

HALF-YEARLY MEETING.- 7th DECEMBER 1920.

The Half-Yearly Meeting of the Wexford County Council, was held in the County Hall, Wexford, on 7th December 1920.

Present:- Dr James Ryan (Vice-Chairman) presiding.

Also:- Messrs R. Corish, M. Doyle, C. Culleton, G. Devereux, D. Kavanagh, M. Cloney, James Doyle, James Hall, M. Hughes, Simon Kehoe, John Murphy, J. J. O'Byrne, M. Redmond, and James Shannon.

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

Confirmation of Minutes.

The Minutes of last Meeting were read and confirmed.

Quarry Foremen.

Notice of motion standing in the name of Mr R. Corish, as to fixing weekly wages of quarry foremen at a minimum of £3 amount to be definitely decided by the number of quarries etc., which each foreman is obliged to look after was adjourned to next meeting.

Resignation of Mr John Sinnott M. C. C.,

Under date 17th November 1920, Mr S. A. Sinnott, wrote that in a letter from Cork Prison, his brother, Mr John Sinnott stated he was anxious to resign his seat on the County Council for the six months of his imprisonment. As Mr J. Sinnott was not in a position to write himself he asked that this information should be conveyed to the Council.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr Culleton, seconded by Mr James Doyle:-

"That we accept the resignation of Mr John Sinnott, member of this Council, that the resignation be advertised and that the County Council co-opt a member vice Mr John Sinnott at next meeting."

Report of Secretary.-Raids on Co. Council Office.

"I desire to report that on the morning of 22nd November 1920, a number of police visited the County Council Offices at County Hall, and took away the following:- Two Minute Books, three Letter Registers, One Bank Pass Book, No. 2a/c., General Receipt Book, two letter Files with year's current Letters, Rate Collectors' Receipts and Forms.

In the afternoon of the same day a number of civilians also visited



the County Council Office and having held up the Staff the following Forms (Ten) 22 (Road Payments) Two Subsidiary a/c., Books (expenditure) Abstract Rate Collectors' Lodgments, Rate Ledger, Financial Statement Book (Separate Charges) Road Expenditure Book, County Council Ledgers, General Expenditure Book, Subsidiary a/c., vouchers, (two-half years) Draft Abstract of Accounts, Rate Collectors' Bonds, and Subsidiary a/c., Vouchers of 7th October 1920.

During the raids I was absent in Dublin attending a meeting of Secretaries of County Councils."

Mandamus against Council.

The Secretary read Conditional Order of Mandamus against himself and eighteen Members of the Council in connection with the audit of the accounts of the Council.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr Devereux, seconded by Mr Redmond:—

"That no action be taken by this Council as regards writ of Mandamus."

Mr Cloney proposed:— "That consideration of Writ of Mandamus against the County Council be deferred to next meeting of the Council."

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

Purchase of Machinery.

Messrs O'Connor & Co., Solicitors, Wexford, forwarded copy of the following letter which they had addressed to the County Surveyor, under date 27th November 1920:—

"With reference to the interview with you to-day when we informed you that we had been instructed to act for Messrs Thompson's Motor Car Co., Ltd., in this matter, the following is the position:—

The County Council ordered from Messrs Thompson thirteen trailers value about £400 each, total £5200. These trailers were especially made to suit the requirements of the County Council and are unsuitable for the work of any other firm. You have taken delivery of two of these trailers and have paid for them. The other eleven are now ready at the Works and the Eagle Engineering Co. Ltd., Warwick, are going to issue a Writ against our clients as you saw by copy of letter from their Solicitors to our Clients' which we showed you this morning.



The County Council also ordered one steam wagon from our Clients at £1500 which has been delivered and paid for. At the same time four other steam wagons were ordered at the same price. These will be ready in a few days. We shall be glad to know on behalf of our clients what the County Council intend doing about the matter. Unless some arrangements are made there will be two actions.

1.- An action against our clients for specific performance of the contracts or in the alternative for damages., and 2.- An action by our clients against the County Council for specific performance of their contract or in the alternative for damages.

Our clients as you are aware are a most eminent firm and are not anxious for litigation. Mr Charles Thompson would come down to Wexford if you could arrange for him to meet the County Council or any Committee that they may appoint to go into the matter to see what arrangements can be made about the matter. We are sending copy of this letter to Mr Frizelle whom we could not see to-day, and we shall be glad if you will kindly go into the matter with him and let us hear from you."

