

Quarterly Meeting - 2nd February 1904.

The Quarterly Meeting of the County Council, was held in the Council Chamber, Courthouse, Wexford, on 2nd February 1904.

Present:- Messrs C. A. Peacocke, W. A. Ennis, J. Donohoe, W. Browne, W. J. Furlong, W. Murphy, J. D. Doyle, Lord Stopford, John J. Kehoe, John Cummins, J. Bolger, Daniel Dempsey, and J. F. Walsh,

On the motion of W^r Ennis, seconded by W^r Donohoe, the Chair was taken by W^r Peacocke.

The Secretary of the Council, W^r R. W. Elgee Solicitor, and W^r Webster, County Surveyor, were in attendance.

The Minutes of Quarterly, and previous meetings were read and signed.

Adoption of Rate.

Letter from the Local Government Board, under date, 6th January 1904, (No. 74522/1904 Wexford County) which was read, assented to the Estimate of Rate for the year ended the 31st March 1905, being dealt with at the meeting of the County Council on the 2nd February.

W^r Cummins proposed - That the estimate of Rate for General, and separate charges as presented by the Secretary, be adopted. W^r Kehoe seconded.
Passed.

Sheep Scab Order.

The Local Government Board, forwarded copy of the Diseases of Animals Act 1903. (3 Edward 7 Chap 43) and which gives power to the County Council, as the Local Authority, to examine any sheep suspected of having scab, and to provide dipping tanks or stations.

In connection with this matter, circular letter, No 3814 - 04 D. B. January 1904 was read from the

Department of Agriculture. The communication pointed out that there were certain practical and scientific points in connection with sheep dipping, that required further elucidation, before a final decision is arrived at, as to the precise nature and scope of the Orders which the Department were empowered to issue under the Act, and a committee, on which the Department, as well as Irish farming interests are represented was appointed last year, by the Board of Agriculture, and Fisheries, of Great Britain to conduct investigations into the matter.

The Department proposed to defer action as regards the issue of Orders under the recent Act until the Report of the committee had been presented and considered.

"Referred to Diseases of Animals committee"

Sealed Orders- Enniscorthy District

The Local Government Board, forwarded copy of Sealed Order (No. 1491-1904) Rathfyllane Pump, the Rural District of Enniscorthy, being the area of charge, and copy of Sealed Order No. 65,807-1903, Guarantee of a sum not exceeding £23. per annum, for seven years, for any loss sustained by the Postal Authorities, by reason of extension of telegraphic communication to Oulart - the Rural District of Enniscorthy being also the area of charge.

Poor Law Reform

The following was read for the meeting:-
Report of Messrs C. H. Peacocke, and W. A. Ennis, committee appointed by the Wexford County Council, on January 15th, to draft replies to queries submitted to the Council on behalf of the Irish Poor Law Reform Commission. The committee held two meetings. Report presented to Quarterly Meeting of the County Council on February 2nd 1904.
Query. No. 1. whether having regard to the extent, population, necessities of the sick, and destitute poor,

and economic conditions of the County of Wexford, and the facilities of locomotion and proper administration of the Poor Law therein, it would be expedient to dissolve any of the unions, wholly, or partly contained in the county, and if so, what arrangements, whether by amalgamation or otherwise, should be substituted therefor.

Reply: The Committee suggest that the healthy Infirm, and able-bodied Inmates of the Gorey Workhouse, should be transferred to Enniscorthy; that the Lunatics, and Idiots of the County, which number 150 or thereabouts, should be centralized in Gorey, the existing workhouse there, to be utilized as an auxiliary asylum. In addition the hospital should be retained to deal with cases of illness other than those of a permanent type.

The Committee consider that these alterations could be effected for £1,000. They do not propose that any of the present staff should be superannuated; the institution should be under the supervision of the Medical Officer of the Workhouse, and sufficient attendants to care the inmates should be appointed; with the Resident Medical Superintendent of the District Asylum, as a consulting and visiting Physician.

The Capitation Grant of 2/- per head would amount for the 150 people to be transferred from the other Workhouses, to £780. per annum, and the change favoured by the Committee would it is considered impose no additional taxation on the general body of Ratepayers. The Committee, in this connection fail to see any valid reason why the Capitation Grant for patients in ~~District~~ Auxiliary Asylum should be only 2/- as against 4/- for patients in District Lunatic Asylum and in order to provide for thoroughly efficient treatment, they consider a move should be made in Parliament to secure an all round capitation grant of 4/-.

