

meeting - 29th January 1913.

A meeting of the Wexford Co. Council, was held in the Co. Council Chamber, Court House, Wexford, on 29th January 1913.

Present :- Mr. John Bolger, Chairman; presiding.

Other members :- Messrs C. H. Peacocke, John O'Connor, J. J. Stafford, R. A. Rice, J. S. Hearn, Lord Stopford, P. J. Fanning, J. J. Mayler, J. A. Doyle, M. Doyle Senr., Patrick Rossiter, M. Cloney, T. Asple, M. Codd, Michael Doyle Junr., James Codd, T. L. Esmonde.

The Secretary, the County Surveyor, and Dr. O'Donoghue, of the National Health Insurance Commission, were in attendance.

The minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed.

———— The Home Rule Bill. ————

The Chairman moved the suspension of Standing Orders, which on being carried he moved the following, which was seconded by Mr. Peacocke, and unanimously adopted :-

"That we offer Mr. John. E. Redmond and the Irish Party, our heartfelt congratulations on the passage of the Home Rule Bill by such a large majority."

That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Mr. John. E. Redmond.

———— Vote of Condolence. ————

On the motion of Mr. Peacocke, seconded by Mr. Hearn, the following resolution was adopted :-

"That we offer Mr. R. W. Elge, Solicitor, our heartfelt condolence in the loss he has sustained in the death of his sisters, and that our Secretary forward a copy of this resolution to Mr. Elge, with the expression of our sincere sympathy."

— Deeps Bridge. —

With reference to the proposed re-erection of the Deeps Bridge, the following recommendation of the Finance & Roads Committee was agreed to :-

"That we recommend the County Council to adjourn the consideration of tenders for the Deeps Bridge, until a special meeting of the Council to be held on 26th February and that the County Surveyor advertise this contract in any technical papers he considers suitable."

— Guns at Duncannon Fort. —

The following letter under date 27th January 1913, from the War Office, was read :-

"The War Department have 2 Ordnance R. M. I. 80 Pounder Guns, and 1 Ordnance R. M. I. 64 Pounder Gun situated at Duncannon Fort (now abandoned as such) at the entrance of Waterford Harbour on the County of Wexford side nearly opposite Passage East, and War Office have put out tenders to likely purchasers of these old Guns, but a proviso in the contract is that they are to be broken up before removal, and as this can only be done by blasting, will you please inform me by telegram (sixpenny P. O. enclosed) if the municipal authorities have any objection to this taking place.

Tenders have to reach War Office by

Monday 3rd February, so will you kindly treat this matter as very urgent."

On the motion of Lord Stopford, seconded by Mr. Hearn, the following resolution was adopted :-

"That the County Council have no objection to the proposed work, provided that the War Office carry it out at their own risk."

Ballyhack Harbour.

Under date 7th January, the following letter No. 10,611/12, F. B., was read :-

"Adverting to previous correspondence on the subject of the proposed improvement of the accommodation for fishing boats at Ballyhack, I have to state, for the information of the Wexford Co. Council, that, in view of the special circumstances mentioned in your letter of the 7th ultimo, the Department are prepared to carry out the scheme outlined in the plan forwarded to you on the 8th October, last, provided the Council contribute one-half of the cost thereof within a limit of £450.

If the work should be completed for less than £900 a proportionate reduction would, of course, be made in the amount payable by the Council."

On the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr. Peacocke, the following resolution was agreed to :-

"That we agree to take over the Boat Slip at Ballyhack, and accept the scheme of the Department to improve this Boat Slip, the limit of expenditure from the Co. Council being fixed at £450. That our Solicitor, Mr. Elgar, arrange for the transfer of this boat-

slip from the Waterford Harbour Commissioners to the Wexford County Council."

— Motor Manufacturers or Dealer's Number. —

On the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr Rice, No M. J. A. was allocated as a Dealer's number under the Motor Car Act 1903, to Messrs Bates & Sons, Gorey.

— Enniscorthy R. D. School Attendance Committee. —

On the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr Rice, the following resolution was adopted :-

"That we approve of the salary of £10 per annum to be paid to the Secretary of the Enniscorthy Rural District School Attendance Committee."

— Scheme for Sanatorium Benefit. —

Circular letter No 4 M. Miscellaneous under date 17th January 1913, "Treatment of Tuberculosis" and Circular letter No 8 M., under date 17th January - "Tuberculosis Schemes - Financial Arrangements - from the Local Government Board, were read :-

The following Scheme adopted by the Co. Wexford Insurance Committee, was laid before the meeting :-

Wexford County Council

The County Insurance Committee agreed to the following scheme for Sanatorium Benefit at their meeting on 24th January, 1913, and have sent it forward for submission to the County Council with a request from the Insurance Committee, that the County Council would give it their favourable consideration.