Mr Charles Thompson of Thompson's Motor Co., Dublin, came before the meeting and stated that if the County Council would pay the £3,500 due for the trailers the payment for steam wagons could hold over.

After considerable discussion the following resolution was adopted on the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr M. Doyle:-

"That the Thompson Motor Co., Dublin, be informed that provided the County Council are able to find the money, a sum of £3,500 cost of trailers supplied County Council will be paid at once. That the Company be asked to relieve the County Council as to all further liability in respect of steam wagons. Should the Council, when present financial crux has passed, require steam wagons they would be prepared to give a preference to tender of Messrs Clayton & Shuttleworth, price, etc., being equal to other tenderers."

Report of County Surveyor.

The following report was presented by the County Surveyor:-

"You will have before you Forms 22 as approved of by the Rural District Councils. In dealing with payments I struck out most of the



arrears and have dealt with the current amount making payment in proportion to material supplied by the Contractor and generally striking off for shortage. With regard to Form 20 that is renewal proposals, I advised the four District Councils to adjourn the passing of all the proposals for road maintenance as they would be in a better position to allocate the money available if considered at the April Meeting and the postponement would have little effect on the work as it would be only two months, April and May, that would not be covered by proposals.

In some cases where the work had been already done by authority of the District Councils I have had to bring forward supplemental proposals and these have been approved by the District Councils and will be before you.

As from the 27th November last, I have shut down most of the quarry work in the County and have been making arrangements to utilise the men as far as possible on road work. As matters now stand I consider it would be advisable for you to re-open this matter, and decide whether it would be more advisable to keep the quarrymen at quarry work rather than they should be employed on the roads when this latter work will be of little permanent advantage if the work is to be shut down after a couple of months. I shall discuss this matter with you fully at the Meeting.

With regard to the purchase of Machinery I shall submit correspondence with the several Makers from whom we proposed obtaining it, and in the case of Messrs Thompson Motor Car Co., Dublin, I have had a letter from Messrs M. J. O'Connor & Co., Solicitors, a Representative of Messrs Thompson will attend in Wexford on the day of your Meeting and wishes to discuss the whole matter of their order in Committee with you, so as to possibly arrive at some understanding.

One steam lorry and two wagons have already arrived and I also have received one stonebreaker from Messrs Goodwin, Barsby, Leicester, which is being at present erected in the County Yard.

I have been in communication with the three Urban District Councils with regard to the classification of roads asked for by the Ministry of Transport and I am preparing the Map and Tables as required and authorised by you. It will be necessary for you now to decide if these papers should go forward to the Ministry of Transport.



The work of putting in the tie rod at the approach to the Deeps bridge was held up for sometime owing to the steel work forwarded to us not being satisfactory and having to be returned. The correct bars have now been sent and I hope to put them in without delay as the holes are already cut in the concrete work for them.

Sometime ago I reported to you that the Contractor for the repair of Ballymotybeg Bridge was not proceeding with the work and it was directed that steps should be taken to compel him to do so. Owing to unforeseen circumstances this has not been possible up to the present, and I ask for your authority to get some necessary work done to prevent further injury. The cost of this work should of course come out of the contract money for the job and if this be not sufficient it should be recovered on the bond.

By directions of the County Council Committee I notified Mr Billington to cease hauling timber over the New Ross - Wexford Road and shall submit his reply. Since this I am informed that the haulage is again taking place and I ask for your directions in the matter.

I submit the Assistant Surveyors' Reports with synopsis of same.

The following resolution was adopted on the suggestion of the Co. Surveyor to re-open the quarries:-

Proposed by Mr Corish, seconded by Mr Kehoe, and adopted:-

"That it be left in the hands of the County Surveyor to deal with employment of County Council Staff on roads or in quarries as circumstances permit."

Proposed by Mr Culleton, seconded by Mr Shannon, and adopted:-

"That in the event of any employment required on roads or in quarries the County Surveyor be instructed to arrange for same through Labour Union."

#### Classification of Roads.

In connection with the proposals of the Ministry of Transport as to classification of roads and of grants for road maintenance referred to the General Council Irish Co. Councils, a letter was read from Mr A. Keogh-Nolan, Secretary General Councils, that there would not be a meeting of the Executive Committee of the General Council before the second Monday in December. He had tried to get in touch with the Chairman or Vice-Chairman but had not been successful. Personally he discussed the matter with the matter.