The Committee consider that an experiment should be made in the boarding out of the healthy

infirm, but that an organized system to carry out this view should not be agreed to unless the experiment was found to yield good results.

The healthy infirm should be boarded out if possible with their relatives. Grants should be voted by Parliament to assist in boarding out the deserving poor.

Query No. 2. Whether in the event of any union or unions being dissolved, and of the workhouse or workhouses thereof being no longer required, for Poor Law purposes, such workhouse or workhouses could with advantage be taken over by the County Council, for an Auxiliary Lunatic Asylum, under section 76 of the Local Government (Ireland) Act 1898, or could be otherwise utilized for any other, and if so, what public purpose.

Reply :- Answered above.

Query No. 3. Whether with or without a dissolution of any union it would be possible:-

- (a) by an arrangement for the maintenance of any class or classes of paupers in the workhouse of another union; or
- (b) by combining a number of unions for the purpose of Poor Law Relief; or
- (c) by boarding out workhouse inmates.

to make better provision for the classification and treatment of the inmates chargeable to the said unions.

Reply :- Answered above.

Query No. 4. Whether in the event of an amalgamation or combination of unions being carried out or any other arrangements being made for the relief of the destitute poor, any changes in the law and procedure as to administration, and in the chargeability of relief would be desirable.

Reply :- In the event of imbeciles etc, being centred in Gorey, the County Council, should appoint one or two councillors from each of the four districts, to act as a committee to administer the finances and

management of auxiliary asylum, (sec 76. 61 & 62 Vic. c. 37- Local Government (Ireland) Act).

Maintenance of Imbeciles, and harmless Lunatics - in fact of all the inmates of the auxiliary Asylum - should be a County-at-Large charge.

Maintenance of the healthy infirm, proposed to be transferred from Gorey to Enniscorthy Workhouse, should be charged to Gorey district.

Query. No. 5. whether having regard to the number, capacity and situation of the Workhouse Hospitals, County Infirmarys, County Fever Hospitals, and other Hospitals, existing in the County, additional accommodation is required for the proper treatment of the sick poor in any union, district, or locality in the County and if other accommodation seems desirable, how it may best be provided without entailing undue hardship upon the destitute or on the sick poor of the union.

Reply:- The Workhouse Hospitals in New Ross, Enniscorthy, Gorey, and Wexford, should be utilized as District Hospitals, and be cut off from communication with the workhouse proper and have each a separate entrance, and be in all respects managed as an Hospital as distinct from a workhouse, with a view to such Hospitals, in future, under improved conditions of work, and management, being sufficient to satisfy the need for Hospital accommodation in the County, and the public using those Hospitals to be admitted without entry on the workhouse books.

Query. No. 6. whether any administrative and financial changes are desirable in order to secure a more economical system for the relief generally of:-

- (a) the sick
- (b) the insane, and
- (c) all other classes of the poor or destitute, without impairing efficiency of administration

Reply:- answered above

Query No. 7- How far, in the case of persons who are not

destitute, it would be desirable to introduce a system of payments or contributions in aid of the cost of treatment of the sick, and insane in hospitals or other such institutions.

Reply :- It would be desirable that the Committee managing the Institution, should have power to fix the amount of contribution to be paid in each individual case.

Query No. 8. What change, if any, seems to be possible and desirable as regards the treatment of the vagrant poor generally known as "Tramps or Casuals"?

Reply :- "Tramps or Casuals" should be under the immediate supervision of the police, by means of a system whereby any person leaving his own locality to procure employment would obtain a certificate from the Head Constable of his district as to his need of employment and the reasonableness of his going in search of it, said certificate to be considered as a guarantee of the bona fides of the holder and to remain effective for three months, after which period the person should be placed in the category of the "professional tramp" and be liable, having been tried by two or more Magistrates sitting at a special court; or in ordinary Petty Sessions, to committal to a Reformatory, with a view to his being made self-supporting.

In the case of persons passing from one place to another seeking employment, the Relieving Officer should give them a ticket for one night, to a common lodging house, and if necessary afford them provisional relief.

The term "workhouse" should be abolished.

(Signed) C. A. Peacocke, Co. Councillor
W. A. Ennis, Co. Councillor

W. Peacocke reports in addition to the above, as follows :- "In the event of the workhouse hospitals of the four unions of the county, being utilized as

District Hospitals, having been cut off from communication with the Workhouse proper, and having each a separate entrance, and being in all respects managed as an Hospital, as distinct from a workhouse, and having "pay wards" and qualified nurses to attend such wards, in such an event, I consider the subject of amalgamating the County Infirmary with the Wexford District Hospital, will be well worthy the attention of the Ratepayers.

