

Meeting - 25th January 1907.

A meeting of the County Council, was held in the Council Chamber, Courthouse, Wexford, on 25th January 1907.

Present:- Sir J. H. G. Esmonde, Bart., M. P. Chairman, presiding. Other members:- Messrs M. A. Ennis, E. Hore, D. Dempsey, J. C. Mayler, M. Broune, John Cummins, Thomas Asple, Mark Codd, T. A. Peacocke, M. Doyle, John J. Kehoe, H. C. Murphy, and James Codd.

The County Surveyor, the County Secretary, and Mr John Elgee, Solicitor to the Council, were in attendance.

Confirmation of Minutes

The Minutes of meeting of 4th December 1906, were read and agreed to.

Persecution of French Catholics.

Mr Ennis moved, and the Chairman seconded the suspension of standing orders, to allow Mr Ennis to move a resolution dealing with the present attitude of the French Government to the Catholic religion.

The motion having been adopted nem con; Mr Ennis then moved the following:-

"That we the County Council of Wexford desire to convey to His Holiness Pius, Supreme Head of the Catholic Church and to the venerable Cardinal Archbishop of Paris, representing the Catholic clergy and laity of France, the feelings of sorrow and surprise with which we view recent acts of forcible interference by the Government of a professedly Catholic and Christian nation with the worship of God, the authority of the Holy See and the liberties of religious communities, sacred rights which are respected and safeguarded even by non-Christian Powers.

We, Catholic Irishmen whose forefathers proved their devotion to the faith by the sacrifice of all worldly interests are joined by our non-Catholic colleagues in tendering our heartfelt sympathy in their hour of trial to our oppressed brothers in France, that great country

whose hospitality to Irish exiles remains a cherished memory in the hearts of a grateful people.

That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Very Rev Monsignor O'Riordan, D. D. Rector of the Irish College, Rome, with a request that he will present same to the Holy Father.

That copies be also forwarded to Cardinal Richard Archbishop of Paris; to the most Rev Dr. Broune, Lord Bishop of Ferns, to the Irish County Councils General Council; to each county council, and County Borough Council in Ireland; and to the various Public Bodies in the County of Wexford."

Mr. Cummins seconded the resolution which was adopted unanimously.

On the motion of the Chairman the following resolution was agreed to:- "That the seal of the County Council be affixed to the copies of this resolution which are sent to the persons mentioned therein."

Dogs Act 1906.

The Chairman moved the adoption of the following recommendations of the Diseases of Animals Acts, Committee in reference to the enforcement of certain of the provisions of the Dogs Act 1906:-

"That the regulations under the Dogs Act 1906, as to wearing of collars by dogs be put in force in County Wexford, and that this Committee adopt the draft Regulations forwarded by the Department of Agriculture that this Regulation come into force on 1st March 1907."

"That the Department of Agriculture, be requested to put the regulations in Sec (2) (1) (6) of the Dogs Act 1906 into force in County Wexford, and they transmit draft regulations to the County Council for this purpose."

Compulsory Dipping of Sheep.

On the motion of the Chairman the following recommendation from the Diseases of Animals Acts, Committee was confirmed:-

"That the Compulsory Sheep Dipping Order be put in force in 1907, and that the dipping period be from 1st June to 14th September."

Vice-Regal Commission on Irish Railways.

The following letter under date 12th January '06, from Mr. A. Keogh-Nolan, Secretary Irish County Councils' General Council, was read:-

"I am directed by my Executive Committee to ask you to place before your Council the following facts relative to the action of the General Council in connection with the appearance of Council before the Vice-Regal Commission on Irish Railways.

On the announcement of the application made on behalf of the associated Railway Companies to be represented at the Commission by Council, the General Council passed a resolution strongly protesting against the application being granted; but claiming that if the Commissioners unfortunately decided to grant the application, that the County Councils of Ireland through the General Council should be also represented by Council. The Commission decided to accede to the request of the Railway Companies, and also accorded permission to the General Council to appear by Council.

Steps were immediately taken by the Executive Committee to avail of this permission; but, doubt having been thrown on the powers of County Councils to vote money for this purpose; a case was sent to Mr. Stephen Ronan, K. C., for his opinion. Mr. Ronan advises that the County Councils individually or collectively through the General Council have no power to devote any portion of their funds towards defraying the costs of appearing by Council before the Vice-Regal Commission on Irish Railways.

I therefore, regret to inform you that this matter which is of such vital importance to the country, the Councils of Ireland are legally debarred from availing of the privilege accorded them by the Commission."

