

STATUTABLE HALF-YEARLY MEETING.- 2nd MAY 1917.

The Statutable Half-Yearly Meeting of the Wexford County Council was held in the Co Council Chamber, Courthouse, Wexford, on 2nd May 1917.

Present:- Mr John Bolger, (Chairman) presiding.

Also:- Lord Courtown, Messrs L. Barry, N. J. Cowman, M. Doyle, James Codd, P. Whelan, J. J. O'Byrne, P. O'Neill, J. J. Stafford, J. S. Hearn, J. Lynch, R. Scallan, Mark Codd, J. J. Kehoe, P. Keating, J. T. Mayler, J. Redmond, T. Asple, M. Cloney.

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

Confirmation of Minutes.

The Minutes of last Meeting were read and confirmed.

Appointment of Rate Collector.

For the position of Rate Collector for No. 12 Collection District, applications were received from:-

Philip Browne, Bleachlands, Coolamain.

Walter Cummins, Ballylucas, Ballymurrin.

Cornelius Dempsey, Moorvilla, Oulart.

Matthew Doyle, Sea View, Wexford.

Patrick Fortune, Effernogue, Ferns.

Owen Kehoe, Selskar Street, Wexford.

Miss Nora Murphy, Ballywoodock, Blackwater.

Patrick Nolan, Ballinastraw, Glenbrien.

Matthew Tobin, Tinraheen, The Ballagh.

Mr Walter Cummins withdrew his application.

Mr Elgee, Solicitor, read, for the information of the Candidates, the qualifications for the office.

The following Candidates then withdrew their applications:-

Miss Nora Murphy, Owen Kehoe, and Patrick Fortune.

A poll was taken as between the remaining Candidates, with the following result:-

For Browne:- Messrs Cowman, Doyle, James Codd, O'Byrne, and Asple.-5.

For Dempsey:- Messrs Scallan, Kehoe and Mayler.- 3.

For Doyle:- Lord Courtown, Messrs Stafford and Keating.- 3.

For Nolan:- Messrs O'Neill, Hearn, Lynch, M. Codd, and the Chairman.- 5.

For Tobin:- Messrs Barry, Whelan, Redmond, and Cloney.- 4.

Dempsey and Doyle having received three votes each. A poll was taken as to which of them should remain in, with the following result:-

For Dempsey:- Messrs Barry, Cowman, Whelan, Scallan, Mark Codd, Kehoe, Mayler, Asple, and Cloney.-9.

For Doyle:- Messrs Doyle, James Codd, O'Byrne, O'Neill, Stafford, Hearn, Lynch, Keating, Redmond, Lord Courtown and the Chairman.-11.

Dempsey now dropped out, and a poll was taken as between Browne, Doyle, Nolan, and Tobin, with the following result:-

For Browne:- Messrs Cowman, Doyle, James Codd, O'Byrne, and Asple.- 5.

For Boyle:- Lord Courtown, Messrs Stafford and Keating.- 3

For Nolan:- Messrs O'Neill, Hearn, Lynch, Mark Codd, Mayler, and the Chairman.- 6

For Tobin:- Messrs Barry, Whelan, Scallan, Kehoe, Redmond, and Cloney.-6

Doyle now dropped out, and the next poll resulted as follows:-

For Browne:- Messrs Cowman, Doyle, James Codd, J. J. O'Byrne, Stafford, and Asple.-6.

For Nolan:- Messrs O'Neill, Hearn, Lynch, Mark Codd, Mayler, and the Chairman.-6.

For Tobin:- Messrs Barry, Whelan, Scallan, J.J. Kehoe, Keating, Redmond, Cloney, and Lord Courtown.-8

Browne and Nolan having received six votes each, a poll was taken as to which of them should remain in, the voting was as follows:-

For Browne:- Messrs Barry, Cowman, Doyle, James Codd, O'Byrne, Stafford, Scallan, Kehoe, Keating, Asple, and Lord Courtown.-11.

For Nolan:- Messrs Whelan, O'Neill, Hearn, Lynch, Mark Codd, Redmond, Cloney, and the Chairman.- 9.

Nolan now dropped out, and the final poll lay between Browne, and Tobin, with the following result:-

For Browne:- Messrs Cowman, Doyle, James Codd, O'Byrne, Stafford, Hearn, Mayler, Asple, and the Chairman.- 9.

For Tobin:- Messrs Barry, Whelan, O'Neill, Lynch, Scallan, Mark Codd,

Kehoe, Keating, Redmond, Cloney, and Lord Courtown.- 11.

The Chairman declared Mr Tobin elected.

The following is the application of the successful Candidate:-

"I beg to apply for the position of Rate Collector for No. 12 Collection District. I herewith enclose copies of testimonials."

He submitted testimonials from Rev Daniel Quigley C. C., The Ballagh, Enniscorthy, Messrs Patrick Colfer, Tinraheen, and Philip Redmond, County Councillor, Tinraheen.

Arthurstown Sea Wall.

The following extract from letter of Clerk of New Ross R.D. Council under date 27th April 1917, was read:-

"I would draw your attention to Work No. 491 on Road No 35R-the Arthurstown Sea-Wall, the District Council unanimously request your County Council to make the cost of this work a County Charge."

On the motion of Mr Scallan, seconded by Mr Kehoe, the following resolution was adopted:-

"That the New Ross District Council be informed that the County Council are not aware of any statutory provision empowering them to make the Arthurstown Sea Wall a County-at-Large Charge."

Boyce's Bay Contract.

The following motion of which he had given previous notice was moved by Mr M. Doyle:-

"That the resolution of the County Council adopting the recommendation of the New Ross Rural District Council, re Boyce's Bay Contract, be again adopted, and that all other resolutions to the contrary be rescinded."

