

A Meeting of the Wexford County Council was held in the County Council Chamber, Yortview, Wexford, on 9th April, 1923.

Present: - Mr. E. P. Foley (Vice-Chairman) presiding, other members: - Messrs James Byrne, C. Bulleton, John Cummins, R. Corish, Gregory Devereux, James Hall, Matthew Hughes, David Kavanagh, John O'Byrne, John J. O'Byrne, John Pender, James Shannon & John Sinnott.

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

The Minutes of last Meeting were read and confirmed.

Peace Resolution

On the motion of Mr. Devereux, seconded by Mr. Sinnott, the following resolution was adopted: -

"That, realising the great desire of our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XV, for peace, especially in Ireland, we, as the premier body of the County Wexford, avail of the visit of Monsignor Lizio, Papal Envoy to this country, to request him, in view of the anxiety of our people to secure Peace, to use every possible effort to bring about a satisfactory settlement in order to end the present deplorable conflict. That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to His Grace, the Archbishop of Dublin to be transmitted to Monsignor Lizio, and also to His Eminence, Cardinal Logue, Primate of All Ireland."

Meeting of Finance Committee

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

"That, in view of the adoption of Scheme of Swift Labour for Road Maintenance, the fortnightly system of meetings of Finance & Roads Committee be revived, and that the name of Mr. John Sinnott be added to the membership of said Committee."

Notice of Motion - Carters on Roads & Trades Union

Mr. Bulleton moved the following, of which he had given previous notice: -

"That the resolution of the County Council, relative to the employment on roads of men who must be members of a Trade Union organization, and of carters, who need not be members of any Trade Union organisation, be

rescinded, and that, for the future, all men employed as Road Workers or as Carters must be members of a Labour Union and in good standing.

Mr. Shannon seconded.

Mr. Pender proposed as an amendment:-

"That any man, holding over ten acres of land, be disqualified as a haulier under Bounty Council."

Mr. Sinnott seconded:

Mr. James Byrne moved, and Mr. Devereux seconded, the following amendment:-

"That no change be made in the resolution of the Bounty Council, relative to workers on roads being members of a Trade Union Organization, but that no person be employed as Carters in connection with Road work whose valuation exceeds £15."

Mr. Cummins moved, and Mr. John O'Byrne seconded, the following amendment:-

"That it be an instruction to the County Surveyor to employ as hauliers only men who are most in need of work."

A vote was taken on Mr. Pender's amendment with the following result:-

For - Messrs John O'Byrne, Cummins, Shannon, Borish, Hughes, Pender, Sinnott & Bulliton. - 8

Against - Messrs Kavanagh, Hall, James Byrne, Devereux and the Chairman - 5

Mr. John J. O'Byrne was not present when roll was being taken

The Chairman declared the amendment carried. On being put as the substantive motion, Mr. Cummins' amendment, viz., "That it be an instruction to the County Surveyor to employ hauliers only men who most in need of work," was taken as an amendment, and voted on, with the following result:-

For - Messrs John O'Byrne, Cummins, Kavanagh, Hall, James O'Byrne and the Chairman. - 6

Against - Messrs Shannon, Hughes, Pender, Sinnott, Borish, and Bulliton - 6

Mr. Devereux did not vote, and Mr. John J. O'Byrne was not present when the roll was taken

The Chairman gave his casting vote in favour of the amendment, which he declared carried.

The amendment of Mr. James Byrne, limiting hauling to men whose valuation does not exceed £15, was then voted on, with the following result:-

For - Messrs Kavanagh, Hall, James Byrne, Devereux and the Chairman. - 5.

Against - Messrs John O'Byrne, Cummins, Shannon, Sinnott, Bulleton, Borish, Hughes and Pender - 8.
Mr. John J. O'Byrne did not vote.

The Chairman declared the amendment lost.
As a further amendment Mr. Borish moved: -
"That it be an instruction to the County Surveyor to employ as hauliers only men who are in need of work, and that it be clearly understood that first preference should be given to men who are members of a Labour Union".

The motion was seconded by Mr. Shannon.
A poll was taken with the following result: -
For - Messrs John O'Byrne, Shannon, Borish, Hughes, Pender, Sinnott and Bulleton - 7.

Against - Messrs Cummins, Kavanagh, Hall, James Byrne, Devereux, and the Chairman - 6.

Mr. John J. O'Byrne did not vote.

The Chairman declared this amendment carried.

On being put as substantive motion, it was adopted as a division was not challenged.

Mr Devereux gave notice that he would endeavour to secure the signatures of seven members with a view to having the motion rescinded at a subsequent meeting.

Election of Veterinary Surgeon - Enniscoorthy District

Two applications were received for the position of Veterinary Surgeon for Enniscoorthy District, viz, P. J. Hayes, 6 Court Street, Enniscoorthy and H. S. Ringwood, Enniscoorthy.

Mr Cummins moved, and Mr. Shannon seconded, the appointment of Mr. Hayes.