The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr Cloney, seconded by Mr Michael Doyle:-

"That the County Surveyor be directed to submit to the Ministry of Transport particulars as to classification of roads."

In connection with the recommendation of County Surveyor as regards Ballymotybeg Bridge the following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr Cloney, seconded by Mr Michael Doyle:-

"That the County Surveyor carry out at the expense of Contractor any work at Ballymotybeg Bridge which he considers necessary for the safety of the public."

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr Murphy, as regards County Surveyor's report dealing with timber haulage by Mr J. Billington:-

"That the County Surveyor apply to Mr Billington for compensation to repair injury done to roads by timber haulage carried out by Mr Billington, amount of compensation to be fixed by the County Surveyor."

#### Primary Scholarship Scheme-Report of Committee.

It was decided that Report of Primary Scholarship Committee be adjourned to next meeting, the President, St Peter's College, Wexford, and Superiors, Christian Schools New Ross and Wexford, to be written to and that they be requested to state if they approve of the Scheme, or for suggestions in connection with same.

#### Poisons & Pharmacy Act.

On the motion of Mr Michael Doyle, seconded by Mr Culleton, the following resolution was adopted:-

"That licence under Poisons & Pharmacy Act be issued Mr Joseph J. Haughton, Ferns."

#### Wexford Gas Company.

Notice was received from Wexford Gas Company that they intended to apply to the Board of Trade to allow them to charge for per therm (i. e., 100,000 British Thermal Units) and not by cubic feet as at present.

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

"That the application of the Wexford Gas Consumers Company, re new



Any action which the latter consider it advisable to take in the matter will be supported by the County Council."

Insurances-County Council.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr James Doyle, seconded by the Chairman:-

"That Insurances of the Council, except for insurance of County Hall (for which a Policy is in existence) be effected by Messrs McDonagh & Boland in Irish Companies. That we approve of extension of County Hall Insurance Policy for £10,000 at £7. 10/- with the Atlas Assurance Company."

Ferrybank Quarrymen.

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

"That a walking allowance of two hours per day be allowed to men who attend at Ferrybank and who find themselves unemployed on wet days."

Galway Co Council and terms of Peace in Ireland.

The following resolution was read from Galway County Council:-

"That we the Members of the Galway County Council assembled on the 3rd December 1920, view with sorrow and grief the shootings, burnings, reprisals, and counter-reprisals which are taking place all over England and Ireland by armed forces of the British Empire on the one hand, and ~~an~~ armed forces of the Irish Republic on the other.

That we believe this unfortunate state of affairs is detrimental to the interests of both countries in such a crisis in world affairs.

We, therefore, as adherents of Dail Eireann, request that body to appoint three delegates for the purpose of negotiating a peace honourable to both countries.

That we believe the initiative lies with the British Government, who should withdraw the ban on the meeting of Dail Eireann for the purpose of appointing delegates.

That we further consider that if any side refuses to accede to proposals such as these, the world will hold them responsible for any further shootings or burnings that may take place.

That copies of these proposals be sent to all County Councils in Ireland, to Dail Eireann, to the Prime Minister of England, to the Irish Bishops, Catholic and Protestant, to the British Labour Deputation, and to



the Press."

After considerable discussion the following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr Corish, seconded by Mr Devereux:-

"That whilst we are desirous for an honourable peace in Ireland, we are of opinion that the discussion of same can be only entertained between a Conference on equal footing of the accredited representatives of the Irish People and the British Government."

Complaints of Payments on Roads.

Under date 3rd December 1920, Terence Hinch, Camolin, wrote complaining that he was only getting £13 for half-year's pay on Road No. 15G and £14 was deferred for not having material broken.

This was not his fault as he was waiting since August for Co Council Stonebreaker. He wished the County Council to consider the matter.

Mr Michael Doyle, Road Contractor, Newtownbarry, complained that £42 had been held back on him for work performed on Roads 71E and 72E.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr M. Doyle, seconded by the Chairman:-

"That Mr Michael Doyle submit a detailed statement (in writing) of his claim against the County Council on foot of his road contract."

John Dempsey, Ballygilliestown, Davidstown, asked for some compensation as regards Road No. 300E.