If such a change were realized it would prove a great saving to the County-at-Large charges"

(Signed) C. H. Peacocke, Co. Councillor

It was decided to adjourn the consideration of the matter until a Special Meeting of the Council on the 23rd February, on the motion of Mr. J. D. Doyle seconded by Lord Stopford.

Appointment of Rate collector

The Secretary said that in May last Mr. John Sinnott, Ballycland, Davidstown, had been appointed Rate collector (vice Mr. Patrick Dunne deceased) for one year, and it was necessary for the Council at the present meeting to take some action as regards the new appointment.

The following recommendation of the Finance Committee was confirmed, on the motion of Lord Stopford, seconded by Mr. Cummins.

Mr. Peacocke proposed - "That the Secretary advertise the appointment of a Rate collector for No 10. collection District at a poundage rate of 6^d in the £ and the usual statutory fees for Voters and Jurors Acts. Mr. Donohoe seconded. Passed.

Acknowledgments Resolutions

With reference to the resolutions adopted by the Council on the 15th January as to the proposal to change the close of the financial half-years, and repeal of

section 6 of the Local Government (Ireland) Act 1902. Sir Thomas H. G. Esmonde, Bart. M.P. wrote, that he would do his best to have the views of the Council carried out.

Mr. Peter French, M.P. wrote acknowledging receipt of copies of the same resolutions and stating that it would give him great pleasure to work for the proposed changes.

Repairs of Piers

The following resolution by Sir Thomas Esmonde Chairman of the Council, adjourned from last quarterly meeting came up for discussion:- "That all works to piers other than structural improvements be half county-at-large charges, and half District charges in future."

Adjourned for attendance of Sir Thomas Esmonde.

Marine Works

With reference to the resolution adopted by the Council at last quarterly meeting, requesting the Government, to allocate the sum of £100,000 to the construction and improvement of fishing piers, in the southeast of Ireland, on the same terms as the Grant under the Marine Works (Ireland) Act. Mr. H. K. Nesbet, wrote under date 5th November 1908 that he was directed by the Chief Secretary for Ireland, to acknowledge the letter of the Secretary of the County Council, containing copy of the resolution.

Mr. H. G. Smith, Private Secretary to Sir Horace Plunkett, also acknowledged receipt of the resolution and which he said, would have the attention of Sir Horace Plunkett.

Sale Sheep Dip.

The following resolution was received from Galway Co. Council:-

"That we consider that any restriction put on the sale of Sheep Dip to be seriously detrimental to the cleanliness of sheep, and that if its sale be

confined to chemists, we are absolutely certain that thousands of small farmers will consider it impossible to dip their sheep; and we therefore warn the Government, of the possible danger of the highly contagious disease of sheep scab spreading.

Mr. Doyle proposed the adoption of the above, Mr. Cummins seconded. Passed.

Building Technical Schools.

Sir Thomas Esmonde, gave notice to move - "That we, in common with the Agricultural and Technical Committees in Ireland, request the Treasury to grant annually a sum sufficient to provide for the repayment of the sinking fund and interest on loans, to be obtained for building suitable and permanent technical schools which are so urgently needed to carry out the work already successfully inaugurated throughout Ireland, further; that copies of this resolution be forwarded the Lord Lieutenant; the Chief Secretary for Ireland, the Prime Minister, the Secretary to the Treasury, and the Department of Agriculture, and Technical Instruction.

The above was postponed for the attendance of Sir Thomas Esmonde.

Irish Education Act.

Councillor J. Bolger, had given notice to move from conference of the County School Attendance Committees confirmation of the following suggested amendments to the Irish Education Act 1892 - "Sec 1 sub sec. 3 a - That three miles limit be substituted for two miles limit, and right of way, for road, for children, between the ages of 10 and 14. Sec 4 sub-section 2 - Read. "Impose a fine not exceeding, including costs 10/- instead of 5/-

Sec 4 sub sec 1. That after the word making order (in this Act called an Attendance order) add the words "with costs".

Sec 4. Sub. sec 3 - After the words less than

two months, add except in the case of truant and incorrigible children that the magistrates be empowered to send said children to an industrial school.

Sec 7. sub-sec 1. - After the words court of summary jurisdiction shall be constituted, substitute one justice of the peace instead of two.