Mr. Ringwood was proposed by Mr. Hall and seconded by Mr. Devereux.

The following was the result of the Poll: -

For Mr Hayes - Messrs John O'Byrne, Cummins, Shannon, John J. O'Byrne, Kavanagh, Borish, Pender, Hughes, Devereux, Sinnott and the Chairman - 11.

Mr Ringwood received no vote.
Messrs Hall, James Byrne and Bulleton did not vote.

The Chairman declared Mr. Hayes elected.

The following resolution was proposed by Mr. Cummins seconded by Mr. Shannon, and unanimously adopted: -

"That Mr. Philip J. Hayes, 6 Court Street, Ennisceorthy, be appointed as Veterinary Inspector in Ennisceorthy Rural and Urban Districts, to carry out the administration of Contagious Diseases (Animal) Act, Kindred Acts and Bovine Tuberculosis Order, also, all lawful orders and directions of the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction and of Wexford County Council. Salary, £90. per annum and appointment to be determinable by a month's notice in writing on either side."

Mr. Hayes returned thanks for his election

Application County Board of Health
loan £10,000

Under date, 6th April, 1923, the Secretary, Co. Board of Health forwarded the following resolution:-

"That the County Council be asked to raise a loan, not to exceed £10,000, for the purpose of the conversion of the Old Union Buildings into a modern Hospital in accordance with the original ideas of the Amalgamation Scheme."

Dr. O'Brien, Resident Surgeon and Mr. J. D. Sinnott, Secretary County Board of Health were in attendance.

Mr. Sinnott said the loan was asked for to convert in the old building in Wexford, what was known as the body of the House into a modern Hospital that all the equipment which such an hospital should possess. The original idea of the Amalgamation Scheme was to have in County Wexford a general hospital, which would treat every class of case & avoid having to meet the danger and expense of sending patients to Dublin for treatment. Since the Hospital was established no case had gone to Dublin: every case, with the exception of X Ray, had been treated. There had been 484 admissions to hospital, 402 discharged, and seven deaths.

Dr. O'Brien having addressed the meeting, & members, representing the County Council on the County Board of Health, having spoken in favour of the project, the following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr. Corish, seconded by Mr. Sinnott:-

"That, in connection with the application of the County Board of Health for sanction to loan of £10,000 to convert the Wexford Workhouse Buildings into a modern Hospital, we hereby empower the County Board of Health to obtain plans and specifications in respect of the proposed improvements. That same be submitted in course to the County Council, and that, at first available meeting of the Council after their receipt, a Special Committee of the Council be appointed to deal with same and report to the Council."

Chargability of Home Help.

Under date 3rd April, 1923, Messrs M. J. O'Connor & Co., Solicitors to Wexford Corporation, wrote, enclosing a minute of Wexford Corporation as to the chargability for Home Help under County Board of Health. Messrs O'Connor & Co., pointed out that, according to section 43 of the Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1898, all expenses of the Guardians of a Union should be raised equally over the whole Union and should be called Union Charges. They asked for an undertaking that the Rates, dealt with by section 43 of the above mentioned Act, should be properly and legally raised over the whole Union, & if not, the Corporation had instructed them to take proceedings to prevent the County Council raising the rates in any other manner.

The following is the minute of the Wexford Corporation, referred to in the letter of Messrs O'Connor & Co., Solicitors: -

"Attention was drawn to a proposal of the Wexford County Council to alter the system of rating. It appeared that this body meditated dividing the Wexford Poor Law Union into Poor Law Electoral Divisions & assessing a differential rate on each Division. Such a proceeding, if gone on with, was distinctly a contravention of the provisions of the Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1898 (section 43) which, for rating purposes, abolished Poor Law Electoral Divisions and established the principle of Union Rating."

"Divisional Rating would militate against the interest of towns, & it was expedient that steps should be taken to prevent the proposed illegality being perpetrated."

It was suggested that a Committee should be appointed to take such steps as might appear necessary to restrain the County Council from outstepping their authority in the case.

"This suggestion was adopted, and the following were appointed as the Committee: - Alderman Sinnott & Connolly, Councillor Martin and the Mayor, assisted by the Corporation Solicitor and the Town Clerk."

The Secretary stated that the County Council never intended to have a differential rate on the various Poor Law Electoral Divisions; such a proposal could not possibly be put into effect. The Council were, however, about to act on the terms of the following letter from the Local Government Department, under date 15th September 1922, (No. 20032-1922): -

"The Ministry for Local Government have had under consideration your letter of the 19th July with reference to the basis of chargeability for expenditure in connection with the County Home, County Hospital & District Hospitals at Gorey & New Ross, and wish to inform you that, while favouring the adoption of a flat rate for this purpose, they are prepared to agree to a proposal to calculate all administrative charges (outdoor relief not included) for County Home, County Hospital and the District Hospitals as County-at-large charges, and to charge the maintenance of patients or inmates in the County Home, County Hospital, & the District Hospitals as also outdoor relief to the Urban or Rural District concerned."