"The Chairman moved and it was adopted:- That we agree with the following resolution of our Finance Committee:- That this Council desires to call attention to the intolerable position created for Irish County Councils generally by defects in the Local Government (Ireland) Act 1898, whereby County Councils entrusted by that Act with the charge of important

interests now find themselves debarred from giving effective protection to those interests, eminent counsel having advised that neither the Irish County Councils General Council, nor any county council, or number of county councils can legally apply their funds towards the cost of appearing by counsel before the Vice-Regal Commission on Irish Railways, now sitting before which commission the associated Railway Companies of Ireland, have been permitted to appear by counsel.

That we consider the fact that the Directors of the Irish Railway Companies are assisted before the Commission by counsel at the expense of their shareholders, whilst the County Councils of Ireland are debarred under the existing law from availing of legal assistance will not conduce to an impartial consideration of the question of Irish Railways.

That copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Vice-Regal Commission on Irish Railways; the Prime Minister, the Chief Secretary for Ireland, the leaders of the Irish Parliamentary Party, and Irish Unionist Party, the members of Parliament for North and South Wexford; to each County Council and County Borough Council in Ireland, and to the Irish County Councils General Council."

Fethard Harbour.

Report of Piers and Harbours Committee.

As directed by the meeting of the County Council on 4th December 1906, Messrs M. A. Ennis (Vice-Chairman) and C. H. Peacocke, representing the Piers and Harbours Committee, visited Fethard, on 15th January 1907, to ascertain the views of the Fishermen in reference to the improvement of the Harbour.

They were accompanied by the County Surveyor, the County Secretary, and Mr. C. D. Oliver, Engineer to the Department of Agriculture.

Rev M. Kinsella, C. C. Poulfur, Rev R. M. Kellott, Rector, Mr. J. Cummins, J. P. Co. Councillor for the district; the District Councillors, and a number of fishermen were also present.

Rev M. Kinsella, was moved to the chair, and put

forward very clearly and forcibly the claims of the fishermen. Rev R. M. Kellett, submitted plans for the improvement of the Harbour which he said were before Sir Horace Plunkett at the end of 1904. They provided for a berth for steamers through the extension of the pier by 196 feet, with a breakwater to the land side in to the shore. In returning these plans the Department stated that they indicated operations and expenditure of considerable magnitude, but it was considered that a scheme of less comprehensive kind would not be satisfactory at Fethard. The Department were advised that in the present state of the law a County Council could not contribute to a marine work the total cost of which exceeds £300 unless the work was one of repair or reconstruction. Mr Kellett then explained the plans.

Some of the fishermen said they had never seen the plans, now submitted by Rev Mr Kellett. They wanted the Pier extended by 100 yards. It was pointed out by Mr Bird on behalf of the fishermen that at the end of the existing pier a depth of 13 feet was obtained at high water, and 100 yards out the depth would be 22 feet. They had 24 boats, the principal fish caught being haddock, mackerel, and herrings in season. Ten or twelve schooners used the harbour during the Summer for discharging coal, and it was very difficult for the fishing boats to get in or out when a schooner lay in the harbour, in fact on some occasions the boats had been locked in. The boats drew four feet of water and that day at 2 p.m. the dock was absolutely dry. If the present pier were extended 100 yards the boats would be afloat at nearly all stages of tide.

Rev Mr Kellett said a responsible man had informed him that he would be prepared to carry out the work according to the plans for £6,000, but this was for an extension of 196 feet only.

Mr Ennis pointed out that the County Council could not consider the question of providing additional accommodation for steamers or schooners. What they, and the Department were concerned with, was the improvement of the fishing industry.

The fishermen said they were not anxious that special

facilities should be provided for steamers or schooners. They wanted protection for their boats, and some provision made, to enable them to carry out their industry. Their boats were either half dicked or yawls, and if they had a bigger and a better harbour, they would get bigger and better boats, and they would endeavour to get an advance from the Government to build these boats. The wind from the S. E. created the heaviest sea at Fethard.

Some soundings were then taken from which it appeared exactly at 2 p.m. that at 100 yards from the pier the depth was 6 ft 10 inches, at 55 yards - 5 ft 6 inches close to the pier - 2 feet 10 inches.

Allowing 2 feet 6 inches for state of tide (close on 2 hours flood) at which soundings were taken this would leave 4 feet 4 inches at low water at 100 yards out; 3 feet at 55 yards; and line of low water at pier head.