Also the following resolution adopted at the conference "That the unappropriated portion of the Equivalent Grant, assigned to Ireland, by the Development Fund Act, be applied exclusively for the improvement of primary education and for better equipment of Irish National Schools, as it is absolutely necessary that heating, cleansing, and proper sanitary arrangements be provided for, also, with a view to encourage regularity of attendance, to stimulate energy, and to facilitate the intellectual progress of the children of the poor, a liberal system of school prizes be established, and that the present inadequate school staff be increased, that the maximum of educational advantages may be brought within the reach of every child in the country."

Councillor Browne, had also given notice to move:-

"That when the recommendations, of the conference of school attendance committees, comes before the meeting, as it appears from section 10 (2) of the Irish Education Act of 1892, that the county council is obliged, on application from a District Council, to put the act in force in that District, the recommendations of the conference be referred to the District Councils for their opinion; and also, as to whether they wish the act to be enforced in their respective districts."

By permission of the meeting the resolutions of Messrs Bolger and Browne, were postponed until the Special Meeting in February.

Income Tax on Tenant Purchasers.

Councillor W. Browne, moved: "That the practice of assessing Income Tax on Tenant purchasers under the Land Act, as proprietors, is unjust and inequitable, as their yearly instalments to the Land Commission, are in most cases but slightly less than their former rents, and we request our Chairman to have a clause inserted in any amending Land Act, that may be introduced to remedy this grievance."

The Chairman seconded the resolution which was adopted.

Poulduff Pier.

Under date 22nd January 1904, the following letter (No 249/04) was received from the Department of Agriculture re Poulduff Pier:-

"With reference to the resolution on the subject of Poulduff Pier, adopted by the Wexford County Council on the 15th Inst; I have to state that the Department are prepared to pay one-half the cost of the proposed improvements, provided their contribution will not exceed £1,200. The Department cannot increase the amount of this offer."

Sir Thomas Esmonde, under date 29th January 1904, in answer to a resolution sent to him on this matter, from the Council wrote:-

"You will have received a letter by now, from the Department of Agriculture, with regard to Poulduff Pier. As I cannot attend the meeting on Tuesday may I suggest to the Council, to close with the Department's offer, which is a considerable advance on its previous proposals."

Under the new regulations, the Department will not advance more than half of the cost of marine works. On more than one occasion, I have explained to the Council, how we have been prejudicially affected by the passing of the Marine Works Act, prior to the passing of which we could have counted on two-

chords of the cost of marine works being found for us, out of the Public Funds, as in the case of Ardmore.

As things are now however, and as there is little likelihood under existing conditions of obtaining a marine works Bill, for the Eastern Coast, I think that the Council would do well to accept the proposal of the Department of Agriculture, regarding Poulduff, so that the work may be entered upon without further delay - as delay now, means putting off the work for another year - and so that employment may be provided for the people who badly need it in that locality."

Mr Ennis moved: - "That a special meeting of the Council, be convened for a convenient date by the end of February to rescind the resolution adopted by the Council with reference to the proposed works at Poulduff Pier, and to take such further action as may be deemed desirable by the Council in connection with this work; the full text of the resolution to be set out on the agenda paper. The Chairman seconded. Passed.

On the motion of Mr Dempsey, seconded by Mr Ennis the special meeting was ordered to be summoned for Tuesday 28th February at 2 O'clock. P. M.

Employment of children.

The Local Government Board, forwarded copy of the Employment of children Act 1903. which gives power to the County Council to make by-laws for regulating the employment of children.

Lord Stopford moved: - "That the following Committee be appointed to consider the clauses of the employment of children Act 1903 - Messrs Ennis Kehoe, Peacocke, Walsh, and Browne.

Mr Kehoe seconded the resolution which was adopted.

The State of the Roads.

The following letter from Mr. H. Bruen, Jr. Coolbawn Enniscorthy, under date 28th December 1903. and which

had been adjourned from the meeting of the Council, on the 15th January (owing to the absence of any representative from the District concerned) was read:-

I would like to ask you to draw the attention of the Council, to the state of some of the roads, viz. that between Killanne, and Ballyhyland, also between Kiltrea and Monart; in the latter, few of the stones put on, measure less than six inches in the smallest part. The road between Ballyanne and New Ross is also practically impassable. There are such good roads in other parts of the County, that I cannot think the fault is in the material for repairing the roads."

Mr. Webster said that he visited both the roads in question, on one of them the material was large, but was excellent for the purpose.

The average size of the stones was 2½ inches but he had seen two large stones, one four inches and the other 4½ inches. It was not the case to say the Ballyanne road was impassable.

The Killanne and Ballyhyland road was certainly bad, and the contractor had been served with a ten days notice. The road was in a disgraceful condition.