National Insurance Act.Scheme for Sanatorium Benefit.

At the meeting of the County of Wexford Insurance Committee on 18th December, 1912, the following resolution was adopted on the motion of alderman Hadden, seconded by Mr. O'Dowd :-

That we invite Dr. O'Donoghue of the Staff of the National Insurance Commission to consult with a sub-committee with the view of drafting a new scheme for submission to the County Council.

The following were named as a sub-committee :-

Alderman Hadden, Mr. Boyan, Messrs J. Bolger, C. H. Peacocke, P. J. Fanning, and Dr. Hickey. The meeting of the sub-committee was held in the Co. Council Chamber, Courthouse, Wexford; on 8th January 1913.

Present :- Mr. John Bolger (Chairman) presiding; Mr. C. H. Peacocke, and Alderman Hadden.

Dr. O'Donoghue (National Insurance Commission) and the Clerk were in attendance. Dr. Hickey wrote that a prior engagement would prevent his attendance.

Having gone fully into the various details the sub-committee, with the assistance of Dr. O'Donoghue, agreed to the following scheme :-

Estimate of cost.

A. - Capital Expenditure.

B. - Maintenance Charges.

(It must be distinctly understood that the figures stated below are entirely arbitrary, and that the object in view is merely to form a

basis upon which a permanent scheme may be formed).

A. Capital Expenditure.

10 Beds in a Sanatorium will cost about	£700
Central Dispensary, with 4 beds and equipment will cost about	700
The balance may be utilised for providing beds in a home for advanced cases, shelters, structural alterations in Branch Dispensaries, etc.,	1402
The entire amount to be charged out of Capital Grant	£2,802.

B. Maintenance Charges:-

Cost of maintaining 10 beds in a Sanatorium, about	£520
Cost of beds in Central Dispensary	208
Salary of caretaker	52
Salary of Tuberculosis officer	400
Travelling expenses of same.	100
One whole-time nurse	100
Contribution to Nursing Institution for six part-time nurses at £25	150
The balance may be used for providing:-	
(a) Fees to Hospitals for the treatment of cases of Surgical Tuberculosis	
(b) maintenance of beds in a home for advanced cases.	
(c) Fees to medical Practitioners for Domiciliary treatment.	
(d) Travelling expenses of patients & nurses.	
(e) Rent of Dispensary, etc.,	1,380
Total	£2,910.

Income.

Contributions from Insurance Committee	£1,278
(This item may be liable to a small charge, say £50 to meet the cost of administration expenses of the Committee in respect of Sanatorium)	

Benefit, but this will not materially affect the general figures taken for estimate purposes)

Less contributions from Treasury
To be provided out of the Rates

£1,630

816

£ 816

The sub-committee desire to point out that unless the county council agree to the adoption of this or a similar scheme it will not be possible to effectively combat the disease. The funds of the Insurance Committee can be utilised only for the treatment of insured persons and their dependants, but these will represent only a portion of the community. The balance of the tubercular patients must receive treatment through the county council or not at all. It is admitted that the ravages of tuberculosis in Ireland must be grappled with if we are to have a virile and self-reliant people, but this much-desired aim cannot be achieved if provision for only a fraction of the patients, however large that fraction maybe, is to be a matter of public concern. This point, the sub-committee feel, is so self-evident that it needs no further elaboration.

In other counties the percentage of deaths from this disease has been considerably reduced. Ireland has not made the same happy progress, and though improvement has taken place in recent years no one can regard our present position as satisfactory. The percentage of deaths in this county is practically the average for the rest of Ireland, except in the Urban District of Wexford, in which the high total of 4 per 1,000 of the population is found representing on a census of 11,531 a total of 46 deaths per annum, almost one person per week.

The county council, the sub-committee

recognise, have had during the past year to face abnormal expenditure, and the general body of the ratepayers expect any proposals for new burdens on the rates should be carefully and critically examined. The Scheme proposes that the ratepayers should be responsible for a rate of one halfpenny in the £, and "One halfpenny Only." The contention has been advanced that this halfpenny is but "a beginning," and later on it will be found that the expenditure will increase to three or four-fold this assessment, and then the County Council must foot the bill. This view is incorrect, as the County Council have absolute power of revision every year. It is not open to the Insurance Committee to go to the County Council and ask for "bark Blanche" in the matter of outlay; the County Council, unless they so desire, cannot be compelled to raise more than the halfpenny in the £.

Doubt was also thrown on the promise that half of the deficit in the working of the Scheme would not be forthcoming from the Government, but convincing proof can now be produced that the Treasury have agreed to pay their moiety of the deficit for the treatment of the uninsured and of the dependants of insured persons when a scheme for the treatment of insured and uninsured has been formulated by a local authority.