Mr Stafford seconded.

In connection with above notice of motion the following letter had been received from Mr Gahan:-

"I propose to bring my case on at the next Meeting of the County Council, under the circumstances, of which the following are particulars:-

1.- When I entered into the contract, it was impossible for me to do the work owing to the shortage of labour in the district.

- 2.- The County Council had no option but to give the work to Mr Browne, of Wexford, at £290 -that is £131 above my contract price- which shows that it was impossible for me to carry out the work at my price.
- 3.- When the matter came before the Finance Committee of the County Council, they asked the New Ross District Council to make a representation to the Local Government Board.
- 4.- On the 5th January last, the New Ross District Council passed a resolution in my favour by a majority of 15 votes to 10 recommending your Council to relieve me of any further liability by my paying £30, the Council being willing to levy the residue £100 off the New Ross District. At this meeting 25 members attended out of the 41 qualified members.
- 5.- They did this in compliance with the very representative memorial signed by the Clergy of all denominations, legal and professional gentlemen, magistrates, District and County Councillors, two ex-High Sheriffs, and a large number of ratepayers.
- 6.- Then at a meeting of the County Council held on the 7th February last, the resolution was passed agreeing to what the New Ross District Council had done, because the New Ross District Council were representative of those who were to pay the difference in the matter.
- 7.- Then at the next meeting of the Co. Council, which was held about a fortnight afterwards, the previous resolution was rescinded, without any notice being given to me, which would appear to me to be a very unfair way of dealing with the matter.
- 8.- I may say that the majority of the ratepayers in Fethard District are in my favour, and I am publishing this letter so that the public may see what my case is.
- 9.- The Local Government Board are willing to adopt the original resolution of the New Ross District Council, they state they are willing to leave the matter in the hands of the County Council.

Under these circumstances, I beg to bring the matter before the Co. Council to consider my case, and let the original resolution of the New Ross District Council stand, which resolution the County Council also passed at their meeting on Wednesday, the 7th February last."

After a considerable amount of discussion the motion was withdrawn by permission of the meeting, when Mr Doyle moved the following:-

"That the New Ross District Council be informed that if they are satisfied that the circumstances of Mr Gahan's contract at Boyce's Bay

should be submitted to the Local Government Board for their favourable consideration, the County Council will submit same. That we request the Clerk of the New Ross District Council, to specially mention this matter on the agenda paper for the meeting of the District Council at which it is proposed it should be discussed."

Mr Stafford seconded.

"Passed"

Application of Road Contractors for War Bonus.

Under date 20th April 1917 the following letter was read from Messrs M. J. O'Connor & Co., Solicitors, Wexford:-

"We have been instructed by nearly 100 Road Contractors in the South of the County Wexford to bring their cases before you for your kind consideration at the next meeting of the County Council to be held on the 2nd May. What they intend to apply for is a bonus of 30% to be added to their yearly payments. The reason of the application is that they are unable to carry on the work at the present prices. The fact can be shortly stated, and we are sure are already within your knowledge:-

- 1.- The price of stones, which was from 1/3 to 2/- now ranges from 2/6 to 4/- per ton.
- 2.- The wages of workmen is now double-where wages used to be 6/- it is now 12/- and where it was 10/- it is £1 per week.
- 3.- The price of food for horses and men costs more than double what it used to cost.
- 4.- The Cost of buying and maintaining horses is also more than double.
- 5.- The price for cleaning channels at the sides of roads used to be one penny per perch, and is now twopence half-penny per perch.

These are shortly the facts, and are beyond yea or nae, and, indeed, if we are rightly informed, the County Council has, for the same reason, increased the wages of the men employed in their own quarries to double what they used to be.

We are quite sure when the County Council will consider the matter they will do their best to meet the Contractors in this their reasonable demand. If not, we are afraid, our Clients will not be able to carry on the work, and the roads will not be maintained in the county. We respectfully beg of you to give the matter your kind consideration."

Under date 1st May 1917, (letter No. 22556: 1917 Wexford Co) the Local Government Board forwarded correspondence which they had with

Messrs M. J. O'Connor & Co., Solicitors, Wexford:-

Letter under date 28th April 1917, from Messrs M. J. O'Connor, & Co.,
to Local Government Board:-

"A number of the Road Contractors of the County Wexford have asked us to apply to the County Council for a War Bonus on foot of their Contracts as you will see by the enclosed Circular.

The matter will come on at the next meeting of the County Council to be held on Wednesday next. Would you oblige us (1) by telling us what happened in other parts of Ireland in regard to similar applications. (2) Would the Local Government Board have any objection to the granting of a War Bonus under the circumstances.

We shall be glad if you will answer these two queries before Wednesday next:

Pray accept our thanks for your kindness."

Letter No. 22556: 1917, Wexford County, under date 1st May 1917, from Local Government Board, to Messrs M. J. O'Connor & Co., Solicitors, Wexford:-

"I am directed by the Local Government Board for Ireland, to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 28th ultime, relative to the proposed application on behalf of road contractors in County Wexford for a war Bonus in respect of their Contracts, and I am to state that this is a matter which should first come before the County Council.

I am, at the same time, to enclose a copy of a letter written by the Board to other County Councils setting forth the Board's views in regard to contracts with public bodies in existing circumstances."

Copy Letter referred to in letter of Local Government Board:-

"The Local Government Board for Ireland have had before them your letter of the relative to applications made to the County Council by road contractors for an increase of 25% on their contract prices, and requesting the Board to give a direction to the Council on the matter.