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

"That the County Surveyor re-examine contract of John Dempsey, Ballygilliestown, Davidstown, with a view to making allowance by way of War Bonus, and which would have been awarded Mr Dempsey on foot of his contract 300E had he made application in time."

Edward McDonald, Kilbora, Camolin, complained of the manner in which he had been treated in connection with his contracts 3E, 13G, and 14G. He held that a heap of material amounting to 26 cubic yards had not been measured by Mr Kirby.

On the motion of Mr Michael Doyle, seconded by Mr James Doyle, the following resolution was adopted:-

"That the County Surveyor be instructed to make a check measurement of material on Roads 3E, 13G, and 14G, and make a general report in



connection with these roads."

Joseph Hyland, Borelia, Kilcotty, also came before the Council in connection with loss alleged to be sustained by him in consequence of the stoppage of work in quarries in Enniscorthy District owing to the refusal of Enniscorthy R. D. Council to be responsible for loss in working of quarries and machinery in this district.

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

"That Messrs D. Kavanagh, C. Culleton, M. Doyle, and Dr Ryan, be appointed a special Committee to deal with cases of complaints re roads mentioned at this day's meeting, and that they meet on next County Council meeting day."

#### Finance Committee Meetings & Postage.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr Culleton seconded by Dr Ryan:-

"That as the County Council have definitely fixed that meetings of Finance Committee for every Thursday, we consider it will not be necessary for our Secretary to issue agenda papers for these meetings in future."

#### U. S. Mail Steamship Company.

Mr J. L. Fawsett, Irish Consul, wrote under date 19th November 1920, forwarding acknowledgment by United States Mail Steamship Co., of a resolution regarding the opening up of direct trade between Ireland and the United States of America.

#### Minutes of Special Meeting of Finance Committee.

The following report of Special Meeting of Finance Committee on 6th December 1920, was submitted:-

"A Special Meeting of the Finance Committee was held in the County Hall, Wexford, on 6th December 1920.

Present:- Dr James Ryan, Vice-Chairman, (Presiding)

Also:- Messrs C. Culleton and G. Devereux.

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

The Secretary explained the amount to credit of Trustees was £10725, and there was outstanding rates (Mr O'Byrne's) £736.



There was due Road Contractors to September last £7731, and a sum of £3730 was available for ordinary payments. There was about £2000 due on foot of demands by Urban Districts and the Council owed to Public Bodies,- Asylm, County Infirmary, Boards of Guardians, and R. D. Councils £17326. 1/ on foot of current demands.

The following recommendation was adopted:-

"That every possible step be taken to keep in employment men engaged by the Council, but as the Government have retained the usual Grants and as most of the Rate Collectors are lodging our rates in their own names, the amount of funds left to the Council is very limited, and, in order to carry on, the Council must cut down expenditure. We would recommend the Council to put quarrymen and road-men on three quarter time, and we ask the officials of the Council to agree to a defer of 25 per cent of their salaries for the present.

That the County Council be recommended to negotiate an overdraft of say £5000 and that they apply to the National Bank for this amount."

"That the County Council call on each <sup>of their</sup> Rate Collectors to state definitely if he is carrying out the instructions of the County Council as regards lodgments of Poor Rate and in the event of any Collector refusing to comply with these instructions that he be directed to hand in his Books to the Council forthwith."

#### Juries Acts.

An application was read from the Clerk Crown & Peace, for payment of £125. 1. 8d moiety of amount due the Imperial Exchequer for preparation of Jurors Lists for 1920.

"The Committee recommended the County Council to refuse payment of the amount."

An application was read from Messrs English & Co., Wexford, Printers for Jurors Lists asking that they be paid as per Order of Privy Council under date 5th November 1915, and not on their contract of December 1918.

The following recommendation was adopted:-

"The Finance Committee cannot recommend payment of claim for Jurors Lists made by Messrs J. English & Co., Printers, as Mr Elgee advises that both sides are bound by the contract entered into in December 1918."



Raiding of Arthurstown Courthouse.

Under date 1st December 1920, Mr J. B. Wallis, Petty Sessions Clerk, Arthurstown, wrote that the Arthurstown Courthouse was raided on the night of 30th November or morning of 1st December 1920, and three Presses and forms destroyed by fire. Two of the Presses and forms were his (Petty Sessions Clerk's) property and he was bound to make a claim for compensation for criminal injury for these. The other Press which was the property of the County Council was value for about £10.