The County Council are asked to make themselves responsible for a payment of £800 per annum, but it should be borne in mind that if the Scheme which is now proposed effectively deals with the disease enormous economic loss will cease. A

working man who suffers from tuberculosis and has no means of obtaining treatment communicates the disease to his family, and with them becomes a burden on the rates; the home and its residents are active agents in disseminating the disease, while the nation loses the value of their labour. This has been computed to represent a loss of £200 per capita, and as the deaths from tuberculosis are 206 per annum, one can realise the vastness of the yearly loss to Wexford County.

No one complains of the large amount necessary to maintain the district lunatic asylums; yet insanity is not a contagious disease, and those who suffer from it may enjoy excellent general health.

A subsidy of £2,802 for capital expenditure has been " earmarked " from Government funds for Wexford County, and unless a scheme for dealing with this amount be adopted at an early date it will be distributed amongst other counties. Later on, when the Grant has been thus allocated Wexford may find itself in the unfortunate position of having to provide in full for all capital charges.

Some county councillors consider that treatment in Sanatoria is a waste of money. But this treatment will only be carried out on the recommendation of the Chief Tuberculosis officer, and to cut this treatment out of the scheme would tie the hands of the Tuberculosis officer and confine his treatment to the administration of tuberculin and to the supervision of Domiciliary Treatment. The Sub-committee consider it would ^{be} unwise to abandon this branch of the scheme until the fullest opportunity has been taken to

consult with their expert medical adviser. The beds will only be taken as needed, and, with a proper system of after-care which will be developed when the main points of the scheme have been set into working order, the present objection to treatment in Sanatoria cannot be maintained.

The Sub-Committee would call attention to the fact that it is the County Council alone who have the power of appointing a Tuberculosis Officer, and it is generally agreed that if any serious steps are to be taken to combat the disease this appointment is essential.

Our people are sadly lacking in their appreciation of fresh air, sunlight, proper food, self-treatment for pulmonary consumption. Ignorance of these matters has largely helped to spread disease. With a comprehensive scheme, such as is now suggested, the present condition of ignorance would rapidly disappear, and the chances of contagion be reduced.

The large body of ratepayers who are members of insurance societies feel that they are intitled to treatment, and they can obtain it through the funds of the Insurance Committee. But they naturally point out that this is not sufficient, and that no matter what treatment they obtain the "white Plague" can never be stamped out until it is dealt with on every side. Reports have appeared in the local papers calling upon the Co. Council to adopt a complete scheme, and the Sub-Committee feel that when the County Council realise the great issues at stake, when they are assured that they are masters of the situation through the "power of the purse,"

and when they consider the economic waste caused through tuberculosis, they will no longer refuse to adopt such a scheme as in the opinion of expert advice the needs of the county require.

The Sub-committee confidently appeal to the County Council to confirm the Scheme which the Sub-committee have outlined in the foregoing.

Signed on behalf of the Sub-committee.

John Bolger, Chm.

B. H. Peacocke,

George Hadden.

Mr. O'Connor proposed and Mr. Tanning seconded the following resolution:-

"That the Scheme for Sanatorium Treatment under the Tuberculosis Act 1908, and the National Insurance Act 1911, as submitted by the Insurance Committee, be adopted, and that we direct our Secretary to provide for a half-penny rate in the £ in County-at-Large charges for the purposes of defraying the expenses of same."

After a long discussion a poll was taken with the following result:-

For the resolution:- Messrs O'Connor, Stafford, Hearn, Peacocke, Tanning, Cloney, James A. Doyle, Asplu, Michael Doyle Es., and the Chairman:- 10.

Against:- Messrs Emonde, James Codd, Michael Doyle Jr., Rossiter, M. Codd, Mayles, and Lord Stopford. 7.

Mr. Rice had left before the poll was taken.

The Chairman declared the resolution carried.

On the motion of the Chairman,

seconded by Mr. Fanning; the Secretary was instructed to issue advertisements for the appointment of Chief Tuberculosis Officer, at a salary of £400 per annum and travelling expenses of £100, appointment to be made at the Special meeting of the Council to be held on 26th February."

— New Telegraphic Line Adjoining Wexford. —

The Superintending Engineer, of the Post Office wrote, applying for the consent of the Co. Council for the erection of an overhead telegraphic line along the public road, from the Council's boundary at Mandlinton Wexford, to a point near Rockland's Cottage.

On the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr. Rice, the following resolution was adopted :-

"That we have no objection to the erection of a new overhead telegraphic line along the public road from the Council's Boundary at Mandlinton to a point near Rockland's Cottage, on the terms and conditions of the letter of the Superintending Engineer of the 21st December 1912."

John L. Heaver