In reply, I am to state that the Local Government Board have no power to authorise the County Council to pay an increased price to
Contractors. The Board has no authority to direct the Board which would

enable them, by concurring with such payments, to relieve the Council of any liability imposed on them by statute.

The Auditor would be bound at the audit of the accounts, to question any such payments made by the Council, and if he allowed it any ratepayer might lodge an appeal against his decision, or in the alternative, might apply to the Court of King's Bench for a Writ of Certiorari to quash the allowance. As it is evident that it would be to the financial interest of the ratepayers to object to any variation of the terms of a contract which would result in imposing an extra charge upon them, the Council will recognise that they would incur considerable risk in granting an increased price to a contractor, unless they were in a position to clearly justify their action in doing so.

Any existing contract which contains a clause enabling it to be terminated with the sanction of the Local Government Board, can, of course, be cancelled with the sanction of this department, but generally speaking, a contract can only be annulled with the consent of the two contracting parties and then only on grounds which will satisfy the Auditor, that any additional charge to the ratepayers by reason of the action of the local authority was not excessive or unreasonable.

It may be that, in the case of particular roads, the work of maintenance may be dispensed with in the present crisis, and in such cases the cancellation of the contract might be justified and the contractor paid for the work performed by him up to date. If, however, it is found necessary to proceed with the maintenance of particular roads, the question of cancelling the contracts would depend to some extent on the date on which the contracts were entered into. If entered into before the War, the Council might take that fact into consideration though it would not, by itself, be a sufficient ground for cancelling a contract.

The view which the Board take in regard to contracts in existing circumstances, is that where a contract entered into since the outbreak of war was for a period of two or three years, it might be reasonable to assume that a contractor could not at the time of taking the contract have foreseen that the war would extend for so long a period, and, accordingly an application to cancel such a contract at any time after the expiration of the first year during which it is running might possibly be justified.

In the case of a contract now running for a period of a year or less, the Board think that the contractor should have been in a position to tender at a rate which would secure his interest during the currency of the contract,

and that it should not be cancelled unless, for exceptional reasons, the necessity for taking this course could be shown.

In the case of a contract now running for two or more years where the contractor alleges that owing to war conditions he is unable to complete it at the stipulated price, the Board are of opinion that a safe course for the Council to adopt might be to ascertain from their contractor the minimum price at which he would be willing to carry on the work for the period of the contract, and they should then issue advertisements inviting tenders from outside persons for this work. If they obtain tenders at a price less than that specified by the existing contractor the Council might then, with his consent, put an end to the contract, and enter into a new one with the accepted tenderer, if on the other hand, all the tenders received were at a ^{price} higher than that specified by the existing contractor, a fresh contract might then be entered into with the Contractor at the new price, as agreed to by the Council. By adopting this arrangement the Council would be in a very strong position to justify to the Auditor any increased charge thrown on the ratepayers, or to defend their action if any allowance made by that Officer should be brought either before the Local Government Board or the High Court."

The following recommendation of the Finance & Roads Committee was confirmed on the motion of Mr O'Byrne, seconded by Mr Lynch:-

"That the application of the road contractors of South Wexford for War Bonus be referred to the next meeting of the Finance & Roads Committee. That Messrs M. J. O'Connor & Co., be requested to furnish the County Surveyor with the name and address of each contractor concerned, and the particulars of such contract, and from these particulars, the Co. Surveyor be requested to submit a report dealing with this matter to the next meeting of the Finance & Roads Committee."

Barley (Requisition) Order 1917.

The Barley (Requisition) Order 1917, dated 16th April 1917, made by the Food Controller under Regulations 2F & 2G of the Defence of the Realm Regulations, relating to the sale or disposal of any barley (other than home grown barley which has not been kiln dried) was read for the meeting.

Marked "Read"

The Wheat, Barley, & Oats (Prices) Order 1917.

The Wheat, Barley and Oats (Prices) Order 1917, dated 16th April 1917, made by the Food Controller under Regulation 2F of the Defence of the Realm Regulations, fixing the price of Wheat, Barley (other than kiln dried barley) or oats harvested in the United Kingdom in the year 1916, was read for the meeting.

Marked "Read"

Auditor's Report.-Enniscorthy District Lunatic Asylum.

Under date 4th April 1917, letter No. 16890/1917, Wexford County, was read from the Local Government Board, forwarding copy of their Auditor's report on his audit of the Accounts of the Enniscorthy District Lunatic Asylum for the half-year ended 30th September 1916.

Marked "Read"

Cherryorchard Quarry.

The following letter under date 28th April 1917, was read from Mr George Sharpe, Cherryorchard, Enniscorthy:-

"As I wish to sell the quarry at Cherryorchard and as your County Council require about Three Thousand Cubic Yards of road material out of it each year the trespass of which would be Fifty pounds, I think it would be a good opportunity for them to buy it.

I beg to offer it to them for the sum of Five hundred pounds (£500) This includes gates, Piers, Road, embankment for loading, waggons, The Rock is about four and a half acres.

Kindly lay this before your Finance & Roads Committee.

Hoping it will meet with their approval."

On the motion of Mr Kehoe, seconded by Mr Keating, the following recommendation of Finance & Roads Committee was confirmed:-

"That the letter of Mr Sharpe be referred to a Committee of Messrs O'Neill, Lynch, M. Codd, and Asple, with the County Surveyor, and that they be requested to submit a report as soon as possible."

New Ross Roads.