In reply to queries, the Secretary mentioned that the Council had decided that portion of the expenditure of the County Board of Health should be County-at-large charges, and portion, Union charges, but this was abandoned in consequence of the following letter from the Local Government Department, under date 16th May 1922 (No. 12950/22): -

With reference to an entry in Minutes of Proceedings of Wexford County Council on the 8th inst, I desire to inform you that the entry, relative to the chargeability for expenses under the Public Health Board, has been noted, and I desire to inform you that there is no provision for Union charges in the Amalgamation Scheme as the Union area no longer exists. All charges must, therefore, be either District charges or County-at-large.

Proceeding, the Secretary stated that he had sent copies of letter of Messrs O'Connor & Co, Solicitors and the Minute of Wexford Corporation to the Local Government Department, and had received the following reply, Under date 4th April, 1923 (No. A 12563-1923. Wexford County Council): -

"The Ministry of Local Government desire me to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 22nd ultimo, and, in reply to state, for the information of the Wexford County Council, that the area of chargeability for outdoor relief in the County is unaltered, i.e., the Union still stands so far as this matter is concerned."

In the circumstances, the Secretary stated, it was extremely difficult to decide how the County Estimate of Rate was to be prepared. He suggested that the Council might agree to having the entire expenditure dealt with as a County-at-large charge with a limit of 6d. in £ for outdoor Relief.

After a long discussion, the following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr. Borish, seconded by the Chairman: -

"That a Committee consisting of the following be appointed to consider the question of the chargeability of the expenditure of the County Board of Health: -

Messrs John O'Byrne, R. Borish, G. Devereux, John Pender, John J. O'Byrne, James Hall, & the Chairman,
to meet at 12 noon in County Council Chamber, on 12th April."

Vacancies on Committee

Mr. J. Barty wrote, resigning membership of County Committee of Agriculture & Technical Instruction, as he was now residing in Dublin. On the motion of Mr. Cummins, seconded by Mr. Shannon, the following resolution was adopted: -

"That Mr. John Summitt, County Councillor, 7 Grattan Place, Wexford be appointed a member of County Wexford Committee of Agriculture & Technical Instruction, vice Mr. J. Barty resigned"

Under date 2nd April, 1923, Mr. Cadogan Acting Clerk, County Insurance Committee, wrote that Rev. O'Kavanagh, B. B. Blackwater and Mr. J. Barty (who had gone to reside in Dublin) had resigned membership of the County Wexford Insurance Committee

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

"That Mr. James Shannon M. C. C. Rathnure Lower, Ennisceorthy, be appointed a member of County Wexford Insurance Committee vice Mr. J. Barty resigned."

On the motion of Mr. Hall, seconded by Mr. John J. O'Byrne, the following resolution was adopted: -

"That Mr. David Kavanagh, M. C. C. Ballylucas, Sreen, be appointed a member of County Wexford Insurance Committee to replace his brother, Rev. O'Kavanagh, B. B. Blackwater resigned"

Vacancy, Memberships, County Board of Health

Under date, 5th April, 1923 the Secretary, Co. Wexford Board of Health, wrote that Mr. J. M. Roche, Gallop Hall, New Ross, who had been nominated by the County Council as a member of the Board, had resigned his membership, and the Board requested the County Council to fill the vacancy.

It was decided that Mr. John J. O'Byrne make enquiries with a view to obtaining the name of a representative from New Ross District who would act as a member of County Board of Health

Proposed Dispensary Residence for Medical
Officer, Yethard District

Under date 24th March, 1923, the following letter was read from the Secretary, County Board of Health: -
 Some time ago, Mr. P. O'Boyle wrote the Public Health Board with reference to a house in Yethard, owned by Mr. George Barrett, and suggested that the Board purchase the house as a residence for the Dispensary Doctor. Mr. Roche, & Mr. Lynch visited the place as a Committee of the Board & reported recommending purchase. The matter was referred to your Council from the Board meeting on Wednesday as you would be the purchasing authority. Would you please let me know what particulars you require? & what would be the procedure in the event of purchase being contemplated.

In reply to queries from Secretary, County Council, a further letter was read from the Secretary, County Board of Health, that the Medical Officer in Yethard (Dr. Gillespie) had no residence but was residing in a hotel in Duncannon which was not central.

A local Committee recommended the purchase of the residence from Mr. Barrett at £900.

The following resolution was adopted, on the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr. John J. O'Byrne: -

"That, in connection with the proposal to purchase house in Yethard, the property of Mr. George W. Bassett, the County Board of Health be requested to furnish the following information to the County Council - (a) the extent of the premises and of any land attached; (b) Condition of repair; (c) tenure; (d) what rent it is proposed Dr. Gillespie should pay, and, in fact, all possible particulars which will enable the County Council to form an opinion as to what they are purchasing."