Lord Stopford proposed:- "That our Secretary inform Mr. Bruen, that his letter has been referred to the County Surveyor. Mr. Donohoe seconded. Passed.

Repairs to Arthurstown and Duncannon Piers.

In connection with the above, the question of fixing the area of charge for £10 repairs to Arthurstown Pier, and £50 Sudden Damage to Duncannon Pier arose.

Lord Stopford proposed and Mr. Kehoe seconded that the above be postponed till the special meeting on February 29th.

New Members Co. Committee of Agriculture

The Secretary of the County Wexford Committee of Agriculture, etc., under date January 25th 1904 wrote that at the meeting of the Committee on the 22nd a resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr. C. W. Lett, seconded by Mr. James Bodd; requesting the County Council, to appoint on the Committee, one representative each from Galbally and Templehambo Districts.

Mr. Furlong proposed the appointment of Mr. Thomas Apple. Mr. Kehoe, seconded. Passed.

Mr. J. Bolger proposed the appointment of Mr. James Sinnott. Mr. J. D. Doyle seconded. Passed.

Higher Education

The following resolution was received from the Limerick County Council:-

"That we the County Council of Limerick are convinced that the want of a system of higher Education modern in character and suited to the special conditions and needs of the Irish People is telling with disastrous effect upon the material interests of the country, and is a bar to effectual progress, we therefore beg to represent to the Government the urgent need for finding a remedy for this state of things, and we request the Irish Parliamentary party, to urge this claim of the Irish People, on the House of Commons, in the approaching session of Parliament, with the fullest energy and determination."

The Chairman proposed the adoption of the above resolution. Mr. Browne seconded. Passed.

Teaching of Irish

The Secretary of the Gaelic League, Dublin, forwarded a series of resolutions as to the unsatisfactory position of the teaching of Irish in many National Schools, protesting against the changes affecting Irish in the Intermediate programme for 1904, stating

that Irish should be ^{an} optional subject in examinations for clerkships in Railways, Banks, and similar institutions, and calling on the heads of families in Irish speaking districts to make Irish the language of their homes."

Mr. Browne proposed the adoption of the above resolutions which was seconded by Mr. Kehoe
Passed.

In connection with resolutions given above Councillor Browne moved. "That we are of opinion the Great Southern, & Western Railway Co. should accede to the request of the Gaelic League that Irish be admitted as an optional subject in their competitive examination for officials."

Mr. Kehoe seconded. Passed.

Maintenance of over-line railway bridges.

The following was read from the Wexford Urban Council, under date. 1st February 1904 -

"With regard to your letter of the 16th ult intimating that the D. W. & W. Railway Company were willing to pay a sum of £2 : 10/- per annum for the maintenance by the Corporation of the roadway over and the approaches to the railway bridge at Wexford, I beg to say that the matter has been under the consideration of the Corporation, and in the absence of information as to the extent to which their responsibility would go in case they accept £2 : 10/- per year for the maintenance of the roadway, they hesitated to close with the offer."

The Corporation, however, will be prepared to enter into negotiations with the Railway Company if the company will think well of making a direct proposal to them."

Mr. Dempsey moved :- "That the County Council accept the offer of £27 : 10/- from the Dublin, Wicklow and Wexford Railway Company, for the maintenance of the roadway on, and approaches to, over-line bridges in the County, including the railway bridge at Wexford."

to the New Free Bridge of Wexford, and over which the County Council have no control."

Mr. Murphy seconded the resolution which was adopted.

Steam Rolling.

The following resolution forwarded on the 1st of February, was received on behalf of the Wexford Urban District:-

Resolved:- That a mile of road (more or less) including the Redmond road, be subjected to the process of steam rolling as an experiment provided the District Council and the County Council will treat with a steam roller an equal length of County Road in continuation of such of the Urban Roads as may be so treated."

Mr. Furlong proposed, Mr. Browne, seconded and it was passed - "That as the County Council are at present engaged in carrying out an experiment in steam rolling in the Enniscorthy District, the Wexford Corporation be informed that the County Council desire to have an opportunity of ascertaining the result of the experiment they have in hands, before taking further action in this connection."

Caretaker - Mountgarrett Bridge.

The County Surveyor mentioned that the contract for the caretaking of Mountgarrett Bridge would expire on the 31st March, and the County Surveyor of Kilkenny and himself considered it would be wiser as regards the manner in which the work would be carried out; that an appointment of caretaker, with a regular agreement should be made instead of having the work carried out like an ordinary road contract.

