

Quarterly meeting - 4th August 1908.

The Statutable quarterly meeting of the County Council, was held in the Council Chamber, Court House, Wexford, on 4th August 1908.

Present :- Messrs J. S. Hearn, E. Hore, M. A. Ennis, C. H. Peacocke, M. Browne, J. E. Mayler, John J. Kehoe, A. Kinsella, J. Codd, G. Walsh, J. Cummins, P. J. Fanning, M. Codd, Michael Doyle, M. Hickey, J. J. Stafford, J. Asple, J. Bolger, and P. Fortune.

Mr. M. Hickey who attended for the first time, as Chairman of New Ross Rural District Council, subscribed the usual declaration of office.

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

On the motion of Mr. Peacocke, seconded by Mr. Kehoe, the Chair was taken by Mr. Ennis.

The minutes of last meeting were read & confirmed.

Election of Vice-Chairman.

Mr. Ennis proposed, Mr. Peacocke seconded, and it was passed nem. con. :- "That Mr. Hore be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Council."

Mr. Hore after returning thanks for his election, then took the Chair, having first subscribed the usual declaration of office.

Ford of Lyng.

The question of a private suggestion by the Chairman of the County Council (Sir Thomas Esmonde) having been referred to, a discussion took place after which it was proposed by Mr. Ennis, seconded by Mr. Browne and passed unanimously :-

"That a Committee be appointed to wait on the Local Government Board with regard to the difficulty which has arisen in carrying out the resolution of

the County Council of the 20th May in respect of the flooding at the Ford of Lyng. That the Co. Surveyor be requested to prepare an estimate of the cost of raising the road at the two places where the flooding occurs, and furnish the Committee with this estimate to enable them to negotiate with the Local Government Board to bring about some arrangement whereby the wishes of the Council can be carried into effect and the people of the locality saved from the great inconvenience caused by the flooding."

On the motion of Mr. Peacocke, seconded by Mr. Brown the following were appointed the Committee: Sir J. Esmonde, Messrs M. A. Ennis, Gregory Walsh, and M. Doyle, Cottage, Lagoat.

— Road Limit. —

The following letter under date 9th July 1908, (letter N. 37269-08) was read from the Local Government Board.

"With reference to the recent application for an extension of the limit of expenditure on roads in the Enniscorthy Rural District. I am directed by the Local Government Board for Ireland, to state that they have assented to an extension of the present limit on roads in this Rural District by a sum of £500 for each of the five years ending the 31st March 1909, 1910, 1911, 1912, and 1913.

The Secretary said he had received the Sealed Order of the Local Government Board extending the limit.

— Clipping Hedges, Etc. —

Under date 21st July 1908, the following letter, N. 38514-1908, from the Local Government Board, relative to cutting hedges, was read:-

"The Local Government Board for Ireland, have had before them your letter of the 10th instant, in reference to motor car traffic in the County of Wexford, and inquiring as to the powers of the County Council in regard to the cutting of hedges on the public roads, and in reply, I am to state that the Board are advised that there is no power to cut hedges except in cases

within Section 9 (8) of the Summary Jurisdiction (Ireland) Act, 1851, which provides for the cutting or slashing of hedges and pruning or topping of trees (the shade of which prejudices a road) between 1st October and 1st April.

The Board are further advised that the County Council are not authorised to compensate an occupier for allowing hedges to be cut, or to pay for labour in trimming the hedges."

The following letter under date 2nd August 1908 was read from Mr. John Bolger:-

"I see on the agenda for next Tuesday's meeting a notice regarding the cutting of hedges and bushes at all dangerous corners on the public road. As I asked you to put this notice on I would wish to give the Council my views on the matter. I would suggest the Council instruct Mr. Webster to get all the road contractors through the County to cut and lay all hedges and bushes twenty yards at each side of every dangerous corner on the public road but not to touch trees except boughs are hanging down close to the road. I don't think any owners of the fences will object when this is done properly, particularly when no trees are interfered with. I am sure the Council will agree with me if this were done a great many accidents would be averted, in motoring, cycling, etc., as all such accidents invariably happen at such corners."

On the motion of Mr. Peacocke, seconded by Mr. Kehoe, the following resolution was adopted:- "That this matter be referred to the County Surveyor and that he be instructed to carry out the suggestions mentioned in Mr. Bolger's letter."

Pump at Courtown Harbour.

Under date 23rd July 1908, the Local Government Board forwarded sealed order No. 36527 fixing the area of charge for well and pump at Courtown Harbour as the County Rural District.

Audit of accounts.

The Local Government Board forwarded copies of the reports of their auditors relative to the audit of the accounts of the following for the half-year ended 31st March 1908:- Wexford Union, Wexford Rural District Council, County Wexford Committee of Agriculture & Technical Instruction, and Enniscorthy District Lunatic Asylum.

Salmon Fishing on the Slaney.

Under date 26th June 1908, the following letter No. 3986-08, from the Department was read:-

"I have to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 25th instant, embodying a resolution passed by the Wexford County Council on the 24th instant in reference to the season of salmon fishing on the river Slaney.

In reply, I have to state, for the information of the Council, that inquiries into applications for change of close seasons are suspended pending legislation which will enable the Department to deal with them in a satisfactory manner.

The resolution of your Council has, however, been noted."

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

"That the Department of Agriculture & Technical Instruction be requested to endeavour to have a Bill passed in the Autumn Session of Parliament for the purpose of holding inquiries into applications for changes of close season for salmon fishing."

All Ireland Industrial Conference.

Under date 30th June, Mr. P. Loftus, Secretary All Ireland Industrial Conference wrote asking for suggestions as to any matters which the County Council wished discussed at the conference, and requesting the appointment of delegates. The conference is to be held in Galway on the 16th & 17th September next.

"On the motion of Mr. Fanning, seconded by Mr. Cummins Messrs Peacocke and Ennis were appointed delegates to the

conference.

— Railway Level Crossings. —

Under date 9th July 1908, the following letter was read from the Secretary of the G. S. & W. Railway Co., Kingsbridge, Dublin:-

"With further reference to your letter of the 21st May, I beg to say that by Section 47 of the Railway Clauses Act, 1845, this company is empowered to keep the gates on level crossings closed against the Public Road."

The Secretary explained that according to the section in question, the Railway Company, shall employ proper persons to open and shut the gates which should be constantly closed across the roads on both sides of the Railway. The Board of Trade, in any case in which they are satisfied it will be conducive to the public safety that the gates should be kept closed across the Railway, can order this to be done.

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

"That this Council calls the attention of the Board of Trade to the numerous complaints of the trouble and inconvenience caused to the public by the arrangements made by the G. S. & W. Rly Co. (Rosslare and Waterford Branch) for the opening of gates at level crossings at night, and request the Board of Trade to make representations to this company to appoint night watchmen in charge of these gates, or in the alternative to issue an order that the gates be closed against the Railway line at night time."

— Direct Labour Experiment —

The Experimental Scheme of Direct Labour on Roads submitted by the County Surveyor; and which appears on page 285 of the General minutes; was laid before the meeting.

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

"That we direct our Secretary to furnish the clerks of the District Councils with a copy of the Direct Labour

Experimental scheme, and ask them to bring same before the next meetings of their councils, and elicit their opinion."

Roads Committee.

The following report of the Roads Committee of the Council came up for confirmation:-

minutes of meeting, 9th July 1908.

Present:- Messrs J. S. Hearn (Presiding), M. A. Ennis, and John Bolger.

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

Apologies for non-attendance were read from Messrs Keacocke, and Asple.

The following recommendations were agreed to:-

"That the County Surveyor immediately after the half-yearly meetings of the Rural District Councils, and before the meeting of County Council held to confirm tenders accepted at Rural District Council meetings furnish to the Secretary of the Council, a list of contractors (if any) to which he has objected before the Rural District meetings as inefficient contractors, and who, in spite of his objections have been accepted as contractors by the District Councils."

"That the Roads Committee carry out a certain number of check measurements on roads during the measurement period."

"That Road Contractors having any complaint with regard to measurement, or otherwise, and in connection with which they have failed to obtain satisfaction from the County Surveyor, should lay their complaints before the roads committee not later than 20th October."

"That the Assistant Surveyors satisfy themselves that Road metalling which is then being placed in depots is obtained from the specified quarries, and that they report to the County Surveyor any case in which this rule is not observed by the contractor."

In connection with the report of Sir Thomas Comonde and Mr. John Sinnott, as to obtaining a quarry on Mr. Doyle's land at Ballyfarrell, it was decided that the Secretary be instructed to ascertain who is the landlord

of the holding, and if he is prepared to sell his interest to the County Council, at what price."

The following letter was read from Sir Thomas Comondie, relative to proposed acquirement of quarry at Ballythomas:-

"With regard to the Wicklow Gap Quarry, it will be necessary to select another site, as the one proposed would interfere with the intended extension of the school premises there. I do not think however that there will be any difficulty in obtaining a quarry in the neighbourhood. Mr. Fanning is making further inquiry into the matter, and when I return from London, we will see further into the matter."

"It was decided to postpone the matter to next meeting of the Roads Committee."

The following report was read from the Committee which inspected Ballingly quarry:-

Ballingly Quarry.

Inspected by Messrs Ennis, Peacocke, and Gregory Walsh, on 2nd July 1908, in company with Mr. Webster County Surveyor.

There are about 1½ acres of a quarry containing suitable material on the land of Mr. Patrick Hanlon, but in order to work the quarry it would be requisite to obtain a right of way over the land of Mr. James Byrne.

The Committee were not successful in seeing Mr. Hanlon on the occasion of their visit as he was absent at Saghmon fair.

On the 4th July Mr. Peacocke and Mr. Ennis while attending the meeting of the Finance Committee had an interview with Mr. Hanlon.

The latter said he would be prepared to sell the two acres of the quarry for £200. It was worth a lot to him because he had only a small farm, and he turned his cattle out on to the rock in the winter time.

Mr. Peacocke and Mr. Ennis pointed out that the price was prohibitive and they could not recommend the County Council to purchase on these terms. It would be necessary for them to settle with Mr. Byrne

for the right of way and properly fence his land there. If Mr. Hanlon reduced his offer he could communicate with the Secretary to the Council, but in view of the price at which the Council had acquired other quarries, Messrs Peacocke and Ennis could not see their way to recommend Mr. Hanlon's offer to the Council.

This report was accepted by the Roads Committee. In connection with this quarry the following letter was read from Mr. James Byrne, Ballingly, under date 8th July 1908.

"With reference to the right of way over my land at Ballingly, to the quarry on Hanlon's land. I beg to say I would expect £10 a year for same, if taken by the County Council.

The working of the quarry on Hanlon's land would be a great loss of time to me, as I would have to leave off work in my lands if any blasting was going on in the quarry. The County Council would have to pay me for any loss caused me by the quarrying in addition."

The following order was made on the letter:-
"The offer of Mr. Byrne received since the report of the Committee was prepared, would in itself even if the price asked for the quarry were reasonable - render it impossible for the Committee to recommend this proposal to the Council."

Rockspring Quarry.

Under date 8th July 1908, the following letter to the County Surveyor, from Mr. Alfred Haighton, Rockspring, Terns, who has opened a quarry on his lands, was read:-

"The Stone-breaker has arrived. We are fetching it from station to-day. The price for broken stones here would be 2/6 per cubic yard, and 2/- for the screenings. This I think would be fair. I have had several applications, and the parties are satisfied. If you lay this before the Co. Council to-morrow, if you think it necessary. We have a lot of stones out, and they are getting harder. When the breaker is in position, I'll have 14 men working

and expect to meet all the demands of the County Council."

"In reply to the Committee the Co. Surveyor stated he considered the prices fixed by Mr. Haughton reasonable, and the Roads Committee were of the same opinion."

— Obstacles at Road Corners. —

Mr. Bolger announced his intention of moving at next meeting of the County Council that steps be taken to have cut down hedges which obscure the view of drivers of motor cars and horse vehicles at road corners, owing to the number of accidents which are caused by allowing them to remain in their present condition.