Administration Motor Car Acts

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

"That the Transport Section of the Local Government Department be requested to inform this Council what amount they propose contributing to the salary of Mr. G. H. Richards, Senior Clerical Assistant, and whose time from 29th May, 1922 had been entirely taken up in connection with the administration of the Motor Car Acts

County Wexford Infirmary.

The following resolution was adopted at the meeting of the County Council held on 12th March, 1923:-

"That the communication from Dr. Gurlong in reference to the renting of the County Infirmary premises for the purpose of a private Hospital be referred to the following Committee:- Messrs A. Bonish, E. P. Foley, John Sinnott, G. Devereux, M. Doyle with the Secretary and Mr. Elgee, Solicitor to the Council, & that said Committee be requested to report to meeting of the County Council to be held on 9th April, 1923."

The following Minutes of the Committee were submitted:-

Meeting 3rd April, 1923.

A meeting of County Infirmary Committee was held in the County Council Chamber, Wexford on 3rd April, 1923. The following were present:- Messrs E. P. Foley & John Sinnott. The Secretary & Mr. Elgee, Solicitor, were also in attendance.

The following letter was read from Dr. Gurlong, under date 24th March, 1923:-

"In answer to your letter, I, of course, wish to retain my house & after consideration, would rent the Infirmary premises if I could get it cheap enough. It is too big for my purpose and is unsuitable in many ways."

The Committee considered at length the advantages to be gained by a large section of the general public through the establishment of the County Infirmary as a private Hospital, the cost of converting the premises into private residences, the renting or leasing of the premises etc., but decided to adjourn to Monday, 9th instant at 9.30 a. m. for the purpose of having a conference with Dr. S. A. Gurlong, Resident Surgeon, County Infirmary, to ascertain if they could arrive at an agreement with him as to the recommendation to be presented to the general meeting of the County Council on 9th instant meeting, 9th April, 1923.

Present:- E. P. Foley (Vice Chairman), Messrs S. Devereux & John Sinnott

The Secretary was also in attendance.

After a long consultation with Dr. Gurlong, Resident Surgeon, the Committee made the following recommendation:-

"That the County Council be recommended to let, for the purposes of a private Hospital, the County Infirmary premises, with residence to Dr. S. A. Gurlong, Resident Surgeon, as a yearly tenant at £100 per annum, with the option of Dr. Gurlong being granted a lease later on, should he so desire. That Dr. Gurlong be responsible for rates for the repairs of the premises during his occupation & also for the stock, subject to reasonable wear & tear, inventory of same to be supplied to the County Council by Mr. Kavanagh, Registrar. This recommendation is made on condition that Dr. Gurlong will utilize the premises for the treatment of General cases and Maternity cases."

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr. Shimoth, seconded by Mr. John G. O'Byrne:-

"That the recommendation of County Infirmary Special Committee, relative to an arrangement with Dr. Gurlong to carry on the premises as a private Hospital, be and is hereby confirmed"

Temporary overdraft of £26,000.

Under date 30th March, 1923, the Local Government Department wrote (L. 12517-23, Wexford County), extending the time for repayment of overdraft of £26,000 to 30th June next.

Military & County Hall

on the motion of Mr. Bullerton, seconded by Mr. Shannon, the following resolution was adopted:-

"That the Military Authorities be requested to state what financial arrangements they propose to make with the Council as to the occupation of the County Hall as a Military Barracks"

The Secretary explained that correspondence had been carried on with the British Military Authorities with reference to compensation to the Council for "commandeering" County Hall, removal to new premises, etc. The matter was now in course of settlement

and the motion of Mr. Borish, seconded by Mr. John O'Byrne the following resolution was adopted:-

"That this County Council will be prepared to accept a sum of £450 (without prejudice) in settlement of their claim against the British Government in connection with 'commandeering' of County Hall, removal to new premises, etc."

Proposed Loan of £3,000. for County Board
of Health

Under date 6th April, 1923, the Secretary, County Board of Health, forwarded the following resolution

"That the £3,000 required for the County Home sewerage installation, be obtained on loan from the National Bank, Ltd."

The Secretary stated that this loan had been already sanctioned, & arrangements had been made for its advance from the then Treasurer of the County Board of Health, the Munster & Leinster Bank. In the meantime, the County Board of Health had changed their Treasurer to the National Bank.

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

"That the necessary steps be taken to procure from the Treasurer of the County Board of Health for £3,000, in order to effect necessary improvements in sewerage of County Home at Enniscoorthy."

Enniscoorthy Rural District & District
Labour Scheme.

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

"That the Enniscoorthy Rural District be informed that, unless they can see their way to reinstate at least £5,000 of the reduction which they have made in the estimate of the County Surveyor for the maintenance of roads & works in this District for year 1923-24, the County Council will be reluctantly obliged to cut this district out of Direct Labour Scheme."

Assistant Surveyor

Under date 24th March, 1923, the following letter No. 12398/1923, was read from the Ministry of Local Government:-

"With reference to yours of the 21st instant re above, I am to state that sanction is hereby given to the appointment of Mr. John Francis Birtchelle as Assistant Surveyor to Wexford County Council, appointed to take effect as from the 2nd April, 1923."