The following letter under date 28th April 1917, was read from Br W.F. Hearn, L.L.D., New Ross:-

"You may recollect at the Finance Committee of your Council held on the 18th inst., the Committee were good enough to permit me to attend

in support of a letter which I had sent you regarding the roads and method of maintenance. During the discussion I drew attention to roads in the New Ross District by way of illustration of the frightful condition that they had lapsed into. These roads were, one from New Ross to Campile through Ballinamona, and the other from New Ross to Ballywilliam. As to the first Mr Barry made no reply, but as to the other he made the following statement, viz:- "That he had been recently over it, and that it was in a fair condition". I now send you a letter received by me from Mr Budgeon, which explains itself. Please have this letter read at your meeting next week, so that it will be seen that when I make a complaint I truthfully state same. I was met in a similar way by Mr Barry on a former complaint, challenged the denial by offering your Committee to bring one of your Council there and then and show the existence of the complaint denied by Mr Barry, but this offer was not accepted. When a complaint is made and is met by a point blank denial it ought not to be let rest at that as the falsehood or truth should in fairness be at once and for all determined."

The following is copy of letter from Mr Budgeon, referred to above--

"I hear your are interesting yourself about the roads in the County Wexford, especially a road from Ballywilliam to New Ross. Of all the roads in the County it is, I think one of the worst, and it is disgraceful of any County Surveyor to allow a road to get into such a state. In the whole of last year on only two occasions did I use that road, and since I came home from Scotland I have never gone to Ross that way, but I turn up at Ballywilliam to Rathgaregue and Coreeran's Cross, which adds 2 miles each way whenever I go to town. I really don't think the the County Surveyor can ever go on the roads. Another road is the one past my own place, which I have spoken about ever so often. It runs from the boundary of Ballindoney to Tominane Bridge, and is run by Hayden who lives up the White Mountain. Not a single cartload of stones has been put on that road the whole of last winter, and only a few loads the winter before, and yet we have to pay increased rates which is pure robbery. The rates are high enough goodness knows. Hayden on the road past my place hardly ever appears, never cleans the dykes or cuts the weeds or hardly ever takes off loose stones, in fact does absolutely nothing, and is I suppose, paid in full.

Wexford has, I know, the unenviable reputation of having about the worst roads in Ireland, and I can fully believe it. I know into whatever County I go, I always find better roads than here. It is a disgrace to the model county, and a disgrace to the Surveyor. From what I can see of the past few years, the roads are not improving, and where steamrolling has been done, it is so badly done, that it is more money thrown away. It just makes the road good for one Summer. Why don't the County Council go to Kilkenny, Waterford, or Tipperary and learn how to steamroll. It would not cost them much; they waste more on a single contract.

Hoping you will have luck."

The County Surveyor presented the following report as regards the road referred to in Dr Hearn's letter, from Mr G. Flood, Assistant Surveyor::

1915-16.

Contract taken out 1913 at 2/6 C. Yard approved Stone. In May 1915 agreed to accept 165 c.y. Grange instead of 216 approved. On December 6th 1915, I measured for contractor 165 c.y., Grange material, which were all spread except about 10. c.y. between that date and the following March and the surface work fairly well attended to, except that some of the material was spread late.

1916-17.

Contractor agreed to bank and break material in Grange himself, When breaker was there in June '16, contractor had not his material ready for Breaker. He had his material ready for Breaker in August, but we could not send machine then. The Breaker did not get to Grange until 1st March 1917, when it was too late to spread any material. The contractor cleaned the surface, cut briars, and levelled in ruts with the old material during the winter. He is by no means a good contractor, but it was not altogether his fault that the material was not out."

"No Order"

Engines for Threshing Purposes.

Under date 19th April 1917, letter No. A-31075-17, was read from the Department of Agriculture & Technical Instruction, stating that they anticipated an increased demand for threshing facilities in the coming Autumn. It was probable that although an adequate number of threshing Mills might be procurable, engines suitable for hauling and working such

Mills would not be available to a sufficient extent. In the event of such a shortage of engines occurring, the Department wish to be informed if the County Council would be prepared to hire or lease for threshing purposes during the months of September, October, and November, any suitable engines that the Council might have in their possession.

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

"That the Department be informed that the County Council will be prepared to make arrangements for the hire of the only traction engine at their disposal in compliance with the terms of their letter under date 19th March No. 31075-17."

Sheep Dipping.

Under date 5th April 1917, letter No. 657-17, was read from the Department of Agriculture & Technical Instruction, stating that arrangements would be made by them for the service on sheep owners of Notices drawing attention to the requirements of the Sheep Dipping (Ireland) Order of 1915, and of the usual forms for use in connection with these requirements.

The Summer Dipping period under the Order would last from 1st June to 31st July, and the Autumn Dipping period from 1st August to 15th November inclusive, and it was not too early therefore for the Local Authorities to take such preliminary steps as might be necessary in connection with their arrangements for securing the fullest possible measure of compliance with the Order. The Department trust that the Local Authority would give the matter timely attention with a view to having the arrangements renewed or ready to be put in operation in their district as soon as the Dipping season came round.

The following recommendation of Finance & Roads Committee of meeting of 18th April 1917⁴ was read:-

"That the County Council be recommended to appoint as Inspectors of Sheep Dipping for 1917, Messrs George Brett, Tanner Hill, Ballycogley, and Mr James Murphy, Coolbawn, Ferns, upon the same terms and conditions as these officers acted for year 1916, viz:- a salary of £26 each to cover both dipping periods, Mr Murphy to act for Gorey & Enniscorthy Rural Districts, and Mr Brett for New Ross and Wexford Rural Districts.

That the Department of Agriculture & Technical Instruction be requested to sanction this arrangement, and that they be informed the County Council will do everything in its power to secure the proper working of the Sheep Dipping Order."