"On the motion of the Chairman, the Recommendations made by the Roads Committee were approved."

The County Surveyor explained in connection with Ballyfarrell Quarry that he had called to the agents of the property on which Ballyfarrell quarry is situate and asked them to name a price at which they would be willing to sell the landlord's interest.

They gave him to understand that they could not approve of the proposal of Mr. Doyle, the tenant, that he would continue to pay the rent of the plot and that the landlord would waive his rights to compensation. The stones at this particular quarry were poor but at the time the quarry was chosen they were not aware that any better material could be obtained in the district. However, Mr. Paddle, Assistant Surveyor, who had gone to a great deal of trouble in the matter, had discovered a very good quarry at Slievebawn which was within a mile of the quarry at Ballyfarrell."

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

"That the question of acquiring a quarry at Slievebawn be referred to Sir Thomas Esmonde and Mr. Fanning. That the County Surveyor be requested to forward to these gentlemen the samples of stones obtained from this quarry, and that they be asked to

report to the Roads' Committee as to the extent and price which they consider should be offered for this quarry.

That the question of Ballyfarrell quarry be postponed to the next meeting of the Roads' Committee.

M^r. Webster brought to the notice of the meeting a quarry at Ballybrannan, Bree, from which very good material could be obtained.

Referred to Roads' Committee.

On the motion of M^r. Ennis, seconded by M^r. Kehoe, the following resolution was adopted:-

"That the County Surveyor request M^r. John Kehoe, Assistant Surveyor, to furnish the Roads' Committee with particulars of the quarry at Upton, Taghmon, and of any other quarries in that locality from which he considers suitable road metalling can be obtained."

Report of Election Committee.

We have carefully examined the accounts submitted to us by the Returning Officer in connection with the Local Government Elections 1908. The total of the claims placed before us amounting to £684:5:8 which may be divided into two classes:-

1.- Those items of expenditure coming within the terms of the Scale of Expenses at Elections of County and Rural District Councillors, adopted by the Council at its meeting on the 7th May 1901. With regard to such items, your Committee's duties appear to be limited to vouch the expenditure as correct within the limits set forth in the Scale referred to.

2.- Items not dealt with by this Scale with regard to which your Committee are called upon to exercise their judgment as to (a) whether the charges are in accordance with previous agreement or contract made by the Returning Officer, and, (b), whether the charges are fair and reasonable.

The claims made with regard to accounts regulated by the scale of Expenses amounted to £411:16:7.

From these we have made some trifling deductions for overcharges amounting to £5:9:7 and have

certified for bills amounting to £406 : 7 : 0.

The items of charge falling outside the scale of expenses consist chiefly of -

Legal Expenses

Posting the various notices in connection with the elections.

Printing.

The amounts claimed in respect of legal expenses and the posting of notices appear to be in respect of contracts made by the Returning Officer previous to the elections, and further, are not in excess of the average amount paid for similar services at previous elections. We therefore do not feel justified in making any deduction from these claims, although possibly under a revised system, economies may be effected at future elections.

With regard to the accounts submitted to us in respect of printing, seeing that the amounts claimed exceed by over 50% the amounts paid in respect of the elections of 1902 and 1905, we have felt it incumbent upon us to check each item carefully, and after allowing what, in our judgment, are not only fair and reasonable, but liberal prices for the various classes of work done, we have found ourselves unable to certify for more than £117 : 12 : 0 as against £165 : 11 : 1 claimed, and as compared with £102 : 1 : 4 paid in 1905. We cannot recommend payment of any larger amount than the above-named £117 : 12 : 0, and in the event of refusal to accept the amounts for which we have certified, we recommend the solicitor to the Co. Council to be consulted as to the proper course to be pursued.

The total amount claimed in respect of election expenses for 1908 is £684 : 5 : 8 and the amounts we have certified for total £627 : 14 : 0 as compared with £631 : 5 : 7 the total cost of the elections for 1905, showing an apparent decrease of £3 : 11 : 7, but included in the elections for 1905 was a special payment of £100 : 10 : 0 which does not occur on the present occasion, and therefore, the cost of the elections shows a tendency to

rise considerably even when we take into consideration that the contests on the present occasion necessitated the establishment of 47 polling stations as against 25 polling stations for 1905.

We believe that a considerable economy might be effected with regard to future elections by a revision of the scale of expenses adopted by the Council and above referred to, which in several cases appear to duplicate charges for the same services, and by the adoption of further regulations with regard to legal expenses, cost of printing and posting notices.

M. A. Ennis

John J. Kehoe

James J. Stafford

Proposed by Mr. Hearn, seconded by Mr. Kinnella and adopted:—"That the report of the Election Committee be adopted and that the Returning Officer be paid a sum of £627: 14: 0, in discharge of his account."

"That a Committee be appointed to take into consideration the question of the revision of the scale of expenses at Elections."

"On the motion of Mr. Cummins, seconded by Mr. Doyle, the following Committee were appointed:—Messrs J. J. Stafford, John J. Kehoe, M. A. Ennis, John S. Hearn, J. Bolger, P. J. Fanning, and A. Kinnella."

— Recommendations of Finance Committee. —

On the motion of Mr. Ennis, seconded by Mr. Keacocke the following recommendations of the Finance Committee were confirmed:—

"That Mr. Webster be instructed to order from Messrs Basster, Leeds, for delivery at Gorey Railway Station one two-ton lot of jaws for Tara Hill Quarry."

"That Inspectors appointed by the Co. Council of Wexford under Food & Drugs Act, 1875 to 1907, be specially empowered to enter any factories registered under Butter and Margarine Act 1907, for the purposes of inspection and drawing samples, and of generally performing any powers set out in section 2(2) of the said Act."

"That the attention of the Rate Collectors reported

to this meeting by the Secretary be called to the very unsatisfactory manner in which they are discharging their duties. These collectors have apparently taken no serious steps to begin the work of collection. Unless the Finance Committee receive a much more favourable report at their next meeting, they must call the attention of the County Council and the Local Government Board to the negligence which the collectors in question are displaying in carrying out their duties."

"That we accept the proposal of the International Assurance Company for insurance under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1907, at a premium of £10:10:9 per annum."

"That Mr. Webster be empowered to procure a new screen for Tara Hill Quarry Stonebreaker at a cost not exceeding £3:10/-"

"That the third instalment of the demand of the Public Bodies of the County, amounting to £14,827:17:1 be recommended for payment."

"That payments for ordinary County-at-Large charges and amounting to £1679:18:8 be recommended for payment."

"That the question of payment of Election expenses £627:14:0 be referred to the County Council."

Erection of memorial

The following letter, under date 30th June 1908, was read from Mr. Andrew McCann, Newbridge, Camolin:

"I am directed by the friends and comrades of the late Andrew Barton, the victim of the late Ballinclare motor car tragedy, to ask permission of your Co. Council to allow them to erect a small granite cross in the ditch opposite the spot where he was killed. I am sure your Council will kindly grant us that request as we understand someone has been trying to get the road contractor to prevent its being put there."

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

That the request of Mr. Andrew McCann for permission to erect a memorial to the late Andrew Barton be granted,

memorial to be erected subject to the approval of the County Surveyor."

— Vacancies on Committees —

A letter was read from Mr. R. Brighton, Clerk, Gorey Rural District Council, stating that his Council submitted the name of Mr. Myles M. O'Donoghue, Rahenlusk, Kilmuckridge, as a member of the County Wexford Committee of Agriculture and Technical Instruction vice Mr. Luke Smyth resigned.

On the motion of Mr. Ennis, seconded by Mr. Kinsella the name of Mr. O'Donoghue was added to the County Committee of Agriculture and Technical Instruction.

The following was read from Rev P. Murphy M. S. S. Enniscorthy:-

"Whilst thanking the members of the Co. Council for their kindness in nominating me a member of the Enniscorthy Asylum Board, I beg to state that being the official chaplain I am not in a position to accept nomination of the Board. Kindly inform the Co. Council of this and oblige."

"On the motion of Mr. Browne, seconded by Mr. Cummins, the name of the Rev R. Fitzhenry, Adm., Enniscorthy, was added to the Asylum Committee, vice Rev P. Murphy M. S. S. resigned."

— Sale of Farm Produce —

The following resolution from the North Wexford Farmers' Society was laid before the meeting:-

"That we, the members of the North Wexford Farmers' Society, recognising that the existing arrangements for the marketing of all Farm Produce are inadequate and old-fashioned, call upon the Co. Council to appoint a committee to inquire into the subject and suggest suitable reforms."

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

"That a committee of the County Council be appointed to confer with a committee from the North Wexford Farmers' Society on the subject of marketing farm produce, meetings to be held in County Council Chamber, Wexford."

The following committee were appointed :-
 Sir Thomas Esmonde, Messrs Asple, Fanning,
 Peacocke, John Bolger, J. J. Stafford, O'Neill and
 Hearn.

— A. Road Contractor's Surety. —

Under date 27th July 1908, the following letter was read from Mr. Andrew Kinsella, Millquarter, Braanford :-

"Relative to previous correspondence with you about getting relieved of my bails, and in reply to your queries, I beg to state that I am bail for roads nos 113 and 121.

Mr. Laurence Kinsella, Blonamona, Braanford, Farmer, is willing to accept my responsibility as bail in both contracts.

Please put the matter before the next meeting of Co. Council. I daresay you remember why I wish to be relieved - I have been elected D. C. for Monaseed Division."

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

"That Mr. Andrew Kinsella, Millquarter, be released from his suretyship for contracts no 113 and 121 Gorey Rural District (John Rourke, Contractor), and that Mr. Laurence Kinsella, Blonamona, Braanford, be accepted as surety in these cases vice Mr. Andrew Kinsella."

— Patent and Designs Act 1907. —

The following resolution from the Gorey Rural District Council was laid before the meeting:-

"That the members of the Gorey District Council warmly approve of the efforts being made to take advantage of the provisions of the Patent and Designs (Amendment) Act, 1907, and are willing to co-operate with the other Public Bodies in Wexford to take steps to introduce industries into the county. Further, the urgency of the case is such that immediate action is imperative. That Sir J. H. Grattan Esmonde, M. P., be appointed to travel to the Continent to urge the claims of Wexford in this matter."

Mr. Fanning moved the adoption of the resolution but subsequently withdrew on the following amendment being proposed by Mr. Ennis, seconded by Mr. Browne and passed: - "That this Council is prepared to lend its support to any practical scheme for the establishment of industries within the area of its administration, and that a committee be appointed to make enquiries and report to the Council as to what steps might with advantage be taken to induce foreign manufacturers, in view of the provisions of the Patent and Designs Amendment Act, 1907, to establish branches of their firms in the County Wexford."

The Committee to consist of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Messrs John Bolger, James J. Stafford, and John S. Hearn.

On the motion of the Chairman the following names were added to the Committee: - Messrs. Ennis, Peacocke, Fanning, J. Bolger, P. O'Neill, Kinsella, Mark Codd, and James Codd."

— The Irish Language —

The Secretary of the Society for the Preservation of the Irish Language forwarded, to be laid before the County Council, a number of resolutions declaring that it was essential that Irish should be placed in the proposed universities on the same footing as English, and setting out a series of demands which they held should be included in the curricula "No Order" as University Bill has now become law.

— The National Council. —

Under date 30th June 1908, the Secretary of the National Council forwarded a long memorandum dealing with a proposed "National Civil Service Scheme".

The following resolution, proposed by Mr. Peacocke seconded by Mr. Kinsella, was adopted: - "That the consideration of this matter be postponed."

— The New University —

A statement was received from the National Council criticising the provisions of the proposed new university

to be established in Dublin.

marked "Read" as University Bill has passed into law.

Fowl markets.