The Ministry note from the copy of the County Surveyor's memo. attached to your letter, that Mr. Treanor will take charge of Garry Division on the 1st proximo, so the East Wexford Division should

be allotted to Mr. Birthistle, within which he must reside. The Council should take immediate steps to appoint an Assistant Surveyor for the vacant Division. Copy of a draft advertisement, to be completed by the County Council as regards salary, etc., is herewith submitted.

Pending the appointment, all paysheets for this area must be certified by the County Surveyor, or one of the Assistant Surveyors for a neighbouring division, following a personal visit to the gangs during the fortnightly period in question.

On the motion of Mr. Bulliton, seconded by Mr. Pender, the following resolution was adopted: -

"That an Assistant Surveyor be appointed at a salary of £140 per annum, with increments of £5 to £200, appointment to be made on Monday, 4th May, 1923. That our Secretary be directed to insert a small paragraph advertisement in the Dublin papers, but that all particulars be embodied in the conditions of appointment, which will be supplied each candidate on application to the Secretary."

The County Surveyor reported that Mr. Birthistle took up duty on 4th April.

Exchequer Contribution & Labourers' Acts

The following schedule, received from the Ministry of Local Government, showed amounts paid the Board of Works out of the Exchequer contribution & which are to be supplied towards the repayment of Loans under the Labourers' Acts: -

<u>Rural District</u>	<u>Amount</u>
	£ " s " d.
Enniscorthy	509 " 8 " 9.
Gorey	281 " 8 " 4
New Ross	304 " 10 " 2
Wexford	909 " 3 " 10.
Total	£ 2004 " 11 " 1

Claims, Salary, Under Sheriff, Courthouses, etc

Under date 5th April, 1923, a letter was read from Mr. James P. Connor, Under Sheriff, Enniscorthy, that a year's salary was due him up to 31st March amounting to £200. Unless he received payment by 12th April he would be reluctantly compelled to take such steps as he might be advised to recover the amount. He trusted that the Council would not compel him to take such action.

No order.

The Clerk of the Browne's Peace forwarded account for coal for his office, amount, £12 " 15 " 0

No order.

The Minister of Home Affairs wrote, under date 21st March, 1923, relative to a claim for £15, for rent of an office used in New Ross for the purpose of holding courts, and which had been forwarded by Mr. Francis J. Mc-Kenna, ex-Clerk of Petty Sessions. The claim was payable out of County funds in pursuance of the provisions of the Act, 14 & 15 Vic. Reg. 93, sec. 8, and Article 15(3) of the Local Government (Adaptation of Enactments) Order 1899.

No order.

Under date, 6th April, 1923, a letter was read from the Under Sheriff, calling attention to the fact that the Quarter Sessions would be held in the Wexford Courthouse on Tuesday, 17th April.

Since the Courthouse was burned, there were no chairs, etc., in the Jurors Room or Gallery. Up to the present, they had been hired and the amounts deducted by the Late Government from grants coming to the County Council. He wished to know would the County Council give an order to have chairs etc., hired or would they supply new ones.

No order.

An application was received from Messrs O'Connor & Co., Solicitors for estate of the late William J. Devereux, for payment of £13" 16" 8, rent of Wexford Courthouse, and (estate of the late James Barry), £12" do.

No order.

Mr. M. Kavanagh, ex-Clerk, Petty Sessions, Wexford, forwarded bills for - £25 for 2½ years' rent of petty sessions office at Wexford to 31st December, 1922, and £8" 12" 4½ years' pension as Explosives Officer.

No order.

National Film Censor

Under date 13th March, 1923, the Minister of Home Affairs asked for the views of the Council as to the practicability and usefulness generally of proposals which he submitted in connection with the appointment of a National Officer Film Censor.

On the motion of Mr. Pender, seconded by Mr. James Byrne, the following resolution was adopted:-

"That we approve of the proposals of the Minister of Home Affairs for the appointment of a National Film Censor as outlined in his letter of 13th March, 1923."

Poor Rate Collection

The Secretary stated that the following showed the state of the Rate Collection for Rate, 1922-23, up to 9th April, 1923: -

	£	s	d.
Ennisceorthy	15621	6	10
Gorey	10424	4	1
New Ross	8291	18	8
Wexford	13400	17	9
Total	47738	7	4

while the amounts uncollected on foot of this Rate were: -

	£	s	d.
Ennisceorthy	13873	10	7
Gorey	10678	3	7
New Ross	7714	6	6
Wexford	8045	12	11
Total	40341	13	7

Correspondence was submitted from Rate Collectors as to service of demand notes as to prosecutions of defaulters.

Mr. P. G. Sinnott, deputy collector for No 4 Collection District, wrote: -

"I cannot proceed in Courts against defaulting Ratepayers as requested by Council"
 "I have prepared Registers, served Demand Notes, etc., but cannot possibly attend Courts. I'm sorry I cannot do so."