Under date 20th April 1917, letter No. 944-17, was read from the Department of Agriculture & Technical Instruction, stating that the recommendation of the Finance & Roads Committee respecting the re-appointment as Inspectors for Sheep Dipping during the dipping periods in 1917 of Messrs George Brett, Tanner Hill, Ballycogley, for New Ross and Wexford Rural Districts, and James Murphy, Coolbawn, Ferns, for Gorey and Enniscorthy Rural Districts, at a salary in each instance of £26 for the two periods, in the event of its being confirmed by the County Council, might be regarded as being also approved by the Department.

"The recommendation of the Finance & Roads Committee was confirmed on the motion of Mr Scallan, seconded by Mr O'Byrne."

Insufficiency of Grant-Wexford County Infirmary

Under date 13th April 1917, Mr N. J. Cosgrave, Temporary Registrar, Wexford County Infirmary, wrote stating that at the last meeting of his Managing Committee, a deputation consisting of Lady M. Fitzgerald, Mr N. Byrne J. P., Mayor of Wexford, Rev T. Here Adm., and Rev J. K. Latham, was appointed to wait on the County Council, to ask them to increase the amount of the grant to the County Infirmary, as owing to the high prices for provisions, medicines, gas and coal, the present grant was insufficient.

Lady Maurice Fitzgerald and Councillor N. Byrne, Mayor of Wexford, attended as a deputation.

Mr Byrne said that the Committee of the Infirmary wished to obtain an additional grant of £300 for the year.

Lady M. Fitzgerald also spoke.

On the motion of Mr O'Neill, seconded by Mr O'Byrne, the following resolution was adopted:-

"That the Application of the County Wexford Infirmary for increased grant be referred to the next meeting of the Finance & Roads Committee, and that our Secretary be instructed to furnish the Registrar of the County Infirmary with particulars of the following queries submitted by

Members of the County Council. That the answers to said queries be submitted to above meeting of the Finance & Roads Committee:-

- 1.- Particulars of the numbers of patients per annum from the town of Wexford and five miles round, numbers of patients from New Ross, Gorey, Ferns, Enniscorthy and Newtownbarry.
- 2.- How many officials and their salaries.
- 3.- What was the actual loss on the working of the County Infirmary for each year for the five years ended 31st March 1917.
- 4.- Cost per patient per annum (a) intern, (b) extern.
- 5.- Return of full number of patients for the year ended March 1917, with the length of time each patient remained in the Institution.
- 6.- Cost per annum of Medicines for the five years ended 31st March 1917.

Application for Bonus.-Printing Jurors' Lists.

Under date 23rd April 1917, Messrs M. J. O'Connor & Co., Solicitors, Wexford, wrote stating that Messrs J. English & Co., Custom House, Quay, Wexford, had asked them to apply to the Co. Council on their behalf for an allowance or bonus of £15 per annum, on their contract for the printing of Jurors Lists, on the ground that the price of paper, materials and wages is double what they used to be. Messrs English had written to the Auditor, who had replied, that he was not in a position to take any action in the matter, nor would the Local Government Board, so far as he was aware, have any jurisdiction to interfere, except at the request of the County Council, and then only to the extent of expressing an opinion as to whether the claim was or was not reasonable.

The following recommendation of the Finance & Roads Committee was confirmed on the motion of Mr O'Byrne, seconded by Mr Whelan:-

"That the application of Messrs English & Co., Wexford, be refused."

Flooding at Ballybro.

Under date 13th April 1917, Mr N. Kehoe, Clerk, Wexford Rural District Council, wrote stating that he had been directed by his Council, to forward for the information of the County Council copy of report from Messrs Colfer & Son, Solicitors to the District Council, on the subject of the flooding of the roadway at Ballybro.

Messrs Colfer in their report stated that the liability of the occupier of the adjoining lands to clean the stream between the two bridges, was in their opinion, doubtful, with a balance of probability against their being liable at all. They would be liable to clean an ordinary drain but there was no duty on owners of the lands through which a natural stream flooded to keep it clear of such natural obstruction as the growth of weeds etc., They presumed this to be the sort of obstruction of which the Council complained, and on this presumption, their opinion would be that these occupiers were not liable. Technically, the Magistrates might have had jurisdiction to deal with the case provided they were of opinion that the Statute under which the summons was brought applied to a case of the kind but from the Newspaper report, Messrs Colfer and Son, gathered that the Statute relied on did not apply.. This being so, they could not legally make the Order asked for, but they could have dismissed the Summons, which was practically the same as marking the case "no jurisdiction".

Messrs Colfer & Son further stated that they did not think successful proceedings could again be taken at Petty Sessions, and that the owners of the Slob could not be successfully prosecuted at Petty Sessions for anything in connection with Ballybro flooding.

It might be that there was a statutory or common law duty cast upon them as the Successors in title to the persons who originally carried out the Reclamation Scheme, but if any proceedings to enforce to discharge of such duty were contemplated, they should be at the instance of the Co. Council.

They thought it right to say that the case presented several features of great difficulty and possibly involving very expensive proceedings, which should not, they thought, be embarked upon without very encouraging advice from experienced Counsel.

"Adjourned pending receipt of Counsel's opinion on behalf of the Co. Council."

Land Purchase Arrears.

Under date 4th April 1917, letter No. 14956/1917, was read from the Irish Land Commission, stating that, in addition to the sum of £6 referred to in their letter of the 13th April last, there was now a sum of 6/8 making the total £6. 6. 8d, where since 1891 they had been

unable to collect Land Purchase Arrears in the County Wexford same being regarded as uncollectible.

"No. Order"

Poisons & Pharmacy Act.

Application for renewal of licence under Poisons & Pharmacy Act was received from:-

Richard Breen, Quay, Wexford.