Mr. Oliver pointed out that to the present the Department had been able from accumulated funds to make grants in some cases for the improvement of piers but these accumulations had now been spent, and, after taking into consideration the cost of the upkeep of the Dredger of the Department and the cost of standing charges, only a few hundred of the Imperial Grant would be left for the repair or improvement of harbours.

Mr. Cummins explained that if the improvement proposed by the fishermen at Fethard could be carried out, the place would be constantly utilized by the boats which at present made Dunmore their head quarters during the fishing season.

Mr. Oliver referring to the plan submitted by Rev Mr. Kellett, said, he would not as an Engineer, take the responsibility of erecting the structure as provided.

Some of the fishermen said they would be satisfied if they could get the pier extended without the erection of the breakwater, but Mr. Oliver considered it would not be possible to allow the boats to continue moored at the end of the Pier without a breakwater. As an offhand opinion he believed the proposed improvements would cost £12,000. Of course that was a rough idea, and he should not like to bind himself to an exact figure without further

investigation and an opportunity of carefully examining the plan. The fishermen said that the foastquaros pier would be of some assistance to them if it could be obtained from the Government.

After further consultation it was decided that Mr. Oliver should lay his views before the Department and that the Piers and Harbours Committee should report to the County Council, and call the attention of the latter body to the views of the fishermen, and to plans which had been submitted by Rev Mr. Kellett, copies of which Mr. Webster was desired to make.

The visitors were very hospitably entertained to luncheon by Father Kinsella.

The following letter under date 14th December 1906 no. 6557/06 J.B. - from the Department of Agriculture, was read. -

Adverting to your communication of the 11th instant I have to state, for the information of the Wexford County Council that, in view of the present condition of their funds, the Department are unable to make any contribution to the cost of the maintenance works at Iethard Harbour, which has been carried out by the Council.

The Board of Works wrote letter no. 15038-06, under date 17th January 1907 as follows:-

"I am directed by the Commissioners of Public Works to advert to your letter of the 16th ultimo, and the Board's letter of the 3rd November inquiring whether the Wexford County Council would be prepared to purchase the interest of the Admiralty in a pier and warehouse at Iethard, and to state that they will be glad if you will be so good as to inform them how the matter now stands."

The following copy of letter which was sent to Rev R. M. Kellett from the Department of Agriculture, was read:-

no 3317/03.

12th December 1904

Reverend Sir

"With reference to your recent interview with the Vice-President in regard to Iethard Harbour, I have to return herewith the plans of the proposed works for the improvement of the Harbour. These plans indicate operations & expenditure of considerable magnitude, but it does not appear probable, in view of the existing conditions at Iethard, that a scheme of a less costly character would be effective."

A legal difficulty has been raised in connection with the contribution by a County Council to the cost of a new marine work. The Department are advised that, in the present state of the law, a County Council cannot legally contribute to marine works, the total cost of which exceeds £300, except in cases of reconstruction or repair of existing piers or harbours. The proposed operations at Iethard are not works of reconstruction or repair and would entail an expenditure of several thousand pounds. It is not therefore possible at present for the Wexford County Council to avail themselves of the provisions of the Agriculture and Technical Instruction (Ireland) Act in connection with the improvement of Iethard Harbour, since they are debarred from making a grant to any such work involving a greater expenditure than £300.

The Department will, as soon as possible, or may be practicable, take any measures in their power for the removal of the difficulty referred to. They can only state, at present, that they will be prepared to contribute towards the improvement of Iethard Harbour, when this difficulty has been overcome, the amount of their contribution being a matter for future consideration."

The following letter under date 23rd January 07 from Mr. C. D. Oliver, Engineer to the Department of Agriculture, was read:-

"I am much obliged for the copy of your report of the visit of the Committee to Iethard, which I shall lay before the Department. I note that it is said that 'he (Mr Oliver) believed the proposed improvements would cost £12,000'. This of course referred to the cost of the plan submitted to us by Mr. Skellett, it was not an expression of my opinion that £12,000 would or would not adequately provide for the requirements of the place.

I am going further into the question of the dredging into the creek, which on examination of the maps appears rather more hopeful than it did on the ground, and is I think worthy of investigation."

At the request of some members of the Council, the Secretary procured the following letter, showing the amounts expended on the improvement of Piers, and Harbours, for the last five years, in County Waterford; from Mr R. G. Paul, Secretary to Co Council.