"No Order was made."

"We recommend ~~that~~ the several proposals for Payment as submitted by our Secretary on Treasurer's Advice Note, and as appearing on form 22 be paid by the County Council."

Mr Culleton proposed, and Mr Devereux seconded the following:-

"That the recommendation of the special meeting of Finance Committee held on 6th December 1920, be confirmed."

Mr Cloney proposed:- "That the Rate Collectors be asked to sign any Order of this Council as to payment from the Rates."

The proposal was not seconded.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr Shannon,  
seconded by Mr Murphy:-

"That we call on the Rate Collectors to lodge at once to the credit of the Council the amounts of Poor Rate which they have collected and which they have lodged to their own names."

Relieving Officers as Ex-Officio Inspectors, Food &

..... Drugs Acts. ....

The Clerk, Wexford Union, wrote that the Guardians had no objection to their Relieving Officers acting as Ex-Officio Inspectors under Food & Drugs Acts.

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

"That our Secretary ascertain from the Boards of Guardians of Enniscorthy, New Ross, and Gorey, if they are satisfied for Relieving Officers to act as Inspectors under Food & Drugs Acts and that our Secretary

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they expect for performance of the duties."

Use of County Hall.

On the motion of Mr Culleton, seconded by Mr Murphy, the action of the Chairman in agreeing to allow Killinick Harriers' Hunt Ball to be held in County Hall on 7th December 1920, at the fees fixed by the County Council, was approved.

Irrecoverable Rates.

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

"That the several lists of Irrecoverable Rates submitted by Rate Collectors be and are hereby agreed to and signed by the Chairman and Secretary on behalf of the County Council."

Proposals for Works.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr Culleton:-

"That the several proposals for Works submitted on Form 20 from the Proposal Committee and from the various Rural Districts of the County be and are hereby agreed to."

Proposals for Payment.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr Culleton:-

"That the several proposals for payment as appearing on Form 22 from the Proposal Committee and the various Rural Districts of the County be and are hereby agreed to subject to the modifications and other orders noted thereon and initialled by the Chairman. That the proposals for payment for matters other than public works and as submitted by our Secretary be and are hereby approved."

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(Signed) \_\_\_\_\_

Presiding Chairman.

Dated this       day of       19



SPECIAL MEETING.-22nd DECEMBER 1920.

A Special Meeting of the County Council, was held in the County Hall, Wexford, on 22nd December 1920.

Present:- Messrs John Murphy, John J. O'Byrne, David Kavanagh, Michael Doyle, Michael Cloney, Gregory Devereux, John Cummins.

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

On the motion of Mr Murphy, seconded by Mr Cloney, the Chair was taken by Mr Michael Doyle.

Vote of Condolence.

The Chairman proposed:- "That a vote of condolence be passed to our esteemed Colleague, Mr G. Devereux, in the loss which he has sustained through the death of his Mother, and that a copy of this resolution be furnished Mr Devereux"

Mr Cummins seconded.

"Passed".

Mr Devereux returned thanks.

Arrests of Members.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr Cloney:-

"That we protest against the arrest and detention of our Colleagues Dr Ryan (Vice-Chairman, Co. Council.) Messrs John O'Byrne, A. F. Smith, John Sinnott, and James Doyle, and who have been deprived of their liberty in order to hamper and impede the administration of the Council."

The Rate Collectors and the Council.

Under date 7th December 1920, Dail Eireann (Department of Local Government) wrote that to meet the objections of Rate Collectors that they and their sureties were exposed to serious consequences by the terms of the Rate Collectors' Bonds if they lodged their collections with unauthorised persons, i.e., persons other than the Treasurers, Rate Collectors should lodge amount to their own names and then fill up a crossed cheque for the full amount payable to the County Council, and which should be handed to the Secretary.

Under date 10th December 1920, the Local Government Board wrote (No. 173M/1920) that compliance on the part of any collector with the instructions contained in the letter given above should be in direct



contravention of the law and would render the Collector and his Sureties responsible for the amount of all rates so lodged by him. A Banking Company legally appointed as Treasurer is alone qualified to give a valid receipt for the rates collected.

With reference to this, Dail Eireann wrote under date 13th December 1920, that the Council was instructed to pass a resolution at its next meeting to indemnify to the full any Rate Collector or Surety of a Rate Collector, who may incur financial loss by reason of action taken against such Rate Collector or Surety as a result of compliance with the instructions of his employing Council.