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

"That this Council, acting by the powers vested in it, hereby enact a bye-law prohibiting the holding of fowl markets in the County Wexford at an earlier hour than 5 o'clock a.m. during the half-year from April 1st to October 1st and than 7 o'clock a.m. during the half-year from October 1st to April 1st. That this bye-law be in force from October 1st 1908."

Mr. Cummins seconded.

Mr. Kinsella proposed and Mr. Fortune seconded:-

"That fowl markets commence not earlier in summer than 6 a.m. and in winter not earlier than 8 a.m."

This amendment was subsequently withdrawn and Mr. Browne's resolution was passed *unanimously*.

Compulsory Sheep Dipping

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

"That with regard to the compulsory sheep dipping Order the police be directed not to prosecute any person who holds a certificate (Form D) from the Inspector, certifying that the holder's sheep have been dipped within the prescribed period."

In connection with the subject of sheep dipping, the following circular letter, No. 2517-08, under date 28th July 1908, from the Department was read:-

The Department desire to call attention to the following extract from their circular, No. 1118-07, V.B., which was issued to the several local authorities under the Diseases of Animals Acts in Ireland on the occasion of the promulgation of the Sheep Dipping (Ireland) Order of 1907:-

"The enforcement by the Local Authorities of this general order will render it unnecessary for them to put in operation Regulations on their ^{own} behalf in regard

to a Summer dipping, but it is hoped that many Local authorities will consider it advantageous to supplement the requirements of the Order by prescribing for their own districts an additional or later dipping."

Several Local authorities have since given effect, in their respective administrative areas, to the suggestion thus conveyed. No similar action appears so far to have been taken by your Local Authority, and it is thought well now to bring the matter under notice so that the Local Authority may consider anew the question of prescribing a second dipping for sheep in the County, under the powers vested in the Council by the Sheep Scab (Local Regulations) (Ireland) Order of 1905, a further copy of which is enclosed.

The Department at the same time desire to state that a recommendation has been received from one Local Authority to the effect that the Department should extend the provisions of the Sheep Dipping (Ireland) Order of 1907 so as to make it compulsory to dip all sheep throughout Ireland twice annually, the second dipping to take place in the period commencing 1st October and ending 31st November in each year. Owing, however, to possible variations in local conditions as regards the autumn and winter keeping of sheep, it may perhaps be deemed preferable that the second dipping should be provided for by regulations settled by the Local authorities themselves, according to the circumstances of each area, rather than by uniform requirements applicable to the entire country. The Department will be glad of an expression of the views of your Local Authority on this question."

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

"That the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction be informed that, in the opinion of this Council, it is not necessary to have a second compulsory sheep dipping period in the year."

— Duncannon Pier and Quay. —

Under date 27th July 1908, the following letter re Duncannon Pier and Quay was read from the Inspector of Factories:- "I visited this pier on the 17th and 18th

instant, and found that the conditions of the Secretary of State's exemption from Part I of the Dock Regulations had not been completely carried out.

Some of the chains of the old pier have been broken or removed and these should be replaced.

There are also no means of escape at the unfenced portion of the pontoon. It appears that chains were suggested for this, but I can see that they would be impracticable. Handgrips driven into the woodwork of the pontoon, would, however, in my opinion, afford sufficient means of escape, and Mr. Breen is aware of what is needed in this way.

As the exemption expires on August 27th next, I should be glad if you would kindly give early attention to these matters, and let me know as soon as possible that the chains have been replaced and the handgrips provided."

The following reply from the County Surveyor under date 28th July 1908. had been forwarded to the Inspector of Factories:-

"Yours to hand of the 28th instant, enclosing letter from H. M. Inspector of Factories re Duncannon Pier.

I am sending directions to Mr. Breen to put the handgrips on the pontoon. As regards the chains on the old pier, these were only temporary chains as some of the strong galvanised chains on the quay are to be removed to the old pier as soon as the handrail has been erected on the quay.

However, I am sending Breen directions to carry out the wishes of the Inspector in this respect also."

"On the motion of the Chairman, the matter was referred to the County Surveyor."

— Local Government Bill 1908. —

Mr. Henry Dixon, Hon Secretary, Public Library, Lower Kevin Street, Dublin, forwarded a statement criticising the provisions of the Local Government Bill, 1908, so far as same dealt with the raising for public libraries." marked "Read."

— Guarantee for Farm Seeds. —

The following resolution of the Louth County Council

relative to the sale of seeds was laid before the Co. Council
 "That the Louth County Council hereby request His Majesty's Government to introduce legislation to compel vendors of seeds to give with all seeds sold by them a guarantee of purity and germination. This guarantee not to ensure the due growth of the seeds as this will depend on climatic and soil conditions, but that this guarantee will stand the testing of any botanical expert.

That copies of this resolution be sent to the Prime Minister; the Chief Secretary for Ireland; the Vice-President of Agriculture, the members of Parliament for County, and all the Irish County Councils."

"On the motion of Mr. Peacocke, seconded by Mr. G. Walsh, the resolution was adopted."

— Acknowledgments of Resolutions. —

Under date 29th June 1908, the following letter was read from Mr. John E. Redmond:-

"I have to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 25th June, enclosing me copy of resolution adopted at the meeting of the County Council held on the 24th instant, by which your Council pledges their wholehearted support to the Irish Parliamentary Party in their efforts to secure legislature independence for Ireland, and expresses unabated confidence in the leadership and conduct of that Party. I need hardly say that it is a great gratification for the Irish Party to receive a resolution of this kind, showing, as it does, that the County of Wexford still continues to hold, as it has always done in the past, a foremost place amongst the supporters of the Parliamentary Party. I would ask you to convey to your Council, on behalf of the Irish Party, my appreciation of their action in this matter."

"Under date 28th June 1908, the following letter was read from Mr. Peter French:-

Please convey my best thanks to the Wexford Co. Council for their vote of confidence in my leader, Mr. John Redmond, and the Irish Parliamentary Party."

Anti-Tuberculosis Campaign

Under date 31st July 1908, a circular letter was received from Her Excellency, the Countess of Aberdeen, asking the County Council to appoint two delegates to attend a conference of the Consultative Committee in Dublin on Thursday, 11th August, in connection with the anti-Tuberculosis Campaign.

"On the motion of Mr. Cummins, seconded by Mr. Ennis, Messrs Peacocke, and J. Bolger were appointed delegates to the conference."

Ballyhack Harbour

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

"That we desire to point out to H. M. Inspector of Factories that, for the protection of the public, two additional lights are required at Ballyhack Harbour, one on the old slip, and the second on the point of the quay, and that in compliance with the wishes of the people of the locality, we request the Inspector of Factories to direct the Waterford Harbour Commissioners to have these lights erected."

Analyst's Report

Under date 31st July 1908, the following report from Sir C. Cameron, County Analyst, was read:-

"Report of Sir Charles Cameron, B. Sc., M. D., Public Analyst, for the County Wexford on articles submitted to him for analysis during the quarter ended 30th June 1908.

Eighteen articles were received from the Food Inspectors, R. I. C. as follows:-

<u>Article</u>	<u>Number</u>
Butter	10.
Whiskey	6.
Milk	1
Rum	1
Total	<u>18.</u>

They were pure.

For the Guardians of Gorey Union fifteen drugs, twelve specimens of wine, eight of whiskey, and two waters were

analysed. Two of the drugs were incorrect. The specimens of wine and whiskey were examined to determine which was best for use in the workhouse. The specimens of water had the following composition
One imperial gallon contained in grains.

	<u>No. 1.</u>	<u>No. 2.</u>
Total solid matters	17.780	21.980
including		
albuminoid ammonia	0.024	0.011
saline ammonia	0.007	0.001
nitric acid	Trace	Trace
chlorine	2.982	2.683
Sulphuric acid	2.1618	3.603
Equal to calcium Sulphate	3.0000	5.0000
No. 1. a very inferior water.	No. 2 good one.	

Two specimens of water analysed for New Ross Urban District Council had the following compositions.

One imperial gallon contained in grains...

	<u>No. 1.</u>	<u>No. 2.</u>
Total solid matters	5.180	3.640
including		
albuminoid ammonia	0.010	0.010
saline ammonia	0.0025	0.005
nitric acid	Trace	Trace
chlorine	1.192	1.093
Sulphuric acid	2.7206	none
Equal to calcium Sulphate	1.0000	none
Fairly good waters.		

For the Guardians of Enniscorthy Union fifteen drugs and four specimens of tea were analysed. Four of the drugs were incorrect. The teas were of good quality.

One specimen of water analysed for Enniscorthy Asylum had the following composition.

One imperial gallon contained in grains.

Total solid matters	15.680
including	
albuminoid ammonia	0.008
saline ammonia	0.010
nitric acid	1.210

Chlorine 1.789

Sulphuric acid 2.161

Equal to Calcium Sulphate 3.000

a tolerably but not decidedly good water.

One specimen of water analysed for the Pallas Co-Operative Society, Gorey, had the following composition.

One imperial gallon contained in grains.

Total solid matters 4.620

including

albuminoid ammonia 0.0065

Saline ammonia 0.002

Nitric acid Trace

Chlorine 0.994

Sulphuric acid none

Equal to Calcium Sulphate none

a good water.

Two specimens of water, analysed for J. McLannan Esq., Enniscorthy had the following compositions...

One imperial gallon contained in grains..

	No. 1.	No. 2.
Total solid matters.	4.760	8.540
including		
albuminoid ammonia	0.016	0.009
Saline ammonia	0.007	0.007
Nitric acid	0.640	0.640
Chlorine	1.491	1.491
Sulphuric acid	none	none
Equal to Calcium Sulphate	none	none

No. 1 was a slightly inferior water; No. 2. a tolerably good one.

For Shillelagh Union, which is partly situated in the County Wexford, six drugs were analysed and were correct.

Total analyses. 86.

adulterated and defective articles 6.

J. A. Cameron
Edward Hare,

Special meeting- 19th August 1908.

A special meeting of the County Council was held in the Council Chamber, Courthouse, Wexford; on Wednesday 19th August 1908.

Present :- Mr. E. Hore (Vice Chairman) presiding.
Other members :- Messrs C. H. Peacocke, M. A. Ennis, M. Brown, P. Fortune, P. O'Neill, Michael Doyle, James Codd, John Bolger, Gregory Walsh, John Cummins, J. Asple, D. Kavanagh, and John J. Kehoe.

Mr. R. W. Elger, Solicitor, the County Surveyor, and the County Secretary, were in attendance.

Vote of Condolence

On the motion of Mr. John Bolger, seconded by Mr. Ennis, a vote of condolence was passed to Mr. J. J. Stafford, County Councillor, in the loss which he has sustained by the early demise of his eldest son, Master Patrick Joseph Stafford.

Old Age Pensions Bill.

The following communications were received from the Local Government Board :-

Letter No. 43,046. 1908 miscellaneous, under date 4th August 1908.

"I am directed by the Local Government Board, for Ireland, to inform you that the Old Age Pensions Bill received the Royal Assent on Saturday last.

Regulations for carrying the act into operation are about to be made by the Treasury in conjunction with the Local Government Board and the Postmaster General, copies of which will be forwarded to you in due course.

The first step to be taken under the act is the appointment by the Council of the County, Borough, or Urban District as the case may be, of the Local Pension Committee with whom, in conjunction with the Pension Officers, the consideration of claims for pensions will rest.

As there will be a great amount of preliminary work to be done by the Local Pension Committee in making arrangements for dealing with all the applications for

pensions from persons who are over 70 years of age, and who are otherwise qualified, it is of the utmost importance that the local Pension Committees should be appointed in due time and their duties taken in hand at the earliest possible date.

The Regulations will provide that the meetings of the Councils for the appointment of local Pension Committees shall be held before the end of August 1908, and the Board, accordingly, deem it advisable without waiting for circulation of copies of the act and Regulations, that you should at once communicate with the chairman of your Council as to the most convenient day in the present month for holding such meeting, and issue the notices accordingly.

I am further to request that you will intimate to the Board the date fixed for the holding of the meeting, in order to enable the Board to issue full instructions beforehand for the guidance of the Council and of the local Pension Committee.