"The following is a list of amounts expended.

on the improvements of Piers and Harbours in this County during the last five years; and showing the sources from which the monies were obtained. I am not able to give the amounts of small sums expended directly by the County Surveyor in repairs to damages.

monies procured from -

Harbours	Work	County Council	Department of Agriculture	Deep Sea Fisheries Fund	Total
Ardamore	New Breakwater	1166 : 13 : 4	1200 : 0 : 0	1775 : 18 : 9	4142 : 12 : 1
Ballinacorney	Clearing Silt	137 : 10 : 0	137 : 10 : 0	—	275 : 0 : 0
Passage East	Improving Dock	2000 : 0 : 0	2000 : 0 : 0	2000 : 0 : 0	6000 : 0 : 0
Tramore	Reconstructing Pier	2500 : 0 : 0	2500 : 0 : 0	—	5000 : 0 : 0
Cappoquin	New Quay	300 : 0 : 0	—	—	300 : 0 : 0
		6104 : 3 : 4	5837 : 10 : 0	3775 : 18 : 9	15717 : 12 : 1

Mr Ennis moved, Mr Peacocke, seconded and it was passed:-

"That we request our own Solicitor, Mr R. W. Elgie, to look into the difficulty raised by the Department of Agriculture, as to expenditure of money on Piers and Harbours. That we request the Department to allow Mr. Oliver, their Engineer, to spend a fortnight at Lethard as to thoroughly examine the coast, and ascertain in conjunction with our County Surveyor whether a scheme cannot be formulated to provide proper accommodation for fishing boats at Lethard, without an expenditure that would be beyond the means of the County Council."

Mr Ennis moved, Mr Cummins seconded, and it was passed:-

"That the Admiralty be offered £5 for their interest in portion of Lethard Pier and watchhouse."

The Chairman moved the following resolution

which was seconded by Mr Cummins and Passed:-

"That in view of the following facts: viz:- that a considerable sum of money is necessary for the improvement of Lethard Harbour and other Harbours on the Coast of Co Wexford - that the Deep Sea Fisheries Fund is no longer available, that the Department of Agriculture has no funds at its disposal for the construction

or improvement of marine works, and that the County Council is prohibited from spending more than £300 except on the reconstruction of existing Piers or Harbours.

We request the Chief Secretary for Ireland to provide by legislation this coming session the necessary facilities to enable this Council to carry out the improvements required to the Piers and Harbours of this County.

Copy of this resolution to be sent to the Chief Secretary for Ireland.

Dredging Operations. Courtown Harbour.

The following letter under date 18th December 1906, no 6586/06-J.B. from the Department of Agriculture, was read:-

Adverting to previous correspondence, I have to state, for the information of the Wexford County Council, that a sum of about £145 has been expended during the past month in dredging operations at Courtown Harbour. The condition of the place is still unsatisfactory, but it is thought—although obviously no guarantee on the point can be given—that the expenditure of a further sum of about £100 on these operations would suffice to meet the necessities of the case. The Department will look to the County Council, for a local contribution equal to one-third of the entire cost of the work. I have to request that your Council will be good enough to state whether, on the supposition that the funds of the Department will permit of such further expenditure, a local contribution on the scale mentioned will be forthcoming.

"The Finance Committee at a meeting of the 22nd Decr 06 recommended the County Council to accept the offer of the Department"

The following letter was read from the County Surveyor, under date 3rd January 1907:-

"I visited Courtown Harbour on the 31st ult., I found that a channel had been dredged on the North Side of the Harbour entrance, but across the mouth of the entrance an obstruction still exists. By the orders of the Department the grab dredge, erected on the South Pier has ceased working about a week ago, but a suction dredge boat was working at a shoal place some distance away from the harbour; I am inclined to think that if the dredge boat could remove the obstruction at the mouth of the harbour, most of the remaining silt between the two piers could be removed by sluicing at

low water spring tides, there being at present a good deal of water in the river. I was glad to notice that the fishing boats had a good haul of herrings on the date of my visit. I found that Mr. Wallace had blown up six six of the iron piles at the entrance to the harbour, and I have made arrangements with him to remove two or three stumps of old piles that are under water."

The Chairman moved:- "That as recommended by the Finance Committee, we agree to accept the offer of the Department of Agriculture, as set out in their letter no. 6586/06-I.B. under date 18 December 1906, relative to the dredging of Fowltown Harbour, and that our Secretary inform the Department of Agriculture to that effect. Passed."

Dredging Harbours of Duncannon and Arthurstown

The following letter no. 894/07 under date 22 January '07 was read from the Board of Works:-

"In compliance with the request contained in your letter of the 18th inst., I am directed by the Commissioners of Public Works to enclose herewith a copy of memorandum showing the terms of hire of the dredger "Sisyphus". One of the Board's Engineers will be instructed to inspect the Harbours at Arthurstown and Duncannon in a day or two, to see whether the "Sisyphus" is suitable for the work to be done.