The following Notice of Motion had been given by Dr Ryan (Vice-Chairman Co Council):- "That the County Council consider the advisability of pledging itself to indemnify to the full any Rate Collector or his Surety as a result of compliance with the instructions of this Council to lodge poor rates to the credit of this Council."

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr Devereux, seconded by Mr John Murphy, (Mr Cloney dissenting):-

"That we call on all our Rate Collectors to lodge their collecting books with this Council, or Official Checkers of Rate Collectors' Accounts before 31st December 1920. That books be returned to Collectors who pledge themselves to abide by the instructions of the County Council, and that they be retained in the cases of those who refuse to carry out such instructions. That in the event of any Collector refusing to surrender his collecting books steps be taken to secure the recovery of same for the Council."

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr Murphy, seconded by Mr G. Devereux (Mr Cloney dissenting):-

"That Rate Collectors who refuse to carry out the directions of the County Council or to deliver up their books by 31st December 1920, as instructed, be dismissed from office at meeting of County Council to be held on 4th January 1921, and that new appointments be made on said date to the vacancies thus created."

The Secretary stated that as regards the resolution adopted at the meeting of 7th December 1920, asking the Collectors to state definitely whether or no they intended to carry out the instructions of the Council



the following had not replied:-

Messrs Day, Ryan, Smith, Berry, and Redmond, wrote they were lodging rates in their own names, Mr. J. Banville wrote that he would let the Council know what he would do after 21st December, Messrs. O'Byrne and Murphy wrote that they would carry out the directions of the Council.

The Financial Position of the Council.

Under date 14th December 1920, Mr. C.J. Feely, Manager, National Bank, Wexford, wrote that his Directors would not agree to overdraft of £5000 to the County Council without having the usual security, viz:- Consent of the Local Government Board and Mortgage on the Rates to secure repayment.

The Local Government Department, Dail Eireann, wrote that to meet the deficit which would arise owing to stoppage of government grants Councils should obtain a loan from the Banks which acted as Treasurers for the Councils up to recently. The suggestion was made that if necessary each member of a Council should set himself to secure the lodging of say £50 by a dozen or twenty people, the sums so lodged to be deemed collateral security against an overdraft to the Council's representatives while each individual acting in this way would have as his security against loss the Rates of the County.

Letters were read from the following:- M.J. Finn, Town Clerk, New Ross, under date 16th December 1920, that owing to their present



the following had not replied:-

Messrs. G. Rossiter, P. Rossiter, J. Mullett, P. Codd, J. Cummins, J. Sinnott, M. Tobin, P.J. Nolan, M.J. Sheehan, J.J. Fowler, E. Cummins, J.L. Doyle, and James Cogley.

Messrs. Day, Ryan, Smith, Barry, and Redmond, wrote they were lodging rates in their own names, Mr. J. Banville wrote that he would let the Council know what he would do after 21st December, Messrs. O'Byrne and Murphy wrote that they would carry out the directions of the Council.

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Letters were read from the following:- M.J. Finn, Town Clerk, New Ross, under date 16th December 1920, that owing to their present



"That we would request Sir Thomas Esmonde to pay amount of rates paid by him in 1919, and which he paid for that year without dispute. The Council understands that no liability for payment of rates rests on Sir Thomas Esmonde as landlord, and can only ask him as a matter of kindness to his tenants to agree to the wishes of the Council. That all other items of outstanding rates be considered at next meeting."

The Ministry of Transport & Classification of Roads.

Under date 14th December 1920, the Secretary to the Irish Councils General Council forwarded copy of letter received from Local Government Department, Dail Eireann, as to Circular re classification of roads recently issued by the Ministry of Transport.

The letter referred to above and under date 9th December 1920, pointed out that while it is undoubtedly advisable that the roads of Ireland should be adequately maintained the British Government had a twofold sinister motive for the proposal to "grant" money to carry out this work.

First the maintenance of roads in a condition adequate to facilitate the traffic of fast travelling motor lorries for War purposes, and secondly getting control over the County Surveyor and his Staff by defraying "half the salary and establishment charges" of the Surveyors.