The act requires that for every Borough and Urban District having a population of 10,000 or over, the Pension Committee shall be appointed by the Council of such Borough or Urban District, and that for every County (excluding the area of any such Borough or Urban District) the appointment of the Committee shall be made by the Co. Council.

Under date 8th August '08, No. 43,046: 1908. Miscellaneous: "Adverting to their Circular Letter of the 4th instant, on the subject of the Old Age Pensions Act 1908, I am directed by the Local Government Board for Ireland, to state that, in view of the limited time which will be available for the consideration of the claims for pensions accruing in January next, the Board deem it advisable, without waiting for the publication of the Regulations of the Treasury, to issue, herewith, copies of an explanatory memorandum as to the steps to be taken by each Council and Pension Committee in Ireland in order to bring the provisions of the act into operation.

As some Councils are holding their ordinary meetings

next week, the Board have prepared this memorandum without delay from an advanced proof of the Regulations and they have no doubt that the instructions contained therein will be of immediate use in the event of any questions being raised in reference to the procedure at the meetings to be held for the purpose of appointing the Pension Committee.

The Act and the Regulations will be forwarded as soon as possible, and I am to request that in the meantime you will be good enough to forward a copy of the memorandum to each member of your Council."

On the motion of Mr. Ennis, seconded by Mr. Browne the following resolution was adopted:—"That the Council of Wexford be the Pension Committee for the County of Wexford excluding the area of Wexford Urban District."

A long discussion took place as to the date and place of first meeting of the Pension Committee.

Mr. Browne proposed and Mr. Bolger seconded the following:—"That the meeting of the Pension Committee be held in Enniscorthy Courthouse at 2 p.m. on 1st September."

Mr. Kehoe proposed and Mr. Walsh seconded the following:—"That the County Council as a Pension Committee, meet in the County Council Chamber, Courthouse, Wexford; on 29th August at 10 o'clock a.m."

A vote was taken with the following result:—
For the amendment:— Messrs James Bodd, Ennis, Peacocke, J. J. Kehoe, Walsh, Fortune, Cummins, and the Chairman... 8.

Against:— Messrs Bolger, O'Neill, Browne, Asple, Doyle, and Kavanagh... 6.

The Chairman declared the amendment carried.

— Suspension of Standing Orders. —

Mr. Peacocke proposed:—"That the Standing Orders be suspended in order that the County Council may discuss an important and urgent matter in connection with the Deep's Bridge."

Mr. Ennis seconded the motion which was adopted.

Deeps Bridge.

The Secretary read the following report:-

"On August 13th at 12.30 a.m. the following telegram in reference to the Deeps Bridge was received at the offices of the County Council:-

"Draw-arch Killurin bridge broken in a dangerous state." Sergeant Maher, Cornwall.

Immediately on receipt of this telegram the following wire was sent Mr. Webster:-

"H. Webster, Bron Eifion, Barmouth, North Wales, Sergeant Maher, Cornwall, wires, draw-arch Killurin bridge broken in a dangerous state. Trizell."

On the 14th August, the following under date 13th August, was read from Mr. Webster:-

"Thanks for your wire about Deeps bridge. I got word this morning by letter about it, and wrote at once to Michael Ryan, Senr., who does the work, and now on receipt of your wire I have wired him."

"On 14th August, the following letter was received from Mr. M. J. O'Connor, Solicitor, acting on behalf of Colonel Walker, J. P., The Deeps:-

Colonel Walker, of The Deeps, instructs us that yesterday morning about 10.30 he sent his man from his place at The Deeps to Killurin with horse and croydon. The man trotted the horse up the Deeps side of the bridge draw-arch. Then when he reached the top he allowed the horse to walk down the Killurin side of the arch. When the horse came to the sixth or seventh plank the bridge which was rotten at that part gave way and the two hind quarters of the horse went right through. The man was thrown forward in the car, and the horse fell on his fore-knees also. Only the horse was very quiet, and the man was very fortunate, both man and horse would have been killed.

Fortunately, the man escaped, and the car and harness also escaped, but the horse, which is a valuable harness one, - aged 7 years - and worth about £100 - is very seriously hurt, so seriously in fact, that he may be useless. One of his fore-knees is broken, the two fore legs are cut, and both hind legs are also damaged, especially the off hind leg. Colonel Walker has

had Mr. Malone, V.S., to examine the horse, and of course, if you are so advised you may have the animal inspected also on behalf of the County Council.

Our client has shown us a portion of the wood from the plank, next to the planks of the Bridge which were the cause of the accident and it is absolutely rotten.

Colonel Walker has asked us to request that you be good enough to submit this letter to the County Council and see if they will kindly pay him for the loss of his horse, otherwise, he has no option but to take an action against the Council. It is a very serious matter not only for Colonel Walker but also for the public that the bridge should be left in such a dangerous and wretched condition.

We are informed that the bridge has been repaired since yesterday. We shall thank you to see that your contractor keeps the pieces of the old planks that were the cause of the accident. We understand the contractor told a man named Carley to take the old wood away.

We shall thank you to wire to the Co. Surveyor communicating this accident to him.

When this letter was received the following wire was sent Mr. Webster:- "Valuable horse Colonel Walker injured Deeps Bridge yesterday. Colonel Walker proceeding against County Council."

There was a meeting of the Finance Committee on the 14th and as a result of the report of the matter, it was agreed that Mr. Peacocke, and Mr. John J. Kehoe, County Councillors should inspect the Deeps Bridge that evening. As Mr. Brennan, Assistant Surveyor, was on holidays it was decided that Mr. Kehoe, Assistant Surveyor, be asked to attend at the inspection. Accordingly on the evening of the 14th inst., Mr. C. H. Peacocke, and Mr. John J. Kehoe inspected the bridge. They were accompanied by Mr. R. W. Elgee, Solicitor to the Council, the Secretary to the Co. Council, and Mr. John Kehoe, Assistant Surveyor.

They found that six new planks had been put into the draw-arch, and several of the residents of

the locality stated that three of these had been put in on the 13th and the other three on the 14th.

Laurence Butler, coachman to Colonel Walker stated that on the 13th instant, at half past ten o'clock a.m., he was crossing the bridge from the Deeps side to Killurin. He had noticed for about a week previous that holes in the planks close to each end of the draw arch had been stopped with stones. He was driving a horse and trap the property of Colonel Walker. He trotted to the crown of the draw arch, and then the horse proceeded to walk. The stones at the Killurin side were as well as he could remember in the third plank from the edge. The horse did not shie at the stones in the holes, but walked in its accustomed manner.

Halfway between the crown of the draw arch and the Killurin end the horse's legs went down through a plank making a hole of about two feet. He sank practically as far as the stifle. He was thrown out of the trap, but fortunately was not hurt. The horse was injured in the manner described by Mr. O'Connor in his letter to the County Council. The horse did not sink through the planks which were stopped by stones.

Sergeant Maher, Cornwall, said he had stopped holes in the draw arch of the bridge whenever he saw them and then sent word to the contractor. On Sunday 9th inst., when Capt Walker was going to Divine Service, he called to Sergeant Maher and informed him that there was a defect in the bridge. He (Capt Walker) asked Sergeant Maher if he would send word to the contractor. He said he knew it was not the duty of the Sergeant to do so, but asked him to do so for the safety of the public.

Captain Walker said he would be obliged to Sergeant Maher if he would tell the contractor the condition in which the bridge then was. He (Sergeant Maher) sent word to Mr. Ryan by three different parties, and when he found on Wednesday that Mr. Ryan did not turn up, he sent a constable to

inform him that the bridge was in a dangerous state. The constable did not see Mr. Ryan, and was informed by Mr. Ryan that the latter was from home, but that he would be at the bridge on Thursday morning. About half past ten o'clock a.m., on Thursday 13th inst., Laurence Butler was driving with a horse and trap across the bridge when the horse went through the bridge. He (Sergeant Maher) did not consider the bridge previous to this dangerous, but for the purpose of showing parties that there was a certain amount of danger he got one of his men to put a couple of stones in the holes at each side of the bridge as he had frequently done himself on previous occasions.

It was three o'clock on the 13th when Mr. Ryan sent a man to carry out the repairs.

Having examined and secured some of the old wood taken from the draw-arch, Messrs Peacocke, and Kehoe, sent the following message to Mr. Michael Ryan Senior:-

"We have inspected this evening with Mr. R. W. Edge, Solicitor; Mr. John Kehoe, Assistant Surveyor; and the Secretary to the County Council the draw-arch of the Deeps bridge, and find that notwithstanding your telegram to the Secretary of the County Council, that you had completed the repairs to same, there are still several planks in a very dangerous condition - two in particular in an absolutely rotten state.

We hereby order you to have these planks replaced without the least delay in order to protect the public. The defective planks should be replaced to-morrow at latest."

B. H. Peacocke
John J. Kehoe

14th August 1908

On the 15th August the following wire was sent Sergeant Maher, Killybeg:- "Wire me this evening if Ryan has replaced two bad planks in bridge."

At 7.30 the following reply was received:-
"Nothing done at Bridge since."

Sergeant Maher

Under date 17th August 1908, the following letter was received from Messrs M. J. O'Connor & Co., Solicitors:-

"Colonel Walker has had the horse examined by Mr. Malone V. S., and to-day informs us that the fore-knees are broken. Our client had to come to town this morning to hire a horse for his harvest work as the injured animal is at present absolutely worthless and remains under Mr. Malone's treatment."

The following letter from Colonel Walker to Mr. M. J. O'Connor, under date 18th August 1908, was also read:-

"I went down this morning to see if any repairs have been done to the draw-arch of the Deeps Bridge, since Friday or Saturday 14th and 15th August. As far as I can see nothing has been done up to 11.15 a.m. Tuesday 18th

The centre traffic now is most dangerous and a bad accident may happen at any moment. I send you specimens of some of the planks. You ^{may} make any use of these and of this my letter in any way you like."

In his letter Colonel Walker, enclosed a diagram from which it appeared that in his opinion three planks in the centre of the bridge were rotten.

Mr. Webster in reply to the Chairman said that this matter had given him a tremendous lot of worry, and nobody regretted it more than he did. The last time he went over this bridge was the 6th July when he got off his bicycle and sounded every plank, when they seemed perfectly sound. He got permission from the Council to take his holidays and was away at Barmouth when this matter turned up. Before he went Mr. Brennan, Assistant Surveyor, asked me if he might go away for a fortnight, and that he was only going to Lurgarvan. He (Mr. Webster) said to Mr. Brennan - "You must be in such a position as that I can have my letters forwarded you, if there is anything to be done," and Mr. Brennan said his letters would be forwarded all right. He (Mr. Webster) was in constant communication with the three other assistants. All his letters had been forwarded, and tho' on his holidays he worked the same as in his office.

He had kept copies of all his business letters, and had them all filed. He had brought them home with him, so that tho' he was away, he still carried on his business (further than not been present to carry on the correspondence) as if I were at home. The first intimation he got of the business was the wire from Mr. Frizelle. Prior to this Capt. Walker wrote to him saying that there were a couple of holes in the bridge. The unfortunate thing was that Sergeant Maher did not send word to his office instead of to Ryan. If the Sergeant had done this, the matter would have been attended to. The minute he got word of it he sent first of all a letter to Mr. Ryan in the early morning of the 14th. An hour or two after he got a wire from Mr. Frizelle to say he had received a wire from the Sergeant to say that there was a hole in the bridge. Immediately he got this he wired to Ryan, but the unfortunate thing was, that it had come to his knowledge to-day, that this man Ryan, is not in residence at Coolnaboy Oylegate, at all. He had gone to some distant place called Dranagh. He (Mr. Webster) never knew a word about this previously because ^{when} he had written Mr. Ryan to Coolnaboy, he always answered from that place. He sent a wire to Ryan, and also told him to examine the Bridge, and remove every doubtful plank. He sent word to Mr. Brennan about the whole business and told him to go and report on the matter. He sent a prepaid wire to Ryan when he got word about the accident, to know had he repaired the bridge, and he received a reply "Repair done to-day". It was after that he (County Surveyor) had written to Mr. Brennan and told him what he had done, and that he had better see the bridge and report on the matter. Then he (Mr. Webster) got word that there was a County Council meeting to be held to-day, and that this matter would crop up. He thought the fairest thing to the Council was to return from his holidays, and he travelled all last night to be here this morning. On his way he got out at Macmine Junction, cycled over to Killurink bridge and examined it carefully and he might say he found a man who he wished had

got the job at the bridge before Ryan to carry out the work. It would have been much wiser to have got this man to take up this bridge, because he lives on the spot. He (Mr. Webster) had now taken the work entirely out of the hands of Mr. Ryan, Senior. He (Mr. Webster) had had Mr. Ryan repair parts of that bridge that nobody would ever kick up a row about because they would not know about them.