As regards terms of insurance, the Dredger has just been insured at the rate of 10% per cent for one month, while working at Passage East, with Messrs Bell Sir Rogerson's Quay Dublin, Lloyds' Agents, and no doubt your Council could arrange similar terms with them.

I am to add that the dredger has just finished working at Passage East, and it would be desirable to make early arrangements regarding hire."

Terms of Hire of the Dredger "Sisyphus".

(1) Payment at the rate of 10% on £9000 for the period of hire, the hirers to insure the dredger in an office to be approved of by the Board in the sum of £9000 in the name of "The Commissioners of Public Works Ireland", the policy or covering note to be deposited in this office before the dredger leaves her moorings. The policy should cover the journey

from the dredgers headquarters and back again, where such journey is involved.

(2) In addition the hirers will be required to pay the working expenses which include:-

- (i) Wages of crew approximately £70 per month
- (ii) Cost of fuel " £50 "
- (iii) Other stores " (day) £20 "
- (iv) Cost of repairs incidental to the work. This might be covered by terms of insurance policy.

(3) They will be held liable for compensation for injury, loss of life, or damage to property incidental to the hiring. note. The payment at the rate of 10% per annum is intended to provide for the annual overhaul and general repair of the vessel. No charge is made for interest on Capital or for depreciation.

The Chairman moved:- "That the dredger 'Sisyphus' of the Board of Works, can be obtained, and be found suitable for the purpose, that she can be employed for such period, not exceeding one month, as will be necessary to carry out the dredging of the harbours of Arklow and Duncannon." Passed.

Proposed Agricultural School

The following letter No 31582-06 under date 17 December '06 from the Department of Agriculture, Etc., was read:-

"Adverting to your letter of the 6th inst, forwarding a copy of a resolution adopted by the County Council of Wexford, relative to the question of the establishment of an Agricultural School in County Wexford. I have to transmit herewith a copy of a report furnished by the Department by their Chief Agricultural Inspector as a result of his recent visit, to the two sites suggested viz. Camolin Park and Ballinastaney."

I have to add that the Department concur in the opinion expressed in this report as to the unsuitability of these places as sites for an Agricultural School."

No 31582-06.

Report on inspection of sites suggested as suitable for an Agricultural School for County Wexford.

Camolin Park. Land high, but would probably be suitable

for tillage. It however, lies rather low. House not suitable for a school, nor could it well be adapted for this purpose. A considerable expenditure would be required to render it habitable.

As the farmyard is situated a considerable distance from the house, it would be necessary to have new buildings erected in addition to the existing stable yard buildings. Camolin Park is situated some distance from the country road and is surrounded by a wood, it does not, therefore, afford facilities for the public seeing the farm operations and experiments.

Ballinaslaney. Situated seven miles from Enniscorthy and six miles from Wexford. Although it is only a few miles from Ederville station it is awkwardly situated, on account of being so far from a market town. The house at Ballinaslaney is very much larger than at Camolin, and would be much more easily adapted for the purpose of a school and cost less money to adapt. The land is stiffer and not so suitable for tillage, as that at Camolin; it is besides much more hilly. I consider that neither of these places is suitable for an agricultural school for County Wexford.

(Signed) J. J. Gordon

The following resolution was passed by the County Committee of Agriculture, &c., at their meeting held 20 December 1906:-

"That the County Committee having considered the report of Mr. J. J. Gordon, Chief Agricultural Inspector of the Department of Agriculture &c., and which is addressed to the County Council, are still of opinion that Camolin Park or Ballinaslaney, would be suitable for the purpose of an Agricultural School; that we are not aware of any other suitable place being available, and consider that we have arrived at stage in Itinerant Instruction work, when it urgently requires some supplement and when it is absolutely necessary for the Development of Agriculture, that an Agricultural School should be provided for the County.

But the department cannot expect that places absolutely

suitable in every detail. can under any conditions be procured, and the County Committee are quite satisfied to adopt, for the establishment of an Agricultural school, either Camolin Park, Ballinaslane, or any place that may come into the market and which the Department may regard as suitable for the purpose. As Camolin Park is in the hands of the Estate Commissioners it can be obtained on most favourable terms, provided immediate action is taken towards that end."

The Chairman moved the adoption of the foregoing resolution passed at the meeting of the County Committee of Agriculture and Technical Instruction

Sale of Food and Drugs Acts.