The letter dealing with payment of motor duty pointed out that a large proportion of the money paid for this duty had gone to the British Government and should be repaid for the upkeep of the roads (the purpose for which they were intended) unconditionally and can in no way be regarded as grants. An attempt should be made to recover such monies, and which should be handed over unconditionally. On no account should a local authority agree to the conditions laid down in the Circular letter of the Ministry of Transport which would not only give the latter control over the existing County Surveyor and his Staff but would apparently give them power to appoint other Engineers and Surveyors, half of whose salaries would have to be paid by the Local Authority.

The Wexford County Council should classify the roads and make a claim on the Ministry of Transport on the lines suggested. In doing so it should be clearly pointed out that the Council was making



a claim and not asking for a grant. The British Ministry of Transport could not be recognised unless it is prepared to administer such funds as it may at present control, under the supreme direction of Dail Eireann.

Dublin Castle and the Local Government Board, Custom House, had stated by Circular that no "grants" would be made to Local Bodies who refused to recognise Local Government Board and submit their accounts to audit etc. It was possible that the Ministry of Transport may discover by some accident that the British Government had adopted this course, in which event they might feel it incumbent on them to echo their Master's voice and to refuse financial aid unless the Local Authority repudiate the Government of the Republic.

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

"That the County Surveyor be instructed to prepare a Scheme of classification of roads and forward a claim to the Ministry of Transport in connection with same on the lines laid down in letter of Assistant Minister for Local Government, Dail Eireann, under date 9th December 1920."

Employment of "Ex-Service" Men.

Under date 20th December 1920, (letter No. I.R.U/32/Wexford) the Ministry of Transport wrote that they would be prepared to make a Grant of £2000 for employment of Ex-Service men on the following works:- Quarrying etc. at Ferrybank and Ferrycarrig, improving of Ferrycarrig and Enniscorthy Road, and improving and repairing various roads in the neighbourhood of Wexford, 97 ex-Service men to be employed for about ten weeks.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr. Cloney seconded by the Chairman:-

"That we accept grant of £2000 from Ministry of Transport for employment of Ex-service men on terms and conditions laid down in their letter of 20th December (I.R.U/32/Wexford.)"



Dredging at Fethard Pier.

Under date 17th December 1920, the Department of Agriculture & Technical Instruction, (F.B. 4636/20) wrote that the Ministry of Transport are not prepared to provide funds for dredging work at Fethard Harbour during the present financial year.

"Peace" Resolution from Galway/

Under date 15th December 1920, Miss Gashel, Vice-Chairman of Galway County Council wrote, that what purported to be a resolution of the Galway County Council dated 3rd inst., re "truce" was merely an expression of opinion of six members eight being necessary to form a quorum.

Claim of Messrs. Thompson for Machinery.

Under date 16th December 1920, a letter was read from Messrs. Thompson Motor Car Co., as to payment of £3500 for trailers for road machinery.

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

"that Messrs. Thompson's Motor Car Company Ltd., be informed that the former Treasurer of the County Council (The National Bank) have refused an overdraft to the Council, and the Council, regret they are as yet unable to pay account of Messrs. Thompson, but will do so as soon as they can procure the funds".

:Deduction:from:Government:Grants.

Under date 16th December 1920, letter (No. 20365/1920) was read from the Chief Secretary's Office, Dublin Castle, stating that £6 salary of Timothy Long, Co. Court Judge's crier, for half-year ended 31st July 1920, had been deducted from sums payable to the County Council from the Local Taxation (Ireland) Account.

Claim Mr. Thomas Murphy, re Clohamon Bridge.

Under date 7th December 1920, Mr. Samuel Roche, Solicitor, Tullow, wrote claiming on behalf of Mr. Murphy £100 for damage done his land during the repair of Clohamon Bridge, and provided the Council entered into an Agreement to have a breakwater to protect Mr. Murphy's land built at the first opportunity.



The Secretary read the following extract from Minutes of County Council of 7th January 1920:-

"In connection with the claim of Mr. Murphy, Ryland. for injury to his land, no order was made, the County Surveyor having stated that Mr. John Bolger (Chairman) and Mr. Hall-Dare, who were Fishery Conservators, had agreed to pay compensation to Mr. Murphy."

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

"That in connection with the claim of Mr. Thomas Murphy, Ryland, for injury to his land, the Wexford County Council repudiate liability. That a copy of correspondence from Mr. Samuel Roche, Solicitor, Tullow, in this matter be furnished Messrs. John Bolger and R.W. Hall-Dare, and we point out to them that according to the statement made to this Council by Mr. John Browne, Contractor for repair of Clohamon Bridge, the injury to Mr. Murphy's land was entirely the result of instructions given to him by Messrs. Bolger and Hall-Dare acting as Fishery conservators".