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr. Bulliton, seconded by Mr. John O'Byrne: -

"That Mr. P. G. Sinnott, Deputy collector for No. 4 Collection District, be requested to furnish an explanation as to why he refuses to proceed in the Courts against defaulting Ratepayers."

The following letter, under date 5th April, 1923, was read from Mr. James Quirk, collector for No 1 Collection District: -

On behalf of the Rate collector of the County, I wish to apply to your Council to have Poundage, due to us on current year's rate up to the 31st March '23, paid us as soon as possible. You are aware that the majority of the collectors are solely dependent on their earnings as collectors for their means of livelihood. You can easily understand their present position considering that they have received no remuneration for their services for almost twelve months. Hoping that this matter will receive the County Council's favourable consideration.

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

"That the Rate Collectors of the Council be paid at next meeting, amount of Poundage on rate of 1922-23, collected either by themselves or through Bank to 31st March, 1923, and that the Ministry of Local Government be requested to sanction this proposal, which carries out an undertaking given to the Rate Collectors by the Council. The Collectors were at all times willing to carry out their duties, but were prevented by the activities of persons in arms against the Government."

On the motion of Mr. Shannon, seconded by Mr. Kavanagh the following resolution was adopted: -

"That all outstanding Rates must be paid by 31st May, 1923, & that instructions be issued to proceed against all Ratepayers who are found at that date, to be in arrears, as regards the payment of outstanding Rates of any period."

An application was received from Mr. Sean Gannon, Collector for No. 15 Collection District for the services of Mr. Elgel Solicitor to the County Council, in connection with prosecutions for recovery of poor rates from the weekly tenants of Sir Thomas H. G. Esmonde, Bart., in Gorey town. In the past, these rates were paid by Sir Thomas Esmonde, but, in consequence of increase in Rates he refused to pay, & the tenants also declined to meet this liability. Rates were owing for some years.

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

"That, as we consider the application of Mr. Sean Gannon, Collector for No. 15 District, for legal assistance in connection with Rates due in Gorey Urban District Electoral Division from holdings on the property of Sir Thomas H. G. Esmonde, Bart., deals with very exceptional circumstances in Rate Collection, we request Mr. Elgel, our Solicitor, to put his services at the disposal of the Collector in attempting to recover amounts due to the Council."

Mr. John Barty, Rate Collector for No. 12 Collection District, wrote resigning his position as collector. So far as could be ascertained, there was a sum of £95 outstanding in old Rates in this district. This was subject to check of old private lodgments in Bank which were being identified so far as was possible. On the motion of Mr. Chairman, seconded by Mr. Cullen, the following resolution was adopted:-

"That we accept the resignation of Mr. John Barty, Rate Collector for No. 12 Collection District & that the question of filling the vacancy be considered by the meeting of the Council on 4th May."

Government Grants

Under date 24th March, 1923, the following letter No. 686/3, was read from the Ministry of Finance:-

In reply to your letter of the 16th instant I am directed by the Minister of Finance to state that it is not possible to make any further payments to the Wexford County Council in respect of Local Taxation Grants formerly withheld by the British Government, pending the release out of the Guarantee Fund of any moneys which have been detained therein in respect of liabilities of the County under the Land Purchase Acts. The normal Local Taxation Grants are payable to the County Council in respect of the current financial year & will continue to be paid so long as the law so provides. Arrangements have recently been made for payment of a regular contribution for 1922-23 and of a half-yearly instalment of Agricultural Grant. The second half-yearly instalment of Agricultural Grant has been issued to the Guarantee Fund but is not yet available for distribution. Arrangements are being made for dealing with the Estate Duty Grant & the unpaid balance of Licence Duties Grant but it is not possible at present to state the exact amounts of these Grants, which will be payable to the Wexford County Council.

The Secretary called attention to a statement of the Secretary of the County Wexford Farmers' Union that a sum of £2,000 only was due by defaulting annuitants of Co. Wexford.

On the motion of Mr. Cummins, seconded by Mr. John J. O'Byrne, the following resolution was adopted:-

"That we request the Irish Land Commission to inform this Council of the amount of annuities, due by tenant purchasers under the Land Purchase Acts in

Co. Wexford, up to 31st March, 1923. That this matter be referred to the Finance & Roads Committee, with an instruction to demand from the Ministry of Local Government a substantial payment on foot of withheld grants should the Finance & Roads Committee consider that the information received from the Land Commission justify such an application.

Yours, T. J. P. O'Connell

The Secretary submitted the following letter,

forwarded by him to the Ministry of Local Government under date 21st March, 1923:-

In connection with the O'Connell Estate, I desire to point out that, acting on instructions from Headquarters, my County Council understands the O'Connell Estate. The building was erected by the O'Connell Estate, and there was a ground rent of £24, per annum paid to the O'Connell Estate.