The following letter no 30927-06, under date 6 December 1906 from the Department of Agriculture was read:-

"With reference to previous correspondence relative to the enforcement of the above-mentioned Acts, I have to state for the information of your Local Authority, that the Department, in virtue of the powers vested in them under Section 2 of the Act of 1899, recently instructed an officer to proceed to the County of Wexford for the purpose of obtaining samples of butter for analysis. Specimens as indicated hereunder were, in accordance with these directions, procured and duly submitted to the Public Analyst for the County, who certifies that they proved to be pure.

Number of Sample	Place where taken
2	Benniscorthy
3	Gorey.

Marked "Read".

County Council and Food & Drugs Inspectors

The following letter under date 18th December 1906, from Mr. R. W. Blane, Solicitor to the Council, was read:-

"Referring to the Resolution of the County Council passed on 6th instant instructing me to look into their

powers and duties with regard to Food and Drugs Inspectors, and the relations of the Council to the Inspectors and to advise thereon. I write to say that I have now perused the Acts of Parliament relating to the Sale of Food and Drugs, and I find that by section 10 of the Act of 1875, the Council as the Local Authority are bound to appoint an analyst, and by section 13 of the same act they have power to appoint Inspectors, who under the direction, and at the cost of the Council, may procure a sample of Food, or Drugs, and if an Inspector suspect same to have been sold to him contrary to any provisions of the Act, he shall submit same to be analysed by the Analyst of the district for which he acts, and by section 20 of the said act (1875) it is provided that when an Analyst having analysed any article shall have given his certificate of the result, from which it may appear, that an offence against some one of the provisions of the provisions of the Act has been committed, the person causing the Analysis to be made, may take proceedings (without obtaining a direction from the Council) for the recovery of the penalty therein imposed for such offence, and section 26 provides for applications of penalties recovered.

Section 3 of the Act of 1899 provides that it shall be the duty of the Local Authority to appoint a Public Analyst, and put in force from time to time as occasion may arise, the powers with which they are invested, so as to provide proper securities for the sale of foods and drugs in a pure and genuine condition, and in particular to direct their officers to take samples for analysis, and that if the Local Government Board, or Board of Agriculture, after communication with a Local Authority, are of opinion that the Local Authority have failed to execute or enforce any of the provisions of the Sale of Food and Drugs Act, in relation to any article of Food, and that their failure affects the general interest of the Consumer, or the general interests of Agriculture in the United Kingdom, as the case may be the Board concerned may by order, empower an officer of the Board to execute and enforce ~~ment~~ those provisions, or to procure the execution and Enforcement thereof, in relation to any article of food mentioned in the order. These seem to be the only sections

bearing on the powers and duties of the Council, and inasmuch as it appears that all the Inspectors appointed by the Council, are Police Constables, and it has been decided that a constable prosecuting, need not prove that he acted under the direction of the Council, in procuring the sample, the Council have really very little power in the matter especially as it is manifest that it would be impossible for an Inspector in every case to get a direction to procure a sample, and as where proceedings are taken, they must be instituted within 28 days from the purchase, which gives very little time to procure an Analysis, there would probably be no meeting of the Council at which to obtain a direction, even if such was necessary."

"On the motion of Mr. Browne, seconded by Mr. Ennis it was decided that the letter be referred to the next meeting of the Finance Committee."

Lord of Lyng

Mr. Elger having laid Council's opinion before the meeting, it was decided that Mr. Elger bring up the matter, when it is ripe for consideration.

Irish Agricultural Organization Society

The following letter under date 7th December 1906, was received from Mr. J. J. Saylor, Secretary Department of Agriculture, and Technical Instruction Inquiry Committee, with reference to the above:-

"I am in receipt of your letter of the 6th inst, with accompanying copies of resolutions adopted on the 4th inst, by the Wexford County Council, which will be placed before the Departmental Committee"

marked "Read"

Appointment of Members of County Committee

The following resolution was received from the Clerk of the District Council, Gorey:-

Proposed by Mr. Lanning, seconded by Mr. Hanson, and passed unanimously:- Resolved - that it is the opinion of this Council that the efficiency of the County Committee

of Agriculture and Technical Instruction would be increased by appointing practical farmers on the Committee, instead of traders who are presently appointed, and that a copy of this resolution be sent to the County Council marked "Read"

Bridgetown Milk Prosecution

The following letter under date 31st December 1906, was received from Sir Charles Cameron, County Analyst:-