Injury to Schooner "Clara".

Under date 10th December 1920, Messrs. Huggard & Brennan, Solicitors Wexford, wrote that on 25th November a stone from the face of Kilmore Pier fell into the berth and injured the Schooner "Clara", the property of Mr. William Roshford, Ballyhealy, Kilmore. The latter could not say what was the actual amount of damage, but he was making arrangements for survey to arrive at the figure. He would hold the Wexford County Council responsible for repair of the damage, as the stone was, to the knowledge of the officials of the Council, loose for a length of time, but, notwithstanding same, nothing was done to have the matter put right.

The County Surveyor stated he had communicated with the Insurance Company, and they held that the Council was not liable.

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

"That we repudiate liability in connection with claim by Mr.



William Rochford, Ballyhealy, Kilmore, and that any further correspondence in the matter be furnished Insurance Company".

Resolution Dublin County Council.

The following resolution from Dublin County Council was adopted on the motion of Mr. O'Byrne, seconded by Mr. Cummins:-

"That this Council considers it is of vital importance at the present time that no Citizen of the Irish Republic should, by word or action, assist the enemy in any effort to secure the occupation of our Country, and that peace negotiations with any external foe can only be conducted through the elected Representatives, viz:- Dail Eireann."

Application for use of Hall.

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

"That Central Hall and adjoining corridors be let for dances to the following:-

Rugby Club. 27th December 1920 at £2 and cost of gas used in Kitchen.

Mrs. Lett, Cullentra, 31st December 1920, at £3. 3/- and cost of gas used in Kitchens.

Bohemian Dance Club, 6th January 1920, £2 and cost of gas used in Kitchens."

University Scholarship Scheme.

Under date 15th December 1920, Mr. T. Moore, to whose son a University Scholarship had been granted, wrote calling attention to the inadequacy of the amount of Scholarship.

"No Order"

Various Bills were submitted from University Scholarship Holders and the following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr. Murphy, seconded by Mr. O'Byrne:-

"That the accounts submitted to this meeting from Messrs. Walsh, Lambert, and Hayden, holders of University Scholarships be paid and that our Secretary make arrangements (so far as possible) to pay all accounts due on foot of University Scholarships, without delay. If necessary, amounts should be paid through No 4 a/c".



Boiler Insurance.

Under date 13th December 1920, Messrs. MacDonagh, & Boland, Insurance Brokers, 58 Dame Street, Dublin, wrote that no Irish Company was transacting Boiler insurance, and they wished the Council to agree to allow them to place this Insurance with another Company. Needless to say on the first available opportunity the Insurance would be transferred to an Irish Company".

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

"That Messrs. MacDonagh & Boland, Insurance Brokers, be allowed to effect "Boiler" Insurance of this County Council with a Company which Messrs. MacDonagh & Boland will select".

Mountgarrett Bridge.

The County Surveyor submitted correspondence from Mr. Burden, County Surveyor, Kilkenny, as to Mountgarrett Bridge, pointing out that if new bridge be not built they would have to close or repair the present structure. The estimated cost of new bridge was £18,000, and the Ministry of Transport proposed to give £2,250 to County Wexford and a similar sum to County Kilkenny, this being a quarter of total cost. <sup>by Rates</sup> The amount which would have to be provided from each County was £6,750.

"The Council considered that as they had no money to credit nothing could be done in connection with Mountgarrett Bridge at present".

Irish Ports.

Under date 2nd December 1920, Mr. J.L. Fawsett, Irish Consul, New York, forwarded extract taken from "Nautical Gazette", relative to protests made by Wexford County Council and other public bodies against the order of the British Government forbidding ships of the U.S. Mail Steamship Co., entering Irish Ports.

Attendance at Meetings.

The Chairman stated that the attention of Members should be called to the very small attendance at the present and previous meetings of the Council. He considered members should make it a point to attend every meeting of the Council while the question of the financial position of the Council required careful consideration, and he thought the Secretary should when summoning the meeting of the Council for 4th



January 1921, request all members (who were available) to attend.

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(Signed) \_\_\_\_\_

Presiding Chairman.

Dated this            day of            19