Chairman:- I don't think this Council know anything about Mr. Ryan or that they were to be responsible for him in any way.

Mr. Kehoe:- The reason the Sergeant sent word to Ryan was because he believed Ryan was the contractor. If the Sergeant had known that it was in the County Surveyor's hands he would have wired in immediately.

County Surveyor:- I am only explaining that Mr. Ryan has not behaved properly in refusing to meet the County Councillors when he was wired to, I wanted to explain to you that I have brought him at the point of the bayonet to other repairs to that bridge. I have had to watch that most carefully. The reason Mr. Ryan has anything to do with the bridge, you may remember that his son was the contractor for this bridge. He is now Deputy Surveyor. By the wish of the County Council I took this bridge up under the 54th section, and relieved Mr. Ryan Junior of the contract, so that he might become an Assistant Surveyor, I gave it to the father then.

Mr. John Bolger:- That has nothing to say to it now. The whole thing is absurd. You stated you examined the bridge on the 6th July and found it in a sound condition.?

Mr. Webster:- Yes.

Mr. Bolger:- and on the 13th August a horse went down through a rotten plank. - why that condemns you absolutely. We should be ashamed of ourselves as a Council, who have the safety of the public in our hands to allow anything of the sort.

after some further discussion Mr. Webster in reply to Mr. Ennis, said he had examined all the planks of

the bridge that day and had Mr. Brennan with him. He had a sort of suspicion that some planks had been put in since Colonel Walker's letter was written, because he found at least four new planks and several short lengths newly put in - he thought four. He had received a wire from Ryan which had been retelegraphed from his holiday address "Eleven planks put in letters follow." No letters had yet come to hand. He had made arrangements with a man named Murphy who lives on the spot that if Ryan did not carry out instructions to renew all defective planks right away.

Mr. Ennis:- are there defective planks in it?

County Surveyor:- Yes in the very centre.

Mr. Ennis:- Dangerous to the public?

County Surveyor:- There is a plank, a horse might catch his toe in.

Mr. Cummins:- The whole fault about the state of the bridge, is Mr. Webster's.

County Surveyor:- That is right, it is on me you will have to come.

Mr. Brennan, Assistant Surveyor, said, he saw the bridge on the 9th or 10th July. He then walked over the bridge and to all appearance it was sound at the time. It had every appearance of safety. To give an instance of what happens with these timber bridges in very dry weather. On last Saturday week he was over Ferrycarrig bridge, and there was the greatest difference between its appearance now. It was safe then, but he would certainly say it was not safe to-day.

Mr. Walsh:- Do you take any means of testing the soundness of the planks?

Mr. Brennan:- I only walked over the bridge.

Mr. Ennis:- Do the Surveyors take the trouble of getting a boat and looking underneath, in examining these bridges?

County Surveyor:- Yes certainly.

Mr. Ennis:- How long is it since the Deeps bridge was inspected underneath from the draw-arch?

County Surveyor:- I could not tell you.

Mr. Ennis:- How do you test the soundness of these planks?

County Surveyor:- I would stick a penknife in.
 Mr. Ennis:- a penknife is not a sufficient instrument to test the soundness or otherwise of timber. You want a shipwright's maul with a sharp point to test timber like that.

Mr. Webster:- This continual dry weather has a most extraordinary effect on timber. In damp weather I don't think that timber would have gone at all.

Mr. Bolger:- (pointing to specimens of timber)- That is rotten for the past twelve months.

County Surveyor:- In the centre of the bridge there is a plank that should come out at once.

Mr. J. Codd:- The men who examined that bridge, and left it in that state, are not fit for the business at all.

County Surveyor:- I was so disgusted with Ferryarrig when I saw it to day, altho' it looked very well when I was going away on my holidays that I am taking it from the contractor, - Browne.

With regard to the Deeps Bridge, there are 30 planks in it. Some of them are put in, in a way I don't approve of - that is halved - for that length of bridge. I have counted, that about 20 new planks should be put in, not that they are rotten, except one in the middle, which is rotten at the edge, but on the ground that they have worn thin. I am making arrangements with a man on the spot to put in about 20 new planks, and we will pay him according to the price of the planks out of the money I have on hands, and also for the labour he will do.

After further discussion, Mr. Browne proposed, Mr. Cummins seconded and it was passed:- "That Messrs. J. Bolger, J. Asple, M. A. Ennis, and P. O'Neill, visit and inspect the Deeps and Ferryarrig bridges this evening, and report thereon to a meeting of the County Council to be held on the 29th instant. That this Committee be accompanied by Mr. Webster County Surveyor, and Mr. Brennan, Assistant Surveyor, that Mr. Webster be further instructed to put the Deeps Bridge in order."

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr. Doyle, seconded by Mr. Kavanagh:—"That the Committee be appointed to inspect Deeps and Ferry-carriage bridges, wait on Colonel Walker with a view to effecting a settlement of his case against the Co. Council for injuries sustained by his horse in crossing the Deeps bridge, and, in the event of not being able to come to satisfactory terms with Colonel Walker, that our Secretary be instructed to employ Mr. W. J. Doyle, R.S., Enniscorthy, to examine the horse and make a detailed report as to its injuries."

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

"That the further consideration of the complaints made against the officials of the County Council with regard to the condition of the Deeps bridge, be adjourned until the meeting of the County Council to be held on 29th instant."

Audit - Co. Council Accounts.

The Local Government Board (letter no. 42,807) 5th August, wrote forwarding the following copy of Report of their Auditor, on his audit of the accounts of the County Council in respect of the half-year ended 31st March 1908:-

"I have the honour to report that I have audited the accounts of the County Council of Wexford for the half-year ended March last; and, I forward, herewith, a certified abstract thereof in pursuance of your Order in that behalf made."

The accounts were prepared and submitted for audit in a most satisfactory manner, and no item of expenditure calls for any remark on my part."

marked "Read"

Close Season for Salmon Fishing.

Under date 10th August 1908, the following letter was read from D. H. G. Smith, Private Secretary, to the Vice President Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction:-

"With further reference to your letter of the 5th

instant, addressed to the Secretary, relative to the question of a Bill being introduced in the autumn session of Parliament, in connection with enquiries as to the close season for salmon fishing, I am asked by Mr. Russell to say that a Bill dealing with this matter has already been drafted by the Department.

It will, however, Mr. Russell regrets, be impossible for him to introduce in the coming session, this and several other Departmental Bills which have been drafted. During the past session three Departmental Bills introduced by him were passed through their various stages, and have become law. Owing to the great pressure upon the time of the House, he could not hope to introduce any further measures this year with any prospect of carrying them through.

The matter to which the resolution sent by you refers, will not be lost sight of however.

Mr. Russell asks me to let you know that he hopes to visit County Wexford as soon as possible after the 14th proximo, and to fulfil his promise as to seeing Camolin Woods, the Barony of Forth, Fethard, etc., he will give you due intimation when the date has been fixed."

"In connection with this matter the following resolution from the annual convention of the Land and Labour Association, was read:-

"That as the Slaney fishermen are at a great disadvantage owing to the shortness of the open season. We call on the Department of Agriculture to take immediate steps to remedy the grievance.

We respectfully request the County Council to press for an inquiry into the matter with a view of having the present intolerable state of affairs remedied."

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of the Chairman: "That Mr. J. W. Russell, M. P., be requested on the occasion of his visit to Wexford County in September to receive a deputation consisting of Messrs John Bolger, Ennis, and Keacocke, on the subject of providing a small dredger for the harbours of the

County, in order to prevent them from filling up with sand, and allowing the fishermen to pursue their calling.

That our Secretary explain to the Secretary of the Irish Land and Labour Association what steps Mr Russell intends taking in connection with inquiries into close seasons for salmon."

Election Printing

In connection with the report of the Election Expenses Committee which was adopted at last meeting and in compliance with which a sum of £38: 2: 3, was offered to the "Echo" in settlement of a bill of £51: 2: 6, and a sum of £32: 12: 0, was offered to the "Free Press" in settlement of a bill of £67: 10: 10, the following letters were read, under date 6th August:-

From the manager, "Free Press."

"With reference to yours of the 5th August, re above account, we again beg to say that our account is just and reasonable, and we cannot accept your offer of £32: 12: 0."

From the manager of the "Echo."

"I am in receipt of your favour of the 5th inst., re our account for election printing which as I before mentioned, we have gone into carefully, and consider that our charges are fair and reasonable, and we fail to see how that reduction can be made and therefore we cannot accept the amount offered by you namely £38: 2: 3, and ask you to kindly let us have cheque for our account as furnished £51: 2: 6, and thanking you in anticipation."

"The Secretary stated that the Election Committee had recommended that in the event of a refusal by the newspapers concerned to accept their offer, the Solicitor was to be consulted as to the proper course to be pursued."

"On the motion of Mr O'Neill, seconded by Mr Fortune the following resolution was adopted:- "That this matter be handed over to Mr Elger, and that he takes such steps as he considers necessary to have the recommendations of the Election Expenses Committee upheld."

Ford of Lyrng.

The Secretary stated that he had not received any reply up to the present from the Local Government Board as to whether they were prepared to receive the deputation appointed in connection with the Ford of Lyrng. He had received the following letter under date 13th August, from Mr. Webster, County Surveyor in reference to this matter:-

"I have had measurements taken of the two hollows in the road at the Ford of Lyrng. The total length of the hollows which would require raising (if the stream or drain be not cleaned out) so as to prevent flooding of the road would be 560 feet. The filling would have to be got from Lagoat, about 2 miles away. I estimate the total cost for raising the road and fences would be £155. Would you kindly let the Committee appointed to wait on the Local Government Board have this information and oblige."

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr. Ennis, seconded by Mr. Peacocke:-

"That the Local Government Board be requested to name a day to receive the deputation appointed to wait upon them at last Co. Council meeting in connection with the Ford of Lyrng. That the report of the Co. Surveyor in this matter be handed to the members of the deputation."

Cowshed & Milkshop Order.

The following resolution adopted by the Co. Wexford Co-operative Conference at their annual meeting held on 18th August was forwarded by the Hon Secretaries:-

- "That we the delegates representing the Co-operative farmers of Wexford protest in the strongest manner against the Cowshed and Milkshop Order, as we consider
- (1)- The exemption of the non-venders of milk detrimental to the creamery movement, in as much as it will tend to encourage people to revert to the old system of home butter-making.
 - (2)- We believe it would be a great hardship on small farmers to erect the necessary buildings to comply with

the Order, and-

(3)- We believe there is no need of the Order being applied to suppliers to creameries in which all milk that passes through is properly pasteurized, thereby rendering it free from all injurious bacteria.

We therefore call upon the Government and the local authorities to refrain from enforcing the order until all keepers of cows, for the production of milk are subject to its provisions.

The following order was made:- "That our Secretary inform the co-operative conference Hon Secs, that the County Council have no power as regards the administration of the Cowsheds and Milkshop Order."