"I regret that the County Council should have come to the conclusion that I had undoubtedly made a mistake in estimating the amount of fat in a specimen of milk, and that a repetition of such or similar mistake would shake their confidence in me as their analyst. I beg with all respect to maintain that my analysis was perfectly correct, and I do not see that because another chemist operating on the same sample six weeks later should be accepted as an accurately analysed article. If as in such case the sample had been found correct, by the vendor's analyst, and that his analysis would be confirmed by the Excise Chemist, then with two against one, there might be some reasonable pretext for deciding against the Public Analyst

Even in such a case the Public Analyst might be correct. The milk might have been in such a condition when purchased that its fats were unequally distributed, and that the sample retained for Somerset House contained an undue amount of fat. Such unequal distribution of fats has occurred over and over again. Even when the Vendor's and Excise Chemist's analysis differed from the Public Analyst's, it does not necessarily follow that the Public Analyst's must be an error. Let me quote a recent case. Two specimens of whiskey were sent by a Sergeant R. J. C. from Donegal, to the Public Analyst for County Donegal - Mr Berkeley. He found that they were both largely adulterated. The two vendors whose whiskey was thus adversely reported on sent their samples for analyses to me, and I reported that both were pure. The third samples were then sent to Somerset House, and they were reported to be pure. The cases were dismissed.

A Donegal paper then commented on Mr Berkeley's alleged mistake, whereupon he took an action for libel against it.

proprietor in June last, in the Court of Kings Bench, and got a verdict for £400, and costs. The jury were satisfied that Mr. Barkley ~~was~~ had carefully analysed the specimens sent to him, and that the samples must have been tampered with in transit in some way or other. The County Council did not express any want of confidence in Mr. Barkley, although two analysts differed with him. I invariably repeat the analysis of every article which on first examination proved to be adulterated, and it seems incredible that both should be incorrect.

Marked "Read"

Evicted Tenants

The following resolution was received from the Cork County Council for adoption:-

Resolved:- "That having regard to the present position and prospects of the evicted tenants the gloomy outlook for the ensuing winter months with starvation and bitter distress staring them in the face and the necessity for ~~sustaining~~ maintaining them and their families pending their restoration to the lands from which they were evicted, we, the County Council of the County of Cork hereby make earnest and urgent appeal to the National Trustees to set apart at once as an Evicted Tenants Relief Fund a substantial portion of the thousands of pounds which are being contributed by Irish Exiles in America and Australia for National purposes - that we know of no National object more urgent, or more appealing, or one regarding which the honour of the Irish Nation is more deeply pledged than that of sustaining the evicted tenants until their restoration to the land is secured, and when this is attained of giving them a generous measure of financial assistance to enable them to make a fair start in life once more; that we trust this claim will be urged immediately on the National Trustees by all the public bodies and Nationalist organisations in Ireland"

On the motion of Mr. Cummins seconded by Mr. Dempsey, the resolution was adopted."

Great S.W. Railway & Express Trains.

Letter under date 21st December 1906, from Mr. J. H. Bell.

Superintendent of Line, Gt. S. & W. Railway Co., was read:-

"with reference to your letter of the 6th inst, addressed to the Secretary relative to the stopping of the Boat Express trains at Wellington Bridge. The matter has been fully considered and I am to regret that the Company cannot see their way to accede to the request of the County Council, as conveyed in my letter of the 24th September last"

On the motion of Mr. Browne, seconded by Mr. Cummins, the following resolution was adopted:-

"That for the convenience of the people of the County Wexford we again request the Great S. & W. Railway Company to have the boat express stop for four or five minutes at Wellington bridge station"

Agriculture and Technical Instruction

It was decided that the question of raising a half-penny rate under the Technical Instruction Act 1889, and a half-penny rate under the Agriculture and Technical Instruction Act 1899 be brought before the meeting of the County Council on 12th February."

Grand Canal Co., and new Ross Bridge

The following letter, under date 10th December 1906 was received from Mr. Geo. Lough, General Manager, Grand Canal Co., Dublin:-

"I am in receipt of your letter of 6th inst, and I must say that I am rather surprised at its contents. I have a copy of the existing regulations before me, and there is not a single word about the bridge not being allowed to open after "sunset" which was the reason he gave to our people. There was plenty of light even after the train passed, for the vessels to pass through with perfect safety, and I can see no good reason why they were not allowed to do so.

As I pointed out before, we have very little profit out of the traffic on that part of the river, and if we are to suffer loss by vexatious delays like this, I am afraid we shall have to give it up altogether. I think your Council might allow the caretaker to exercise his discretion, especially in cases like those mentioned, when there is no reasonable objection and no danger to anybody or anything."

