurs town, was confirmed:-

"That we inform Mr. Murphy that if he can satisfy Mr. Elger that he has obtained the requisite permission from the Estates Commissioners, and is prepared to work this quarry for a period for not less than five years, the Finance Committee will recommend the Co. Council to instruct the Co. Surveyor to have this quarry inserted for road material in the specification for roads in the vicinity, at a price not exceeding 3/- per cubic yard."

On the motion of Mr. Ennis, seconded by Mr. Kehoe, the following recommendation of the Finance Committee was agreed to:-

"That we call the attention of the General Council of Irish County Councils to the difficulties created for Co. Councils in Ireland for obtaining the best class of road material under the provisions of the Land Act of 1903, which reserves the mineral rights to the Estates Commissioners"

On the motion of Mr. Bolger, seconded by Mr. Kehoe the following recommendation of the Finance Committee as regards proposed purchase of Kerlogue Quarry was confirmed:-

"The following Committee was appointed to see the quarry at Kerlogue, and also the quarry at Ballyboggan near Belmont:- Messrs E. Hore, C. H. Peacocke, James Codd, J. J. Kehoe, and J. J. Stafford, to meet at Kerlogue quarry on Monday 6th December 1909 at 10.30 am."

On the motion of Mr. Ennis, seconded by Mr. Fanning the following recommendation of the Finance Committee re Lady Esmonde maternity Hospital, Co. Wexford Infirmary, was agreed to:-

"That we recommend the Co. Council to have forwarded to the Co. Wexford Infirmary Committee, a

copy of the report of the special committee who considered the question of the maternity Hospital at the Co. Infirmary. That the Co. Wexford Infirmary Committee be requested to adopt a resolution deleting from their minutes the opinion of Mr. J. J. Maloney, K. B., on the grounds that it was obtained without the sanction or authority of the Co. Wexford Infirmary Committee, and that it was entered on their minutes in error."

On the motion of Mr. Kehoe, seconded by Mr. Fanning the following recommendations of the Finance Committee were agreed to :-

"Fixing date of meeting of Election Expenses Committee, for 12th January at 10.30 a.m."

"Agreeing to repair of Co. Council Typewriter."

and the following resolution re Old Age Pensions:-

"That we request Mr. Ennis to bring before the annual meeting of the General Council of Irish Co. Councils the detrimental effects on the claims of Old Age Pensioners caused by the action of Somerset House, London."

The Finance Committee forwarded the following recommendation from meeting of 12th November :-

"That the tender of Messrs Henry Pooley & Son, Ltd., 24 Lower Abbey Street, Dublin; to undertake the periodical inspection and adjustment of weighing machine at £2. per annum be accepted."

"This recommendation was confirmed on the motion of Mr. Ennis, seconded by Mr. Fanning."

Courtown Harbour.

The following letter under date 30th November '09. (No. 9149-09. F. B.) from the Department of Agriculture & Technical Instruction was read :-

"Adverting to your letter of the 13th instant, intimating that the Wexford Co. Council are prepared to contribute a sum of £100 towards the overhaul of the sluicing arrangements at Courtown, I have to state, for the information of the Council, that the Department are prepared to contribute a like sum

and to act as agents for the Council in carrying out the work to the extent which the sum of £200 will admit of. The systematic working of the sluices when repaired will, of course, be undertaken by the Council themselves.

The overhaul will necessitate the closing for some time of the entrance to the Dock. Kindly inform the Department whether the Council have power to close this entrance.

The Department will be glad to learn the time of the year which is considered most convenient for the initiation of the work. From an engineering point of view the summer would seem to be the most suitable."

Proposed by Mr. Ennis, seconded by Mr. Bolger: -
 "That we request the Department to inform us how ^{long} they contemplate closing the Dock at Courtown, for the purposes of repairing sluicing arrangements. When this information has been received we instruct our Secretary to forward copy of letter of Department No. 9149 F.B., under date 30th November and copy of reply received from Department as to the closing of Dock to the Courtown Harbour Committee, and that this Committee be requested to state what would be the most suitable time for having improvements carried out so as to interfere as little as possible with fishermen. That our Secretary forward the Department the views of the Courtown Harbour Committee when he has received them."

Passed.