— Enniscorthy School Attendance Committee. —

The following resolution adopted at the meeting of the Enniscorthy Rural District School Attendance Committee was read for the meeting:-

"That it has been found that a considerable advance sometimes amounting to several pounds has been made by our school attendance officers to carry out expenses of prosecution and as our officers had not always ready money of their own, prosecutions have in consequence been delayed. To obviate and remedy this delay we request that a sum of money - say £10 - be placed in the hands of our Secretary or whoever you may appoint for the use of the school attendance officers which sum will of course be returned, in the usual way by the fines and costs obtained from Defaulters."

"On the motion of Mr. Ennis, seconded by Mr. Bolger the following resolution was adopted:- "That in order to facilitate the Enniscorthy Rural District School Attendance Committee in their work, a sum of £10 to cover cost of prosecutions be advanced at the December meeting of the County Council to the Secretary of the School Attendance Committee."

— Sheep Dipping —

Under date 7th August 1908, the Department of Agriculture, wrote acknowledging receipt of letter

conveying the views of the Co. Council, stating that in their opinion a second compulsory dipping period during the year, for sheep was not necessary."
marked "Read."

— Slade & Tethard Fishermen - County Stock Scheme. —

The following resolution from the Annual Convention of the Land & Labour Association was laid before the meeting:-

"That the Slade and Tethard Fishermen are at a great disadvantage in pursuing their occupation of fishing by not having proper accommodation for their boats. That we earnestly hope that the members of the County Council will take into consideration the isolated position of Slade, where so many families are depending for a livelihood by the sea, without any land or other means of subsistence, and that we respectfully call on the Co. Council of Wexford to adopt Sir Thomas Esmonde's scheme with all reasonable speed."

Mr. Cummins proposed and Mr. Fortune seconded the following resolution, which was adopted:-

"That the question of the issue of County Stock be settled at the December meeting."

— Lights on Ballyhack Pier. —

Under date 6th August, Mr. J. H. Warren of H. M. Inspector of Factories Office, Dublin, wrote that the resolution of the County Council regarding additional lights for Ballyhack Harbour would be placed before Mr. May, the Inspector, on his return from leave."

marked "Read"

— Level Crossings - Gt. S. & W. Rly. —

Under date 7th August 1908, the Railway Department of the Board of Trade wrote acknowledging the letter of the County Council on the subject of level crossings on the Rosslare and Waterford Branch of the Gt. S. & W. Rly system and promising that the matter would receive attention

marked "Read."

Old Wreck at Burracloe.

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

"That our Secretary be instructed to call the attention of the Fisheries Branch of the Department of agriculture to the danger caused fishermen's boats by the old wrecks at Burracloe, and that the Department be requested to take the necessary steps to induce the Commissioners of Irish Lights for the protection of the fishermen's boats to have these obstructions removed."

Direct Labour.

The following resolution was read from the Land & Labour Association:- "That we again respectfully request the County Council to adopt the system of Direct Labour in connection with the repair and maintenance of public roads. Having regard to the fact that the system is working satisfactorily in other counties we trust that the County Council of Wexford will at least give the system a trial."

With reference to this matter the following resolution was read from Enniscorthy Rural District Council:-

"Postponed pending further information from Mr. Trizell, as to how the estimate of the Direct Labour was arrived at."

The Secretary stated that he had forwarded a copy of this resolution to the County Surveyor, who had supplied the Clerk of Enniscorthy District Council with the necessary information.

"On the motion of the Chairman, the following resolution was adopted:- "That the Secretary to the Land and Labour Association be informed that the County Council are at present eliciting the opinions of the District Councils as to an experiment in direct labour."

Edward Long.

Adjourned special meeting - 29th August 1908.

The adjourned special meeting of the Co. Council to consider the Report of the Committee appointed to inspect the Deeps and Ferry carrig Bridges etc., was held in the Council Chamber, Courthouse, Wexford on 29th August 1908.

Present :- Mr. E. Hore, (Vice Chairman) and subsequently Mr. M. A. Ennis presiding.

Other members :- Messrs P. O'Neill, John Bolger, M. Broune, C. H. Peacocke, John J. Kehol, P. J. Fanning, James Codd, M. Doyle, James A. Doyle, John Cummins, Michael Hickey, P. Fortune, J. E. Mayler, D. Kavanagh, J. Asple, and James J. Stafford.

Mr. Elger, Solicitor to the Council, Mr. Henry Webster County Surveyor; Mr. Brennan, Assistant Surveyor; and the Secretary of the Council, were in attendance.

Deeps & Ferry carrig Bridges.

The following report was read :-

"Report of Special Committee appointed by the Wexford County Council at its meeting held on Wednesday August 19th 1908, in the following terms:-

"That Messrs J. Bolger, J. Asple, M. A. Ennis, and P. O'Neill, visit and inspect the Deeps and Ferry carrig Bridges this evening and report thereon to a meeting of the County Council to be held on the 29th instant. That this Committee be accompanied by Mr. Webster, Co. Surveyor, and Mr. Brennan, Assistant Surveyor; that Mr. Webster be further instructed to put the Deeps Bridge in order."

"That the Committee appointed to inspect Deeps and Ferry carrig Bridges wait on Colonel Walker with a view to effecting a settlement of his case against the Co. Council, for injuries sustained by his horse in crossing the Deeps bridge. and in the event of not being able to come to satisfactory terms with Colonel Walker, that our Secretary be instructed to employ Mr. W. J. Doyle & S. Ennis & Co., to examine the horse

and make a detailed report as to its injuries."

In fulfilment of the duties entrusted to us by the foregoing resolutions, we proceeded in a body at the conclusion of the Council, meeting on the 19th instant, to visit the Deeps and Ferrycarrig bridges, and we made as careful and complete examinations of both structures as circumstances and the time at our disposal permitted. We also visited "The Deeps" and with Colonel Walker's permission examined his horse injured on the Deeps Bridge on 18th instant.

Between the 19th instant and the date of this report several visits have been paid to both the Deeps and Ferrycarrig Bridges by members of our Committee, and we submit herewith for the information of the Council the results of our investigations and the conclusions arising therefrom at which we have unanimously arrived.

The Deeps Bridge

Is composite built. The substructure consisting of upright and batter piles, crossheads, braces, diagonals etc., being of wood, whilst the superstructure or roadway is composed of iron girders and through plates carrying a macadam surface protected at either side by iron railings. With the exception of the opening span or drawarch which is composed of wooden beams sheathed with three inch timber planking. It was with regard to this opening span that complaint was lodged with your Council, the accident to Col. Walker's horse having been due to the breaking of a rotten plank thereon. We examined the sheathing of the opening span very carefully lifting several planks for inspection and we were forced to conclude that all the planks 46 in number were unsound on the date of the accident, and that at the date of our inspection only five or six planks which had in the meantime been removed were fit to remain. We therefore recommended Mr. Brennan, Assistant Surveyor to make arrangements to have the entire opening span resheathed with good sound planks all full length and well tarred before being laid. Mr. Brennan obtained an estimate for this work from a competent

carpenter which appeared reasonable. The work was commenced on Monday last and completed by Wednesday night being carefully supervised during progress by Mr. Brennan and a member of your Committee, the cost being £11: 0/- . Your Committee were desirous that the opening span should be raised by means of the machinery provided for the purpose, in order that a full view of the wooden framework carrying the sheeting might be obtained, but it appeared that the winch handles were in the custody of a Mr. Ryan who lived some miles distant from the bridge, and the operation could not therefore be carried out. Subsequent efforts by a member of your Committee to obtain possession of the handles were equally unsuccessful, but by carefully examining the condition of the framework during the removal one by one of the defective planks overhead we have satisfied ourselves that it is in a servicable and sound condition and we regard the Deeps Bridge as being now fit to carry with perfect safety ordinary traffic.

We are not prepared to accept the contention ^{of the Es. Surveyor.} that it was in this satisfactory condition on the 6th July of the present year and in this connection we invite the attention of the Council to upwards of twenty planks taken from this bridge which we have caused to be piled for their inspection at Wexford Courthouse. With regard to the sub-structure of the Deeps Bridge we have made a superficial examination from underneath and have seen enough to satisfy us that whilst no defects sufficient to cause actual danger appeared to exist, a considerable outlay is needed to repair minor damage and put the bridge in that efficient and servicable condition in which the Council would naturally desire to maintain the County works committed to their charge.

Colonel Walker's Horse

By permission of Col. Walker we examined his horse on Wednesday 19th instant, and we are glad to state that we do not regard the injuries which the animal has sustained as being of a serious or

permanent character. We recognise however that he is a valuable harness horse, and that apart from his actual injuries Colonel Walker has sustained through an accident to which he or his servant were in no wise contributory, very considerable annoyance inconvenience and expense for veterinary and legal assistance, etc., have requested Mr. Fizzelle to procure a report on the horse's condition prior to meeting on the 29th inst., from Mr. W. J. Doyle. J. S. Ennisworthy, and we trust that when this report has been read it may be found possible to affect an amicable settlement of Colonel Walker's claim with respect to this regrettable occurrence.

Ferry carrig Bridge.

Unlike the Dups Bridge it is a structure composed entirely of wood and our examination of it on 19th inst. reveals such a state of decay and unsoundness especially in the planking forming the sheeting of the carriage way and footpath as makes us view as ~~incredible~~ ^{incredible} the statement of Mr. Brennan, assistant Surveyor that this bridge was safe for traffic within the past two months. We assume that an inspection of sixteen planks taken from Ferry carrig Bridge piled outside the Courthouse will lead the members of the Council to an opposite conclusion. We regard with the greatest possible concern the present deplorable condition of this important public work and the responsibility imposed upon the Council thereby with regard to public safety. Had it been found impossible, as at one time appeared probable, to arrange for immediate urgent repairs, we would have taken upon ourselves the onus of closing the bridge against traffic on Saturday last, but on that day we fortunately succeeded in conjunction with Mr. Brennan in getting 39 of the most absolutely dangerous planks in the bridge replaced by sound timber and even then it was with some misgiving that we came to the conclusion that the Bridge might be permitted to remain open pending the meeting of the Council. We cannot attribute the present most unsatisfactory state of the bridge to defects in the specification upon

which the contract for its maintenance is based.

On the contrary the specification appears to be fairly satisfactory but its value manifestly depends upon some reasonable attempt at fulfilment of its conditions by the contractor or upon enforcement of its conditions by the County Surveyor. We can discover no evidence of effort in either direction. We are distinctly of opinion that the actual value of the work provided for by the specification is from 100 to 150 per cent in excess of the price at which the contract was opened by the County Surveyor, and we suggest that Mr. Webster should be asked to furnish to the Council detailed figures showing how his estimate of £40 for this work was arrived at.

A member of your Committee has passed in a boat through each span of Ferryarrig Bridge and has viewed the substructure from this position noting the most glaring defects but being unprovided with proper appliances for accurate testing we are only in a position to state that the substructure appears generally to need considerable repairs. We desire to impress upon the Council the urgent necessity for prompt action with regard to Ferryarrig Bridge, and we beg to make the following suggestions for the consideration of the members (1) That the Bridge should be closed at an early date pending repair or reconstruction (2) That the sanction of the Local Government Board be sought to proceeding to repair under the provisions of section 11 (sub secs 1 & 2) (3) That expert advice and report be obtained as to the condition of the substructure of the Deeps and Ferryarrig Bridges accompanied by estimates of the cost of thorough repair. In the event of its being found possible to thoroughly repair the substructure of Ferryarrig Bridge. (Including longitudinal beams carrying three inch sheeting plan) at a cost not exceeding £150. we then recommend that the entire of the existing sheeting be stripped from carriageway and footpath, that the carriageway be relaid with new planks well creosoted estimated to cost about £100, and that the footpath be relaid with about 120 of the best of the 458 planks at present forming the carriageway, assuming

that when lifted they be found to be sufficiently good for the purpose.

Should the substructure prove exceedingly defective and the repairs very costly we suggest that the Council might consider as an alternative plan the laying of steel girders and through plates on the existing piles as the initial cost although larger might be counterbalanced by the advantage of a smaller expenditure on annual maintenance.