"On the motion of Mr Kehoe, seconded by Mr M. Codd, the renewal of above licence was granted."

Member of County Insurance Committee.

Under date 31st March 1917, Miss N. O'Ryan, Clerk County Wexford Insurance Committee, wrote asking the County Council to appoint on the County Insurance Committee a representative in place of Mrs Boyan, resigned.

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

"That the County Insurance Committee be requested to recommend to the County Council some woman for appointment on the Committee, vice Mr Boyan resigned."

Proposals for Payment.

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

"That the several Proposals for Payment submitted by the Proposal Committee, and the several Rural District Councils of the County, and recommended by the Finance & Roads Committee, be and are hereby approved subject to the modifications and other Orders noted thereon and initialled by the Chairman."

Proposals for Works.

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

"That the several proposals for New Works and for Maintenance of Works received from the Rural Districts of the County, and Proposal Committee, be and are hereby approved subject to the modifications and other Orders noted thereon and initialled by the Chairman."

Irrecoverable Rates.

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

"That the Poor Law Amendment Act 1890 be applied to the following cases, and that they be exempted for the period stated on the grounds that the premises have been vacant and empty:-

Collector G. Rossiter:- Artramont 129, Kilbride 59, Kilpatrick 52, 92.

Collector P. Rossiter:- Drinagh 52, Killinick 41, Kilsoran 156, Lady's Island 79, St Helen's 50.

Collector P. Codd:- Killoughrim 12, 101, Moyacomb 135, 142, Castledockrill 69, 94, Newtownbarry 114.

Collector J. Cummins:- Ballycarney 86, Ferns 177, Kilboro 76, 77, The Harrow 2.

Collector J. Sinnott:- Ballyhogue 3, 115, Bree 133, The Leap 3, 92,

Collector P. J. Nolan:- Kilcomb 225.

Collector J. C. Smith:- Ardamine 113, Courtown 166, 240, 292, 327, 344, 357, Gorey Rural 14, 187, 206, 215, Gorey Urban 233, Killenagh 64,

Collector E. J. Murphy:- Whitemoor 79.

Collector E. Cummins:- Oldcourt 140.

Collector J. Banville:- Adamstown 8, Horetown 141, Kilgavan 103.

Collector J. L. Doyle:- Clongeen 42, Tintern 201, 287, 314.

Collector J. Cogley:- Ballyhack 32, 53, 271, Fethard 67, Rathroe 39, 157.

The following recommendation from meeting of Finance & Roads Committee of 18th April, was read:-

"That the lists of irrecoverable rates as submitted by our Secretary be agreed to, signed by the Chairman and reported to the Local Government Board for sanction, except the claim of Mr E. J. Murphy, New Ross District, consideration of which we adjourn to next meeting."

"Recommendation confirmed on the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr Scallan."

Bantry Commons Rating.

Mr E. J. Murphy, Rate Collector, applied for a refund of £7. 13. 8d rates which he stated he was unable to collect on Bantry Commons.

On the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr Kehoe, the following recommendation of Finance & Roads Committee was confirmed:-

"That the amount of £7. 13. 8d claimed by Rate Collector Murphy as Irrecoverable Rates on Bantry Commons be not refunded, as we consider he should have been able to collect said Rates."

Official Checkers.- Rate Collectors' Accounts.

On the motion of Mr Lynch, seconded by Mr Scallan, the following resolution was adopted:-

"That Messrs N. Kehoe, R. Creighton, and M. J. Finn, be appointed deputy checkers of the Rate Collectors' Accounts for the districts of Wexford, Gorey and New Ross, respectively, in respect of the financial year to 31st March 1918, at a remuneration of 5/- per 100 ratings.

That Mr Jasper Whitty be appointed deputy checker for the Accounts of the Collectors in Enniscorthy District, at a salary of £30 per annum, in respect of financial year ending 31st March 1918."

Illness of Mr Walsh, Rate Collector.

Under date 27th April 1917, the following was read from Mr N.O'H. Walsh, Rate Collector, (Wexford District) :-

"As you will see by the enclosed, I am still unable to resume duty. I would therefore feel very grateful to the County Council if they would allow my Nephew -P. F. O'Byrne- Common Quay Street- to continue to act as my deputy."

"The certificate of Dr S.V.O'Connor stated, that Mr Walsh who was under his care, was unable to do duty at present."

On the motion of Mr Lynch, seconded by Mr Kehoe, the following resolution was adopted:-

"That Mr P. F. O'Byrne be appointed Deputy Rate Collector for Mr N. O'H. Walsh, during the latter's illness."

Dates of Meetings.

On the motion of Mr Kehoe, seconded by Mr M. Codd, the following dates of Meetings of Rural District Councils and County Council were agreed to:-

Enniscorthy R. D. Council.-	Wednesday 31st October 1917	at 11 a.m.,
Gorey	"	Thursday 8th November at 11.30 a.m.,
New Ross	"	Monday 29th October at 11.30 a.m.,
Wexford	"	Saturday 3rd November at 11 O'C., a.m.,
Proposal Committee (Quarterly)	Wednesday 1st August	10.30 O'C.,

County Council (Quarterly) Wednesday 1st August 11. 0'C.,
 Proposal Committee (Half-Yearly) 7th November 1917 at 11 0'C.,
 County Council (Half-Yearly) 5th December at 11 0'C.,

Technical Classes at Wexford Industrial School.

The Secretary stated, that at the meeting of the Council on 7th April 1915, the following resolution had been adopted:—

"That we recommend the County Council to contribute towards the maintenance of the girls who are undergoing special training at the Industrial School of the Convent of Mercy, Wexford, in connection with the Domestic Economy programme of the Department of Agriculture & Technical Instruction, a sum of 2/- per week per child, limited to a maximum of 12 children subject to the advice of our Solicitor that we are legally empowered to make this contribution, and which is to be reconsidered at the end of two years from date of opening of class."