— Dredging River Slaney —

Under date 25th November, the following letter was received from the Assistant Secretary, Board of Trade: -

"With reference to your application for the consent of the Board of Trade to the deepening by the Wexford County Council of a portion of the river Slaney at Enniscorthy. I am directed to transmit to you the accompanying duplicate plans of the proposed works, upon which the formal consent of the Board of Trade has been

inscribed, as the authority of the council so far as the interests of navigation are concerned, for proceeding with the works.

I am to state that no deviation from the accompanying plans should be made at any time without the further consent of the Board of Trade, and to request that you will inform me when the works have been completed.

I am also to request that officers of the Customs and Coast Guard, or any other person authorised by the Board of Trade, may be permitted to inspect the plans and works whenever it may be necessary to do so in the public interests."

The following letter under date 30th November '09. (No. 9429-09. F. B.) from the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction was read:-

"Adverting to your letter of the 26th instant, in reference to the proposed deepening of part of the river Slaney, I have to state, for the information of the Wexford Co. Council, that the dredger belonging to Messrs Davis will not be available for work until the 1st April next. In the circumstances, a new agreement must be prepared to suit the altered dates."

Proposed by Mr. Peacocke, seconded by Mr. Ennis and adopted:- "That the Department be informed that the Council are prepared to re-enter into agreement for the dredging of the river Slaney at Enniscorthy with the necessary amendments as to dates."

Resolutions.

From North Wexford Farmers' Society:-

Resolved:- That we, the North Wexford Farmers' Society request the County Council and Rural District Councils of the County to call a public meeting of protest against the unjust taxes proposed to be placed on Irish agriculturists by the new Budget."

On the motion of Mr. Fanning, seconded by Mr. Kinsella this resolution was marked - "Read."

From Edenderry Union:-

"Resolved - That in view of the terms of the Budget at present before the House of Lords, we call on those who are representing us in the English House of Commons, to explain why they voted for a Budget which places an additional tax of ten shillings per head on every man, woman and child in this country without direct or indirect benefit. That we believe the proposed land tax is such as is calculated to inflict ruin on the struggling farmers of Ireland. That we place on record our strongest protest against any further tax, whether on spirits, tobacco, license duty, or land; and as protests & resolutions have not availed anything in the past, where the British Treasury was concerned, we call on our fellow-countrymen to at once take united action irrespective of differences on other points, in resisting the glaring injustices of the Budget."

"On the motion of Mr. Fanning, seconded by Mr. Kinsella, this resolution was marked - "Read."

"A series of resolutions protesting against the Budget has been received from the Incorporated Law Society of Ireland."

marked "Read."

From the Gaelic League of the State of New York re Irish as an essential subject for matriculation in the National University.

marked "Read."

From Enniscorthy Rural District :-

"That we request the Co. Council to leave all cases of applications for compensation for malicious injuries in our hands for defence in future, and that as far as possible all claims be levied on the districts in which the damage has been done."

Proposed by Mr. Keacocke, seconded by Mr. Ennis, and passed :- "That the Enniscorthy Rural District Council be informed that as the Co. Council are the defendants in all applications for compensation for criminal injury they consider they must be represented by their own Solicitor, Mr. R. W. Elgee."

From Kilkenny County Council :-

"That in the opinion of this Council, the proceedings of every body administering or controlling public funds should be open to the Public and the Press, the ratepayers having an inherent right to know how their money is being disbursed; that the transactions of the Board of Agriculture, which is supposed to control the funds entrusted to the Department of Agriculture & Technical Instruction are of especial interest to the members of every Council who join in the administration of the Local Government Act, and that we call on the Board of Agriculture to comply with this resolution; that copies of this resolution be sent to the several County Councils in Ireland, with the request that our Secretary be informed of the views of each Council."

Adjourned.

From Kerry County Council :-

"Resolved :- That we protest against the unfair regulations and policy of the Treasury in regard to pensions in Ireland, and the agreement of the Irish Local Government Board with that policy, and request the Secretary of the County Pension Committee to ascertain from the other County Pension Committees in Ireland whether they would be prepared, by holding a joint conference, to take action in opposing the Treasury tactics and protecting old-age pensioners, and, if so, to arrange for a date and place for holding same."

On the motion of Mr. Fanning, seconded by Mr. Kehoe, it was decided to appoint Messrs Peacocke and Ennis, as delegates to the meeting organized by Kerry Co. Council relative to formulating a public protest against the interference of the Treasury in administration of Old Age Pensions."

Edmond Howe.