The subjoined figures may help the members of the Council to grasp more clearly the underlying cause of the extraordinary state of disrepair into which Ferryarrig Bridge has been allowed to fall.

Amount estimated by Mr. J. H. Ryan, in his report dated 25th March 1901, as being necessary to put Ferryarrig Bridge in good repair...

£ 500

Cost of annual maintenance estimated at £200 per annum by L. S. Board, October 8th 1901, for seven years March 1901-8.

£ 1.400

£ 1,900

Amount actually expended on Ferryarrig Bridge, for repairs and maintenance between 25th March 1901, and 19th August 1908...

£ 660 : 12 : 1

This indicates extreme economy but taking all the circumstances into consideration we submit it is economy of a type likely to prove eventually extremely expensive, and we claim that the first duty of a public body is to keep the works in their control in good and sufficient repair for the purpose which they are designed to serve.

(Signed)

M. A. Ennis

John Bolger

Thos. Asple

Pat. O'Neill

After the reading of the Report Mr. Gore was obliged to leave; the Chair was taken by Mr. Ennis.

Mr. Webster, County Surveyor; and Mr. Brennan, Assistant Surveyor; having made an explanation to the Council and the latter having inspected the planks taken from the Deeps and Ferry carrig Bridges the following resolution was adopted, on the motion of Mr. Peacocke, seconded by Mr. Browne: -

"That the Report of the Committee re Ferry carrig and the Deeps Bridges be adopted."

Mr. Peacocke proposed and Mr. O'Neill seconded the following: -

"That the Local Government Board be requested to hold an inquiry into the present condition of the Deeps and Ferry carrig bridges in this County."

Mr. Browne, as an amendment, moved and Mr. Fortune seconded: - "That as we consider we are competent to manage our own affairs and as we have already inquired into the state of the Deeps and Ferry carrig bridges, we think it more advisable for the County Council to elect to deal with their officers themselves."

After discussion both these proposals were withdrawn: -

Mr. Peacocke then proposed and Mr. O'Neill seconded the following which was adopted *unanimously*: -

"That as the County Council are in serious difficulty with regard to the present condition of their bridges, and having reason to have lost confidence in their County Surveyor, that the Local Government Board be requested to permit their Chief Engineering Inspector, Mr. P. B. Cowan, M. Inst. C. E. to come down forthwith and advise the Council as to the best course to be adopted with regard to these bridges."

Proposed action against Co. Council.

With reference to correspondence from Messrs M. J. O'Connor & Co., Solicitors; relative to proposed legal proceedings by Colonel Walker, the Deeps, against the County Council, the following letter under date 24th August from Colonel Walker to Messrs O'Connor was read: -

"My Sister, Miss Walker, and I, now that matters have

turned out as they have. Authorize you, to reduce our claim to £40, which we consider would be fair to both sides.

Of course, it is, yet, quite uncertain whether our horse, would be safe again, for miss Walker's use, in the carriage in double harness, on account of the fright he has got, and for the other injuries, in which case we would be compelled to buy another horse.

Indeed our chief reason for taking action in this matter, was to try and save ourselves and the public from such accidents in future."

The following report, under date 26th August 1908, from Mr. W. J. Doyle, V.S., Ennisceorthy, in connection with this matter was read:-

"I beg to report that I visited and examined Colonel Walker's horse on yesterday; I found only a few hairs off the off foreknee, a slight abrasion in the near hind leg. In my opinion he will be nothing the worse of the accident, neither do I think he will be marked.

I had him trotted out, and could not see any stiffness about him."

Under date 29th August 1908, the following letter was read from Messrs M. J. O'Connor & Co:-

"I sent on Mr. Doyle's report to Colonel Walker, who came in this morning to see me about the matter. Needless to say, he does not agree with Mr. Doyle's report. But apart from this question altogether, the expenses which he has incurred by reason of the accident to his horse are as follows:-

Fee to Mr. Malone, V.S.	£ 2 : 2 : 0
Hire of horse from White's Hotel	£ 5 : 5 : 0
Our boots	£ 2 : 2 : 0
Damage done to Horse	£ 20 : 0 : 0
Total	£ 29 : 9 : 0

Will you lay this matter before the meeting to-day. I need hardly point out to the bounty council that Colonel Walker only wants to be recouped for his actual

damage, and I think the above is a very reasonable demand under the circumstances. of course, this letter is written without prejudice.

after considerable discussion, Mr. Fanning proposed, Mr. Peacocke seconded and it was adopted Mr. Cummins dissenting:- "That as recommended by our committee, we offer Colonel Walker a sum of £25 to cover the loss caused to him through injuries sustained by his horse at the Deeps bridge."

Ballyhack Harbour.

Under date August 20th the following letter No 6742, was read from H. M. Inspector of Factories:-

"Your letters re the above have been handed to me on my return from leave, and I beg to point out in reply, that the exemption from the Regulations at Ballyhack is granted on certain conditions. One of these is that two lights be supplied and lighted. These have been duly provided, and the terms of the Secretary of State's order preclude me from making any further requirements in the direction suggested in the County Council's resolution.

As regards the fencing of the opening in the wall, I should be glad to hear from you whether this is now completed, as the exemption expires on August 24th."

"The County Surveyor explained that he had written to the contractor for the fencing of the wall to finish the work at once."

marked "Read."

Ford of Lyng.

Under date 21st August (letter No. 46,330) the Local Government Board, wrote as follows in connection with the flooding of the Ford of Lyng:-

"I am directed by the Local Government Board for Ireland, to acknowledge the receipt of your further letter of yesterday's date, in reference to the deputation from the County Council of Wexford who propose to wait on the Board with regard to the flooding of the public road at the Ford of Lyng; and, in reply, I am to state that, in the absence of some of the

members of the Board, and of the Board's legal adviser; it would not be convenient to receive the deputation during next week, and the Board would be glad if it were postponed to some subsequent date."

marked "Read."

Irish in the New Universities

Under date 15th August 1908, the General Secretary of the Gaelic League forwarded for adoption a resolution with reference to the status of Irish in the New Universities.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr. Browne, seconded by Mr. Fortune:-

"We, the Wexford County Council, support the demand of the Gaelic League that the Irish language, both oral and written, be made an essential subject for matriculation and up to the point where specialisation begins in the new universities, and that proper provision be made for the teaching of Irish in all the colleges of the universities."

Direct Labour Scheme

Under date 19th August 1908, the following letter (No. 43385) on the subject of direct labour was read from the Local Government Board:-

"With reference to the resolution adopted by the County Council of Wexford at their meeting on the 4th instant, in connection with a proposed scheme for maintaining some of the roads in certain rural districts by a direct labour system, I am directed by the Local Government Board for Ireland to request that you will be so good as to inform them whether the resolution is intended as a provisional declaration under the terms of article 25A. of the Local Government (Procedure of Councils) Order 1899.

If so, the first three questions on the annexed query form should be duly answered, and the form then returned to this Department with the documents alluded to therein."

"On the motion of Mr. Ennis, seconded by Mr. Peacocke, it was decided that the Local Government Board be informed that the Council are, as yet, only engaged

in making preliminary inquiries in connection with the scheme of Direct Labour."

Committee re marketing of Farm Produce.

Under date 27th August the following letter was read from Mr. N. Cosgrave, Hon Sec., North Wexford Farmers Association, relative to the subject of the marketing of farm produce:-

"The following committee was appointed yesterday by the N. W. F. S. to meet the Co. Council Committee on a date fixed by you; we depend on you to fix a suitable one - Messrs Emond, Ballycourcy, Mr. Donald, Ballyeden; Latta, Ballinakill; Mernagh, Ballyconnigar; P. Morrissey, Davidstown; Barlow, Ballydonfin; Mullett, Bree; Lett, Kilgibbon; Capt Bryan; and Cosgrave, Hon Sec.

I have written the North Farmers Association asking if they have any grievance in the matter of markets, and have got no reply yet. I am sure the committee would hear their side of the question if they care to put it."

"On the motion of Mr. Aspley, seconded by Mr. Keacocks, it was decided that the conference between the committee of the County Council be held in Wexford Courthouse on the occasion of the next County Council meeting."

Postal Facilities - South Wexford.

Under date 26th August (letter no. 269, 096) the Postmaster General, forwarded the following letter dated 17th August, which he had addressed to Mr. Peter French, M. P., on the subject of the postal arrangements for South Wexford:-

"I have had under consideration your further letters of the 9th of May and the 1st of June respecting the memorial which I have received from Father Kehoe, protesting against the suggested revision of the postal services in the South Eastern part of County Wexford.

When I wrote to you on the 11th of May, the scheme had been unanimously accepted by the Wexford Rural District Council, and I had little reason to anticipate any serious public opposition, but since then adverse

resolutions have been passed both by the Wexford Rural District Council and the Wexford Co. Council, and the memorial above referred to, which is signed by residents in nearly all the places affected has been forwarded to me.

The Council suggest that the last town delivery at Wexford should be postponed fifteen minutes, in order that letters from South Wexford may be included. There would be no advantage in this because as I explained to you in my letter of the 26th of February, the night mail despatch will under the proposals be made to Waterford and not Wexford, and letters would have to be posted in time for the new Day mail despatch in order to be included in the last Wexford delivery. This is an essential part of the scheme, and I fear it is impossible to prevent the loss of the night mail connexion with the Wexford town delivery.

The Councils' other suggestions, which aim at remedying the later morning delivery, are also impracticable. The use of the Rosslare Boat Express with apparatus duty at the various stations, and the alternative suggestion, viz that the 7.45 a.m. train from Wexford should be timed to leave at 7 a.m. would each entail large additional payments to the Railway Company, which I should not be justified in authorising.

It is clearly stated in my letter of the 26th February that there is a considerable loss on the posts concerned, and I fear that my original proposal must be accepted or refused as it stands. I am sending communications to that effect to the memorialists and to the Wexford Rural District and County Councils. The changes would I think on the whole be an improvement, but I do not feel justified in carrying them out, unless I am satisfied that they will be generally acceptable."

The following letters under date 28th August 1908 were read for the meeting:-

From Rev Paul J. Kehoe, B. C., Bridgetown:-

"Thanks for copy of letter re postal revision of S. Wexford postal arrangements. The Postmaster

General intimates that your Council's suggestions as to the starting of the mail trains are all impracticable on account of the expense involved. Well, if so, we can afford to let things remain as they are, for you only indicate improvements on the new proposals which would make them preferable to existing conditions.

I observe that the P. M. G. asserts he explained in his letter of February that the evening post timed to leave Bridgetown at 6.30 p.m., was to go to Waterford and not to Wexford. I think he did nothing of the kind, unless indeed it could be inferred from the fact that letters could be posted some minutes later at Wellingtonbridge than at Bridgetown. When a responsible official from Dublin called on me he understood this mail was to arrive in Wexford at 7.45 p.m. and he anticipated there would be no difficulty in acceding to your Council's suggestion to delay the delivery in town for 15 minutes so as to ensure the distribution there that evening of rural letters.

In fact this gentleman agreed that our opposition was quite reasonable; and he promised to recommend the concession of at least three-fourths of our demands.

(1). - The distribution in Wexford town of country letters each evening.

(2). - To leave on the bar to Ballymitty, Wellingtonbridge and Bannow, which at present gives an excellent and early service in these districts.

(3). - To put up a letter-box in Mulrankin and to have it cleared as well as the one in Mayglass, every evening about six o'clock.

(4). - To recommend that Post office bicycles be supplied to the postmen between Ballycogley and Comhaggard and between Bridgetown and Newcastle.

In consideration of these improvements I agreed on behalf of the people I represented to withdraw opposition to the adoption of the new scheme, as there are a few people who would be benefited by the innovation.

As the P. M. G., now repudiates his official and offers no alternative to his proposal of February, I will oppose by

every means in my power its substitution for the existing service which is not at all unsatisfactory, and for whose abolition there has been no general demand."