Mr. Kehoe proposed - "That the County Surveyor take what steps he considers necessary to provide for the caring of Mountgarrett Bridge, from the 31st March 1904 until the appointment of a caretaker."

Mr Dempsey seconded. Passed.

Mr Kehoe gave notice to move at next meeting of the Proposal Committee, that a caretaker be appointed for Mountgarrett Bridge at a fixed salary, to be a County-at-Large charge.

Vote of Condolence

Mr Cummins moved - that this Council offers to Mr W. Hickey, County Councillor, the expression of their deep regret at the demise of his brother, Mr John Hickey Mayler's Park, New Ross, and that a copy of this resolution be forwarded Mr Hickey Co. Councillor, and Mrs Hickey widow of deceased. Mr Browne seconded the resolution. Passed.

Leave of Absence

Mr Furlong proposed - "That, as our Secretary has to consult a medical specialist, he be granted a week's leave of absence for this purpose, and that Mr Frizelle, Assistant Secretary, discharge the duties of Secretary in the meantime."

Mr Kehoe seconded the resolution which was adopted without dissent.

Rent of Enniscorthy Courthouse

The following letter was read from Mr G. E. Roberts Agent to Lord Portsmouth, under date 30th January 1904.

"I submitted your letter of the 16th Inst., re above (rent of Enniscorthy Courthouse) to the Earl of Portsmouth, and replying thereto, I am directed to say, that his Lordship previous to letting had all the facts in connection with the Enniscorthy Courthouse before him, and in fixing the moderate yearly rent of £10 on same, which is much below the usual rate at which the adjoining properties are held, he considered he was treating the County Council very fairly."

The rent fixed compares favourably with that paid by the County Council for Wexford & New Ross Courthouses - in the former with a frontage of

111 feet 6 inches, the annual rent is £180 : 16 : 2. and in the latter, with a frontage of 74 feet 6 inches the annual rent is £74. The Enniscorthy Courthouse has a frontage of 98 feet, for which, as stated, only £15 a year is charged. Under these circumstances his Lordship declines to alter his letting.

Please inform me at your earliest convenience if the County Council accepts his terms."

Mr. Browne, proposed :- "That having no other alternative we agree to pay a rent of £15 a year for Enniscorthy Courthouse, and that the question of taking out a lease be postponed."

Mr. Kehoe seconded the resolution. Passed.

Proposals for Payments

Mr. Furlong proposed, Mr. Browne, seconded, and it was passed. "That the several proposals for Payment sent up by the Rural District Councils of the County and the Proposals for Payment sent up by the Proposals Committee be approved, subject to the modifications and other Orders noted thereon and initialled by the Chairman."

Confirmation of Minutes

On the motion of Mr. Browne, seconded by Mr. Furlong, the Minutes of the Proposal Committee and Finance Committee, from the date of the last quarterly Meeting were confirmed."

The Financial Statement Books of Receipt and Expenditure and Financial Minutes written up to date were produced at the Meeting.

The following Books also brought up to date, were produced at the Meeting. Register of Separate Charges, Register of Applications and Proposals, and Abstract of Poor Rate Collectors' Lodgments.

Treasurer's Authority in respect of Payments, for the Quarter ending 31st December 1908, was signed.

Edmund Stone

Special Meeting - 23rd February 1904.

A special meeting of the County Council, was held in the Council Chamber, Courthouse, Wexford, on February 23rd 1904.

Mr E. Hore, Vice-Chairman, (presided). There were also present - Messrs C. H. Peacocke, J. Bolger, John J. Kehoe, M. A. Ennis, D. Dempsey, A. Kinsella, M. Murphy, J. D. Doyle, M. Browne, J. F. Walsh, M. J. Furlong, Lord Stopford, John Cummins, Denis Kavanagh, J. Bolger, J. Donohoe.

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

Poulduff Pier.

The meeting was summoned to consider, amongst other matters, the following notice of motion given by Councillor Ennis, and signed by seven other members :-

"That a special meeting of the Council be convened for a convenient day by the end of February to rescind the resolution adopted by the Council with reference to the proposed works at Poulduff Pier and to take such further action as may be deemed desirable by the Council in connection with this work, the full text of the resolution of the Council to be set out on the agenda paper."

The following is the text of the Resolution which it is proposed to rescind :-

"That subject to the Council receiving the consent of the Department of Agriculture by the November meeting of the Council, the following proposal provisionally approved at last meeting of the Proposal Committee be adopted - "That the County Council contribute a sum of £1000. for carrying out the works at Poulduff Pier recommended by the Piers

and Harbours Committee, said works to be a County-at-Large charge, on condition that the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland, agree to contribute by free grant such further sum as may be necessary to complete said works, and undertake to carry out said works to the satisfaction of the County Surveyor."