Recently, Mr. Kelly, District Justice, has been allowed by permission of Mr. Hamilton, Landlord's Agent, to hold Court there, and Mr. Kelly was informed that, if the Co. Council were to use the premises, they would have to pay a rent of £50 per annum for them.

In addition, Mr. Hamilton has asked the Landlord, etc., of the O'Connell Estate, and, we are informed, intends selling same by auction. Mr. Kelly, Solicitor to the County Council, was instructed to communicate with Mr. Hamilton, & he sends me to-day the following reply:-

O'Connell Estate

Dear Sir,
Referring to your letter of 14th March, 1923, in which you stated that the premises, known as the O'Connell Estate, on the 25th March, 1923, on the expiration of their lease, were to be sold by auction, and forfeited any right of re-entry to remove fittings, fixtures, etc.:

Yours faithfully,
Hugh R. Hamilton

It is not possible for something to be done to prevent my Co. Council being misled in this manner? My understanding is that the premises at the request of "O'Connell Estate" at the time it was understood the premises were a most temporary measure. For this reason,

Hamilton, seeks to take advantage of the Council by increasing the rent of the New Ross Courthouse from £24 to £50 and evidently claiming the building on the technical point of surrender. Besides, he is confiscating the furniture, etc., which belong to the people.

In connection with the general question of recovering Courthouses, the following letter, under date, 6th April, 1923, No. 11950-1923 from the Ministry of Local Government, to Mr. R. W. Elgee, Solicitor to the County Council, was submitted:-

"The Minister for Local Government desires to state in reply to your letter of the 25th November last on the subject, that he is advised that the only assistance that can be afforded to the County Council to enable them to re-acquire the possession of the Courthouses & Petty Session Houses referred to, failing an agreement with the Owners, would be a Provisional Order under Section 10 of the Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1898.

As regards the question of compensation in respect of the destroyed Courthouses, the matter is one in which the Council might address the Minister of Finance.

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

"That we desire to point out to the Ministry of Local Government that the Courthouses of the County were surrendered by instructions from Paul Cullen as part of the national campaign against the British. We consider that it is the business of the Government to have these buildings handed back to the County Council, as the representatives of the Ratepayers. We hold it is unjust to mulct the people of the County with the cost of provisional orders to recover their own property. In the case of New Ross, it is a scandal that the property of the Ratepayers should be seized by the Landlord's agent, and that, through the action & advice of the Government of the time, this man is now in a position, apparently, to mulct the Ratepayers by £26 per annum. We call upon the Government to take steps to prevent this action & to have the property of the people handed back to their representatives.

Cost of Conveyance of Prisoners, Etc.

Accounts for the conveyance of prisoners, lunatics, etc., were received from the Civil Guard.

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

"That we agree to the payment of necessary sums expended by the Civil Guard for conveyance of Prisoners, Warrants & measures, & Food & Drugs, as obtained with old R. I. C."

Prosecutions under Motor Car Acts

On the motion of Mr. Bulleton, seconded by Mr. Shannon, the following resolution was adopted:-

"That Mr. C. H. Richards, Wexford, Local Taxation Officer under Motor Car Acts, be empowered to proceed against the following for alleged offences under these Acts:-

John Ivory, Yeans,
Mr. Collier, Bunelody
Michael Roche, Bunelody.
Thomas Redmond, Yeans.
Edward M. Bates, Gorey
John J. Fitzgerald, South Quay, Wexford.
Aiden Hughes, Monamolin
Richard O'Connor, Waddington, Cleaveston

University Scholarships Scheme

The question of the eligibility of candidates to compete for University Scholarships was further considered.

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

"That, in the opinion of this Council, Mr. William G. Gisher, Westgate, Wexford is not entitled to compete for University Scholarships, as his father holds the position of Receiver of Wreck under Customs & Excise, & should be in a position to provide a University Education for his son without receiving assistance from the County Council. We desire to emphasise the fact that the Act of Parliament, under which these Scholarships have been established, provides that they can be awarded

only to students, whose parents or guardians are in need of assistance for the purpose of providing a University Education

Primary Scholarships Scheme.

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

"That the list of entrants for award of Primary Scholarships be submitted to Finance & Roads Committee, with an instruction to report to next meeting of the County Council as to the eligibility of candidates."

Travelling Expenses of County Surveyor

The application of the County Surveyor for allowance of travelling expenses under Circular, P.101, of Ministry of Local Government, was further adjourned.

County Surveyor's Report - Assistant Surveyors.

The following report, under date 21st March, 1923, 1923, was read from the County Surveyor:-

"I shall be glad to know if the Local Government Department has yet sanctioned Mr. Birthistle's appointment. Under the new distribution of the Districts, Mr. Greaney will be taking up Gorey division on the 1st April, next & I have arranged with the other existing Assistant to take charge of their new divisions. This will leave the County with two divisions short of Assistant Surveyors, & I should like to have Mr. Birthistle or some approved person to take up work at once. It will be necessary for the Council now to take steps to make a further appointment, and, in the meantime, I am getting Mr. Thomas Cullen to look after one of the divisions, pending next meeting of the Council and, with regard to the second vacant division, I am dividing up the work between two of the Road Overseers. Of course all this is pending the sanction of the Council.