Continuing the Secretary mentioned that the two years would expire at the conclusion of the present academic year. The Classes had been very successful and of great benefit to the girls. the Sisters of the Convent of Mercy were desirous that the Classes should be continued.

On the motion of Mr Scallan, seconded by Mr Asple, the following recommendation of the Finance & Roads Committee was adopted:—

"That we recommend the County Council to contribute towards the maintenance of the Girls who are undergoing special training at the Industrial School of the Convent of Mercy, Wexford, in connection with Domestic Economy Programme of the Department of Agriculture & Technical Instruction a sum of 2/6 per week per child, limited to a maximum of 12 children which is to be reconsidered at the end of two years from date of opening of class, viz:— May 1919."

RESOLUTIONS.

Irish Primary Education.

The following resolution from the Wexford National Teachers' County Association, was read:—

"That we emphatically demand for Irish Primary Education the full equivalent which would be due to Ireland owing to the proposed large additional grant (said to be about £6,000,000) to be devoted to English education in the immediate future."

"A similar resolution was read from the Dublin County Council."

"Adopted on the motion of Mr Lynch, seconded by the Chairman."

Amnesty for Irish Political Prisoners.

"A resolution was read from the Dublin Corporation demanding that the British Government should adopt a similar policy to that upon which they had congratulated the Provisional Government of Russia, and declare a general amnesty of Irish Political Prisoners, and a revocation of the recent Order of deportation upon other Irishmen.

"Adopted on the motion of Mr O'Byrne, seconded by Mr Lynch."

Capitation Grant.-Asylum Patients.

The following resolution was read from Monaghan District Lunatic Asylum Committee:-

"That we request the Government to contribute by way of Capitation Grant an amount equal to one half the annual cost for maintenance of Pauper Lunatics.

In 1874 when the estimate of 4/- per head per week was arrived at, it was based on the assumption that it meant the half cost of maintenance which it did at that time and for some years afterwards. Since then the basis upon which the Capitation was fixed has changed materially considerable sums of money had to be expended on additional buildings and furnishing. The interest on loans which was in 1874 an imperial charge has since been thrown on local rates and the cost of maintenance of the inmates has very largely increased. In 1874 the total average per head in Irish Asylums was £20. 16/- which was equally divided between Imperial and Local Taxation, leaving £10. 8/- for each to pay. Now the average cost per head in Monaghan Asylum is £32 of which the Imperial charge is £10. 8/-, and the local ratepayers with a diminishing population and an increased number of inmates have to pay the balance £21. 12/-. Having regard to the changed circumstances since 1874 we are strongly of the opinion that the least that can be done to carry out the principle established in 1874 is that Imperial Taxation should bear the half of the present cost of the maintenance of Pauper Lunatics."

"Adopted on the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr Asple."

Preparation of Parliamentary Local Government Register.

The following resolution was read from the Westmeath County Council:-

"That any change or transfer of the duty of preparing the Register of Parliamentary and Local Government Electors from the Secretaries of the County Councils and Clerks of Borough and Urban Councils, would be a very great injustice to these officials, whose salaries are, to a very considerable extent, made up of the fees under Franchise Acts, and would throw a further burden on the public. We therefore, request the Government to see that no proposal is made to transfer this duty from the officials to whom it is at present confided by law and by whom it has been in the past discharged with general satisfaction, and we request the Irish Members of Parliament to take steps to secure that no transfer of this duty takes place."

"Adopted on the motion of Mr Keating, seconded by Mr Lynch."

Treatment - Countess de Markievicz

The following resolution from Kilkenny Corporation, was read:-

"That we protest in the strongest possible manner against the unjust and cruel treatment which is being meted out to the Countess de Markievicz in Aylesbury Convict Jail, and that we respectfully, but firmly demand, that until her release she receive the same privileges as the other Irish Prisoners now in Lewes Jail, namely isolation from ordinary criminals and daily intercourse with one another, or, failing this a daily visit from an outside friend."

"Adopted on the motion of Mr Lynch, seconded by Mr Kehoe."

RECOMMENDATIONS OF FINANCE & ROADS COMMITTEE.

The following recommendations were submitted from the Finance & Roads Committee:-

Jack Hammer Drill:- "That the County Surveyor be empowered, subject to the sanction of the County Council, to purchase a Jack Hammer Drill for use in County Council Quarries, at a cost not exceeding £40."

"Confirmed on the motion of Mr Scallan, seconded by Mr Lynch."

Yard at Enniscorthy:- "That the County Council be recommended to take as yearly tenants, yard at Enniscorthy, the property of Mr C. Byrne at a rent of £15. 12/- per annum, Mr Byrne to be responsible for payment of taxes. That Mr Elgee, Solicitor to the Council, be instructed to prepare the necessary agreement as to the letting."

"Confirmed on the motion of Mr M. Codd, seconded by Mr Lynch."

Payment of Coroner's Telegrams:- "That the application of Mr J.J. Roche Coroner for South Wexford, for payment of cost of telegrams sent by him in connection with holding of inquests be referred to Local Government Board for their advice."

"Adopted on the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr Lynch."

Waste Paper:- "We recommend the tender of Messrs S. Irwin & Son, 121 Upper Abbey Street, Dublin, at £8 per ton for waste paper be accepted, Messrs Irwin to supply sacks and to defray cost of packing and all transit charges."

"Adopted on the motion of Mr Scallan, seconded by Mr Lynch."