For the information of the meeting, letter n^o 249/04 under date 22nd January from the Department of Agriculture was again read.

Mr Ennis asked permission to move the following instead of the above:- "That in the resolution of the County Council, approving of the Council voting £1,000 for improvements at Roulduff Pier, the following words be resinded:- "on condition that the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland, agree to contribute by free grant such further sum as may be necessary to complete said works and undertake to carry out said works to the satisfaction of the County Surveyor." Mr Doyle seconded. Passed.

Mr Kinsella moved the following:- "That the County Council contribute a sum of £1,000 for carrying out the works at Roulduff Pier recommended by the Piers and Harbours Committee, said works to be a County-at-Large charge, on condition that the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction contribute by free grant a further sum of £1,000." Mr Dempsey seconded.

Mr Murphy moved:- "That the question be postponed for twelve months."

Mr Furlong seconded.

A vote was taken on Mr Murphy's amendment with the following result.

For:- Messrs Furlong, Donohoe, and Murphy - 3.

Against:- Messrs Walsh, Browne, Bolger, Dore, Peacocke, John. J. Kehoe, Ennis, Dempsey, Kinsella, Cummins, Kavanagh, and J. D. Doyle - 12.

Did not vote - Lord Stopford.

Mr Kinsella's motion was then put and passed.

It was decided that a special meeting be summoned for 10th March to consider the reply of the Department on this matter.

Repairs to Piers.

Mr Cummins proposed:- "That £10. repairs to Arthurstown Pier and £100 sudden damage orders repairs to Duncannon Pier be a County at large charge." Mr Ennis seconded.

Mr Donohoe moved that the repairs to Arthurstown Pier for £10. and Duncannon Pier for £100, be half County at large and half District charges. Mr Bolger seconded.

A vote was taken on the amendment as follows:-
For - Messrs Furlong, J. Bolger, Donohoe, Murphy and Lord Stopford. 5.

Against - Messrs Walsh, Browne, Peacocke, Kehoe, Ennis, Dempsey, Kinsella, Cummins, Kavanagh, Doyle, and the Chairman. - 11.

The amendment was declared lost, and the motion of Mr Cummins, was put and passed.

Prosecuting Road Contractors.

On the motion of Mr Kehoe, seconded by Mr Peacocke, it was decided that the following Road Contractors be prosecuted:-

Enniscorthy - James Quirke 263; John Murphy No. 183, Felix Murphy No. 173.

Wexford District - William Whelan No. 91; Nicholas Fortune No. 112.

Ferry carrig Bridge

The following letter was read from Capt. J. J. Walker O.L. Tykillen;- under date February 16th 1904:-

"Dear Sir,

Permit me to point out to the County Council on behalf of the ratepayers who are obliged to use Ferry carrig Bridge that the time seems to have arrived

when the County Council should take immediate steps to replace the present old Bridge by a new structure.

If you refer to the minutes of the County Council, ever since 1900, you will find that time after time references have been made to the age and dangerous state of this bridge. The large sum needed for its annual upkeep and the necessity existing for a new and more suitable structure.

If I am correct, so far back as April 1901, Mr. J. H. Ryan, the engineering expert who inspected the bridge for the County Council, was asked for his opinion as to whether a new girder bridge or one on the suspension principle would be the cheaper.

Mr. Ryan had not gone into that question for the purposes of his report, and was consequently unable to give definite information to the Council without a further inspection, but he replied to the query in a letter in which he stated that the suspension bridge would be much cheaper.

~~Mr. Ryan had not gone into that question for the purposes of his report and was consequently unable to give~~

This goes to show that three years ago practically, the necessity of replacing the present bridge by a new one, had been recognised by the members of the County Council, and this necessity becomes daily more apparent. Furthermore, if I am correct, at the Proposals Committee of October 1901 a resolution was passed to erect "temporary" railings for the safety of persons using the bridge. The fact that a "temporary" work only was ordered, conclusively proves that a new structure in the immediate future was then contemplated.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen we would ask you to remember that the question of this bridge, was before the County Council, long before that of the various fishing harbours in the County, to the improvements of which large grants have been generously voted. Surely it is not too much to ask that you will at least consider the question of at

once erecting a new bridge at Ferry carrig, which has been under consideration for nearly four years."