Poor Law Officers, & State Service

The following resolutions passed by the Guardians of New Ross Union, at their meeting of the 15th December, 1906:—

Resolved:—In accordance with Notice of Motion I propose that we enter our protest and serious objection to the suggestion that the Poor Law Officers of this Country should be under the State service and their appointments and terms of employment be subject to State Regulations. We, Representatives of the people of our several Districts of the New Ross Union regard the proposal as a retrograde, and unpatriotic one, and place on record our great surprise that such a suggestion has been made in these days of progress, and that it has been received with approval of prominent and influential Members of the Irish Medical Association."

The above resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr. Seacocks
Seconded by Mr. Murphy

White Star Line Steamers.

The following letter under date 15th January 1907, was received from the ^{Harbour} Commissioners:—

"With reference to the arrangements announced by the White Star Company for withdrawing four of their steamers from Liverpool to Southampton, which vessels are to call at Cherbourg and Queenstown on the outward voyage, and return direct from New York to Plymouth passing the Port of Cork, I am directed to transmit herewith, enclosed copy of a Resolution passed by the Commissioners to which I am to request your serious attention

You will observe that on the homeward voyage, it is intended to pass the Port of Cork, and carry the mails and passengers to Plymouth.

As the effect of this will be to withdraw portions of the homeward mails from this Port, and also a very considerable number of Passengers, who at present land here from these steamers, it is obvious that in the interests of Ireland generally it is essential that all the Irish members of Parliament and others interested, should promptly take steps for urging upon the British and American Governments the subject of preserving the homewards as well as the outward mails for the Port of Cork, which from its facilities, and geographical position, being nearly 350 miles nearer to New York than Southampton

has long since been recognised as the best situated port in the United Kingdom for the Transatlantic Mail Service. Resolved: That this board call upon the entire body of Irish members of Parliament to oppose any withdrawal of the American Mail Service from Queenstown, and that the various Railway Companies, the Corporation the County Council, and other public bodies interested, be requested to co-operate with this board in resisting such withdrawal, and that the preparation of a memorandum, to be circulated, embodying the advantages of Queenstown as a Transatlantic Mail and Passenger Station, be referred to a committee of the whole Board.

Mr. Ennis moved the adoption of the foregoing resolution, and the Secretary was requested to inform the Secretary of the Port Harbour Board.

National Demonstration in Wexford

The following circular under date 12th January 1907, was received from the Hon Secs, Demonstration Committee:-

"A Great national Demonstration to support the cause of the evicted tenants of this County, and to revive the National spirit of the people, will be held in Wexford on Sunday 10th February 1907. We are directed by the Demonstration Committee to ask the support and attendance of your body, and trust you will be kind enough to have delegates appointed.

Mr. J. E. Redmond (Chairman of the Irish Party) Mr. W. Redmond M.P., Sir Thomas Esmonde Bart., M.P. and Mr. Peter French M.P., have been invited to attend.

Chair will be taken by the Very Rev. P. Doyle P.P. Ballyoughter at 2 p.m. On the motion of Mr. Cummins, seconded by Mr. Murphy, it was decided that all the members of the Council be asked to attend the demonstration.

May leave Post Office.

Under date 24th January the Secretary General Post Office, wrote requesting the consent of County Council to the erection of telegraphic line along the public road between Cruise's Cross and Saltmills Post Office.

Agreed to, on the motion of Mr. Cummins, seconded by Mr. Ennis.

Courtown Dues

The Chairman moved the adoption of the following recommendation

of the Finance Committee:-

"That the fisherman at fourtown Harbour be allowed till the 31st March for payment of the arrears due."

Rassett.

Ballyhack Harbour.

In reference to the Control of this harbour Mr. Egees Solicitor read for the Meeting opinion of Mr. M. J. Dunn H.C. Mr. Dunn gave it as his opinion that the County Council had no power to compel the Waterford Harbour Commissioners in which the Harbour of Ballyhack was vested, to comply with the requirements of the Factory Inspector, and he did not consider they would be able to obtain a mandamus to compel the Harbour Commissioners to light the harbour.

He recommended the County Council to do nothing, but to decline to comply with the requirements of the Factory Inspector.

Metaphone for Surveyor's Office

On the motion of the Chairman, the following recommendation of the Finance Committee was agreed to:- "The Application by the Secretary to have a Metaphone connection between the County Surveyor's Office, and the County Secretary's office was approved."

Rate Book Staff.

On the motion of the Chairman, the following recommendation of the Finance Committee was agreed to:-

"That as many of the late temporary staff as are available be employed, and that the selection of any additional staff be referred to the next meeting of the Finance Committee."

M. J. Dunn

13. 3. 1907