The arrangement suggested by the County Surveyor was approved on the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr. Cummins

Machinery Yard, Enniscorthy

The following report was submitted by the County Surveyor:-

"In accordance with instructions of the Council, the Committee made a second visit to Enniscorthy and inspected other premises suggested. The Committee met on the 29th March, 1923, & there were present:- Messrs E. P. Goley, J. Byrne & J. Shannon, Mr. Hall was unable to be present. The County Surveyor was also in attendance."

An inspection was first made of premises on the Island Road (opposite the present yard) belonging to Mr. Whelan. These consist of large gal. iron shed on concrete walls on road frontage & with concrete base & timber back. The road frontage is about 200 ft., by 40 ft. wide at the high end of shed & somewhat narrower at the lower end. The head room would be insufficient without alteration to work at breaker repairs; and, further, the iron work is old. Mr. Whelan, the owner, holds under lease but would be able to purchase out & sell to the County Council. He asks a rent of £50 per annum on a 21 years' lease.

The Committee next visited the premises on the Buncloody road, just outside the Urban boundary. These premises also belong to Mr. Whelan, who asks same rent as first visited premises & himself holds on similar terms. Here there are two iron sheds with gal. corrugated roofs; one shed 48' 0" x 24' 0", and the other, 60' 0" x 19' 0". Both are very lofty but are not closed at sides or ends. Going with this is a strip of ground, 22 yds., wide & running from road to road, 190 yards long. This would have to be fenced on one side, and, of course, the sheds would have to be sheeted on sides & ends, and fitted with windows & doors. It would be necessary also to make a roadway from road to road.

The Committee then made a further inspection of the Co-operative premises. This is a masonry structure with concrete extension above & roofed with suberoid tiles. There are reinforced concrete beams in place for an upper floor or loft & these beams are built right through the walls at each side, tying the whole together. The floor space, excluding an offset is 84' 0" x 19' 0" &

the headroom under the beams is 14' 8". This would well serve for a workshop. There is an outside yard, 121' 0" x 49' 0" attached, & there is also a suitable water supply. It will be necessary in this case to break a large doorway at the end to allow of entry of engines & breakers, otherwise no immediate alterations will be necessary. After careful consideration the Committee recommend the County Council to take the Co-operative premises at the rent as agreed on former visit of £50 per annum for 21 years with option of purchase.

On the motion of Mr. Bulleton, seconded by Mr. James Byrne, the following resolution was adopted:-
 "That the report of Committee, appointed in connection with the securing of a proper machinery yard for the County Council in Enniscorthy, be received & adopted, premises to be rented at £50 per annum from Co-operative Society."

Mr. Hall mentioned that the Co-operative Society would be prepared to rent at £5 per annum a piece of land adjoining the proposed machinery yard. It abutted on the river & would form very accommodation for the storage of coal.

On the motion of Mr. Bulleton, seconded by Mr. John J. O'Byrne the following resolution was adopted:-
 "That the County Surveyor be requested to report to next meeting as to the proposed ground on the premises of the Co-operative Society, Enniscorthy, which it is suggested the Council should rent at £5 per annum."

Proposed Steam Roller for Gorey District

The following resolution was read from Gorey Rural District Council:-

"That we ask the County Council to provide a Steam Roller for the Gorey District, & that the steamrolling of the Gorey-Arklow road be recommended & the work proceeded with at once."

It was decided that consideration of the matter be adjourned until the County Council are in such a financial position as will warrant the purchase of further road machinery.

Road Contractors' Claims

A number of claims for payments, received from Road Contractors, were referred to Finance & Roads Committee.

Income Tax - Wexford Courthouse

A Bill for £17, Income Tax on Wexford Courthouse, was received.

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

"The County Council fail to understand why they should pay Income Tax for Wexford Courthouse which has been almost entirely destroyed by fire."

Subsidiary Bodies' Demands

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

"That our Secretary be instructed to make as large payments as possible to the Subsidiary Bodies which are financed by the Council in view of the present financial position of the Council."

Proposals for payment

On the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr. Shannon, the following resolution was adopted

"That the several proposals for payment for fixed items, viz., salaries, etc., for quarter ended 31st March, 1923, as recommended by the proposal Committee, be & are hereby agreed to. That Pay Orders for same issue from present meeting."

Quarries & Building Material

On the motion of Mr. Shannon, seconded by Mr. Culleton the following resolution was adopted:-

"That the Wexford County Council recommend to the Oireachtas the necessity of adopting legislation by which persons engaged in the erection of houses can enter privately owned quarries in order to secure suitable building material. That a copy of this resolution be forwarded the G. D.'s for County Wexford"

E. O'Connell

May 7th 1923