Holidays-Steamrolling Foreman:- "That Mr John J. O'Gorman, Foreman Steamrolling, Enniscorthy, be granted holidays from 14th to 21st April 1917 (inclusive) and that his wages be paid for said period."

"Adopted on the motion of Mr Asple, seconded by Mr Scallan."

Maintenance Lunatic Asylum Patients:- "That the Chairman (Mr John Bolger) Messrs J. J. Stafford, and Thomas Asple, be appointed representatives of the Wexford County Council at the Conference to be held in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Dublin, on 30th April next, relative to taking action to induce the Government to bear their full half of the cost of maintenance of patients in Lunatic Asylums."

"Adopted on the motion of Mr Lynch, seconded by Mr Scallan."

The Chairman stated that he and Mr Asple had attended the Meeting in question when it was decided to appoint a deputation to lay before the representatives of the Government, a statement showing how inadequate the Government Capitation Grant was to meet half expenditure of cost of patients."

Clohamon Bridge:- "That Mr R. W. Elgee, Solicitor to the County Council, be instructed to prepare bond in connection with contract for repair of Clohamon Bridge."

"Confirmed on the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr Whelan."

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

"That the Seal of the Council be affixed to the Contract for repairing Clohamon Bridge-Contractor John Browne, Henrietta Street,

Minutes Tuberculosis Management Committee.

The Minutes of Tuberculosis Committee included a resolution stating that as the Tuberculosis Committee would be in a worse financial position by accepting the proposed agreement with the County Insurance Committee as regards treatment of insured patients than they were at present, while shouldering considerably increased responsibilities, they could not see their way to recommend the County Council to enter into the proposed agreement.

"On the motion of Mr Scallan, seconded by Mr Lynch, the above resolution was confirmed."

Recommendations from the Tuberculosis Committee as to the following were confirmed on the motion of Mr Scallan, seconded by Mr Lynch:-

Colouring interior of Enniscorthy Tuberculosis Dispensary: directing the County Surveyor to have the fencing at Wexford Dispensary properly repaired: agreeing to keep four permanent beds at Newcastle Sanatorium: agreeing to increase of maintenance charge of patients at Newcastle from 25/- to 28/-: letting field adjoining New Ross Tuberculosis Dispensary to Mr Thomas Whelan, New Ross, on eleven months' system at £6 for the period: and agreeing to allow Mr Whelan to till the plot this year: agreeing to treatment of patients: and to appointment of Mr N.J. Frizelle, as Sec., to the Committee for a period of six months as from 15th February 1917, at the rate of £52 per annum.

On the motion of Mr Scallan, seconded by Mr Lynch, the following resolution was adopted:-

"That the question of the proposed agreement with the County Insurance Committee and the offer from them to liquidate the debt due by them to the County Council be referred to next meeting of the Finance & Roads Committee."

Assistant Surveyor V.R.Doyle.

Under date 26th April 1917, the following letter was read from Mr V.R. Doyle, Assistant Surveyor:-

"I beg to make application to your Council for the annual increments to my salary for the two years ending May 1917 and 1918. In May 1916 I

omitted making application pending re-arrangement of Assistant Surveyors' Salaries by the Council.

Thanking you in anticipation."

On the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr Scallan, the application was agreed to."

Road No. 3W.

The County Surveyor presented a report from Mr Treanor, Senior Assistant Surveyor, recommending that the name of Mr Michael Browne, The Quay, Wexford, contractor for road No. 3W, be submitted to the County Council for proceedings for having failed to perform his contract.

On the motion of Mr Lynch, seconded by Mr M. Codd, the following resolution was adopted:-

"That the County Surveyor be empowered to take up from the Contractor, Road No. 3W. under the 54th Section of the Grand Jury Act."

Industrial School Application-Capitation Grant.

The Manager, St John's Industrial School, Birr, applied to the County Council to date the increase of 6d in capitation grant as from the 1st April 1916.

An application was also received from Mount St Joseph Industrial School, Cappoquin, for an increase of capitation grant of 6d per week.

"No Order, in view of the resolution that increase of capitation grant of 6d per week had been settled by the County Council to run as from 1st January 1917, and that no increase be granted in the case of Schools already receiving 2/6 per week."

Railway Siding at Sparrowsland.

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

"That we request the Dublin & South Eastern Railway Co., to carry out the necessary small repairs at loading bank at Sparrowsland siding in order to allow the County Council to load road material there, and further to provide for the loading of farm produce."

Quarry at Palace.

The County Surveyor submitted a letter from Mr Timothy Doban, Contractor for quarrying rough stones at Palace Quarry at 1/- per cubic yard. Owing to the increase in wages and cost of blasting materials he could not continue to carry out the work but would be inclined to do so if he got a further increase in the price for the quarrying of the stones. Mr Doran further stated that he would not break any stones at Palace Quarry for any Contractor this year, and requested the County Surveyor to notify the Roads Committee and the New Ross R. D. Council.

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

"That the letter from Mr Timothy Doran as to working of Palace Quarry be referred to Mr Elgee."

Carriganeagh Quarry.

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

"That the County Surveyor be empowered to prepare rough material for road contractors at Carriganeagh Quarry-Gorey District."

Deferred Money-Gorey District.

Mr John Kinsella, Junr., Road Contractor, Ballyfad, Inch, wrote stating that all money on his contract had been deferred though he had full tonnage placed on the road. The material however, was not spread, as his mare had become ill, and in addition, he was prevented by the heavy snowstorms from spreading the stones.

"On the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr Scallan the matter was referred to the County Surveyor for report to next meeting of the Finance & Roads Committee."

(Signed)

John Boyer
Presiding Chairman.

Dated this 14 day of

June

1917