From W. Denis Hassett, Bridgetown :-

"With regard to alterations in the postal service of this District, which I believe will come before your next meeting. I object to any letters coming later in the morning than at present, and also to the non-delivery in Wexford, the same day of letters posted here in the evening.

I have frequently to get medicine the following morning by such letters at present."

From Mr. J. Bagnal Boyd, Kiltra House, Wellingtonbridge

"I write to say the great inconvenience the proposed new postal service will be to people in South Wexford and to ask your Council to protest against a step which is backward as it is disgraceful to give a later delivery, with no corresponding advantage.

I hope you will try and help us in this matter."

Under date 28th August 1908, the following letter was read from Rev Thomas Scallan, C. C. Ballynitty:-

"I regret to learn that a change in the present postal arrangements at Ballynitty is again under consideration. I beg leave to say that in my opinion I believe the proposed change is calculated to inconvenience many of the inhabitants of the district to a considerable extent, and consequently, I trust that your Council will be good enough to use its influence in opposing it as far as possible.

Under date 28th August 1908 the following letter was read from W. J. B. Kiogh, Bannow:- "Any alteration in the postal service, ^{which} would result in a delay of the present late delivery of the morning post in Bannow district would be a serious inconvenience to me. I do not get my letters until 10.30 o'clock a.m. I understand that the proposed change would make that delivery an hour later. It is necessary for me to get my post before starting on my daily rounds and I could not

delay an hour extra for that purpose."

Under date 28th August 1908 the following letter was read from Mr. John Ennis, Springwood, Ballymitty:-

"I have been shown a copy of a letter from the Postmaster General addressed to our member, Mr. Peter French, in which it is proposed to alter the time of delivery of the morning mail in this district and establish instead a system which would be most inconvenient for the residents of the district.

My correspondence is considerable and the proposed alteration would put me at a great disadvantage in comparison with the postal arrangement at present in force. I therefore, respectfully protest against it."

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

"That the Postmaster General be informed that the Wexford County Council have received numerous protests from the people of South Wexford against the adoption of the proposed postal alterations in South Wexford and as they have received no communications in favour of it, we consider that alterations of this nature should not be adopted against the well-defined opinion of the people of the locality. That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Postmaster General."

Acknowledgment of vote of condolence

Under date 29th August 1908, the following letter was read from Councillor James J. Scafford, and on the motion of Mr. Ennis (Chairman of the meeting) seconded by Mr. Peacocke, was ordered to be inserted on the minutes:-

"I am in receipt of yours of 21st instant, conveying copy of a resolution of condolence passed at meeting of County Council on 19th instant, relative to the death of my son, for which you will please tender my grateful thanks to Co. Council as well as to yourself for your kind expression of sympathy."

Wexford Branch Typographical Association

Under date 25th August '08, the following letter was read from Mr. Patrick Sinnott, Secretary, Wexford Branch Typographical Association:-

"I am directed by the members of the above Branch to enquire if your Council has adopted the "Fair Wages Resolution" of the House of Commons, and if terms of same are adhered to by the County Council in reference to printing contracts.

A Deputation of our body intends waiting on your Council relative to this subject, at any time which would be convenient for the councillors.

Kindly let me know when your next meeting is to be held, so that we may have the pleasure of explaining matters to the Wexford County Council."

Under date 29th August 1908, a letter was read from Mr. Sinnott that it was impossible for deputation from Typographical Association to wait on Council that day.

Old Age Pensions Act.

Under date 22nd August 1908, the following circular letter (No. 44725) from the Local Government Board was read:-

"Adverting to their previous circular letters on the subject of the Old Age Pensions Act, 1908, I am directed by the Local Government Board for Ireland to forward, herewith, copies of the Regulations which have been made under Section 10 of the Act. The financial arrangements of committees, the remuneration of the clerks, and other similar matters, have been made the subject of a special instructional circular by the Treasury, copies of which are also enclosed. Further copies will be forwarded as soon as an additional supply is received.

The Board have observed that in many districts local authorities acting upon the Instructional memorandum which was issued in anticipation of the publication of the Regulations, have already appointed Pension Committees, and it is hoped that the members of committees will qualify themselves by a careful perusal of the Regulations for the proper fulfil-

ment of the important duties devolving upon them. Copies of an alphabetical index to the Act, Regulations, and financial instructions are sent herewith, but if there is any point of which any committee desire to be advised, the Local Government Board will be very glad to afford them any assistance in their power.

The Local Government Board will supply for use by each committee a stock of the forms prescribed by the First Schedule of the Regulations and any further supply which may be required may be obtained from His Majesty's Stationery Office, Custom House, Dublin. Copies of Forms 14 and 15 which will be required immediately are sent herewith.

The Board are in communication with the Commissioners of Inland Revenue as to the Pension officers to be appointed for the various districts.

The Secretary submitted a resume of Treasury Regulations with the Financial Instructions.

"Refer to Pension Committee."

Pension Committee.

The Pension Committee of the Wexford County Council met on 29th August 1908.

Present:- Mr. E. Hore, Vice Chairman, presiding. There were also present:- Messrs M. A. Ennis, P. O'Neill, John Bolger, M. Brown, C. H. Peacocke, John J. Kehoe, P. J. Fanning, James Codd, M. Doyle, James A. Doyle, John Cummins, Michael Hickey, P. Fortune, J. E. Mayler, D. Kavanagh, J. Asple, and James J. Stafford.

— Clerk to meeting. —

On the motion of Mr. Peacocke, seconded by Mr. Kehoe, the Secretary of the County Council was appointed to act as clerk to the meeting.

— Sub-committees. —

On the motion of Mr. Peacocke, seconded by Mr. Kehoe, the following resolution was adopted:- "That this Pension Committee appoint sub-committees for the County Wexford (outside Wexford Urban District).

Mr. Ennis proposed, and Mr. Fanning seconded:- "That we appoint 8 sub-pension sub-committees, each committee

to represent two or more of the Co. Council districts.

Mr. M. Doyle proposed: - That a sub-committee be appointed for each Co. Council division (outside Wexford Urban District) or 14 sub-committees in all.

This proposition was not seconded, and the proposal of Mr. Ennis was then put and passed.

On the motion of Mr. Ennis, seconded by Mr. Kehoe it was decided that sub-committees be appointed for the following County Council districts:-

Bannow, Rosslare, and Bridgetown Committee: - Messrs M. Broune, Co. Councillor; J. E. Mayler, Esq., E. Hore (Vice Chairman Co. Council) James Codd, Co. Councillor; Very Rev Canon Doyle P.P. Taggart; Rev Father J. Roche B.C. Bannow; Canon O'Gorman, Kilmore; Thomas Keating Murrin town; Stephen Rowe, D. C.; Barnawheel, Carne; To meet on Monday 21st September at 3.30 p.m., at Bridgetown Dispensary, to appoint a clerk. Applications to be sent to Mr. Michael Broune, Bridgetown.

Tintern and Fethard: - The following were appointed: - Messrs J. Cummins, and W. Forrestal, County Councillors, Mr. L. J. De Lacey; Major Barrett-Hamilton; Canon O'Connor, Ballycullane; Canon Synott, Temple town; Rev J. B. Johnston, Duncannon; Rev J. Roche, P.P., Horewood; and Rev N. J. Sheridan, P.P., Ramogrange; to meet at Ramogrange on 21st September at one o'clock, p.m., for appointment of clerk. Applications to be forwarded to Mr. J. Cummins Shelbaggan, Ballycullane.

Laghmore and Killurin divisions: - Messrs C. H. Peacocke, J. Asple; and G. Walsh, County Councillors; Very Rev Canon Burlong P.P. Laghmore; Rev Archdeacon Latham, Rector Wexford; Rev D. W. Redmond P.P., Glynn; Canon Sheil P.P., Bree; Rev J. Quinn, Rector, Blommort; Bree; and J. Laffan, D.C., Lion, Kyle. To meet on Monday 21st September at County Council Chamber, Courthouse, Wexford, at 2.30 p.m., to appoint a clerk, applications for position to be sent to Mr. C. H. Peacocke, Belmont.

Gorey and Boolgareany: - Sir J. H. G. Esmonde, Bart., M.P., A. Kinsella, and P. J. Fanning, County Councillors; Very Rev Canon O'Neill, P.P., Killanerin; Rev W. Rossiter, P.P.,

Gorey; Rev S. Ridgway, Rector, Gorey; very Rev Canon Murphy, P.P. Graanford; Dr. Murphy, Coolgreany, and Mr. John Sinnott, D. C., Ballybeg. To meet at Gorey Courthouse at one o'clock, p.m. on 21st September, to appoint a clerk. Applications for the position to be sent to Mr. Kinsella, M. C. C., Ballyloughan House, Gorey.

Enniscorthy and Kiltalea:- Messrs M. Codd, and P. O'Neill, Co. Councillors; Canon Mehan, P. P. Ballindaggin; Rev P. Doyle P. P., Rathmore; Rev R. K. Atkinson, Templeshambo; Rev R. Fitzhenry, ADM; Enniscorthy; Rev A. C. Lyster, Enniscorthy; John Bolger, Chairman Urban Council; and Mr. A. S. Davis, Enniscorthy. To meet at Enniscorthy Courthouse, at 2 o'clock on Monday 21st September; to appoint a clerk. Applications for the position to be sent to Mr. P. O'Neill.

Newtownbarry and Ferns:- Messrs M. Doyle, John Bolger, and J. Bolger, County Councillors; very Rev Canon Whitty Newtownbarry; Canon Doyle, Ferns; Rev Mr. Kennedy, Camolin; Rev Mr. Fry, Newtownbarry; James Sinnott, Bohinush; Ballyroebuck; Patrick Finn, Ballinamona, Liskinfere, Gorey. To meet at Ferns Courthouse on 21st September at 5 p.m. for appointment of clerk. Applications to be sent to Mr. John Bolger, Co. Councillor Hotel, Ferns.

NewRoss and Old Ross:- Messrs J. S. Hearne, M. Hickey and J. A. Doyle; Co. Councillors; very Rev Canon Kavanagh P. P. NewRoss; Rev W. Gibson, Rector, NewRoss; Rev Canon O'Brien P. P., Newbawn; Patrick Bolger, J. P., New Ross; James O'Gorman, J. P., Killeghney, and James O'Connor D. C., Oldcourt. Committee to meet at NewRoss Courthouse on Monday 21st September at 8.30 p.m. to appoint a clerk. Applications to be sent to Mr. J. A. Doyle, County Councillor, Templeshelin.

Monamolin and Ballyhuskard:- Messrs D. Kavanagh and P. Fortune, Co. Councillors; Canon Aylward P. P., Blackwater; Rev J. Quigley, P. P., Castlebridge; Messrs George Bartly, Ballymacsimon; Kilmuckridge and J. Booney, Oulart; District Councillors Mark Kavanagh, Botelia, Killecotty; Mague Fortune, J. P., Inch

Blackwater; George Walsh, Ballyvadden, Wells. Committee to meet on 21st September at Blackwater Dispensary at 5 p.m. Applications to be sent to Mr. Kavanagh, Killincooley.

On the motion of Mr. Peacocke, seconded by Mr. Kehoe it was decided that the quorum of each committee be fixed at three.

On the motion of Mr. Ennis, seconded by Mr. Kehoe the following resolution was adopted: - "That the salaries of the clerks to sub-committees be fixed at the maximum Treasury scale."

On the motion of Mr. Browne, seconded by Mr. Ennis, the following resolution was adopted: - "That the Pension Committee do not until they have a year's experience of the working of the act, delegate all their powers to the sub-committees. That the powers of sub-committees be fixed for the present at the appointment of a clerk, and the consideration in the first instance of claims for pensions."

On the motion of Mr. Peacocke, seconded by Mr. Ennis, the Secretary to the County Council was directed to advertise for 8 clerks to the sub-committees, appointments to be made on 21st September.

Edmund Fox,