"Mr Webster said that the contract on the bridge would not expire until March 1905. Two or three times lately the bridge had been fouled by barges. The bridge was as strong now as it was for the last 15 years, if not stronger. He did think the time had arrived when there should be a decent bridge over the river. He suggested that if a bridge were built it should be able to sustain engine traffic. Recently he had been asked by the agents of the promoters of the Pirie-Ineagh scheme if Wexford bridge would sustain a motor engine and wagon of 9 and 5 tons respectively, and he had been obliged to give it as his opinion that the bridge would only bear an engine of 7 tons and a trailer of 5 tons. He was not in favour of a suspension bridge, but recommended a bridge built of steel, with steel cylinders filled with concrete. The water there was 40 feet deep. He estimated the cost would be at least £10,000.

He had not made any estimate as to what it would cost to put the present bridge in really first class order.

Capt Walker said, it was an absolute necessity that the bridge should be renovated for the ratepayers.

He would not call the flooring of the bridge safe, and the old planks in portions of the skirting boards were full of holes. The flooring was perfectly irregular and he predicted that some bad accident would occur. The bridge was in a dangerous state and was getting worse from day to day.

Mr Webster said it was ridiculous to say that because a beam was shaking the bridge was rotten.

It was nonsense to say that because the flooring was uneven the bridge was unsafe. The piles had subsided probably more at one side than the other. Mr Donohoe - Mr Webster has a contract on the bridge and he should make the contractor do his duty.

Mr Doyle - Do you believe the bridge is in a safe condition for traffic.

Mr Webster - Yes, so long as a barge does not foul the bridge. I have given the contractor orders to have the footpath repaired. I do think it would take £500 to put the bridge into really first class order, at the expiration of the present contract. It is as strong as it was 15 years - certainly 11 years ago.

Capt Walker - If you went over it as often as I do you would not say that.

Mr Donohoe argued that the amounts of the contracts spent on the bridge should have kept it in repair.

Mr J. Bolger moved - That the consideration of letter re ferry carrying bridge be adjourned till next ordinary meeting of the Council and in the meantime that Mr Webster obtain a rough estimate of what will be required to put the bridge into thorough repair so as to allow of steam barges etc., being safely navigated under it, and an estimate for a new steel bridge." Mr Walsh, seconded the resolution which was passed.

Capt Walker, in reply to Mr Webster said the bridge was worse because it was so much older.

Mr Webster - But you make no allowance for all the new timber that has been put into it.

Mr Elger said that when the bridge was injured on the first two occasions, the owner of the barge paid for the damage, but on the last occasion the contractor was not able to prove who caused the damage.

Mr Webster said that since the accident he had received an application to put down buoys for warping barges through bridge.

Irish Poor Law Commission

The following report of Mr. G. H. Peacocke, and Mr. A. Ennis, Committee appointed by the Wexford County Council on January 15th 1904 to draft replies to queries

submitted to the Council on behalf of the Irish Poor Law Reform Commission, was read:-

Query No. 1- Whether having regard to the extent, population, necessities of the sick and destitute poor, and economic conditions of the County of Wexford and the facilities of locomotion and proper administration of the poor law therein it would be expedient to dissolve any of the Unions wholly or partly contained in the County, and if so what arrangements, whether by amalgamation or otherwise should be substituted therefor

Reply:- The Committee suggest that the healthy infirm, and able bodied inmates of the Gorey workhouse, should be transferred to Enniscorthy, that the lunatics and idiots of the County which number 150 or thereabouts should be centralised in Gorey, the existing workhouse there be utilised as an auxiliary asylum. In addition the hospital should be retained to deal with cases of illness other than those of a permanent type.

The Committee consider that these alterations could be effected for £1,000. They do not propose that any of the present staff should be superannuated the institution should be under the supervision of the medical Officer of the workhouse and sufficient attendants to care the inmates should be appointed, with the resident medical superintendent of the district asylum as a consulting and visiting physician.

The Capitation Grant of 2/- per head would amount for the 150 people to be transferred from the other workhouses to £780 per annum, and the change favoured by the Committee would it is considered impose no additional taxation on the general body of ratepayers. The Committee in this connection fail to see any valid reason why the Capitation Grant for patients in an auxiliary asylum should be only 2/- as against 4/- for patients in district lunatic asylums, and in order to provide

for thoroughly efficient treatment they consider a move should be made in Parliament to secure an all round capitation grant of 4/-. The Committee consider that an experiment should be made in the boarding out of the healthy infirm, but that an organised system to carry out this view, should not be agreed to unless the experiment was found to yield good results. The healthy infirm should be boarded out if possible with their relatives. Grants should be voted by Parliament to assist in boarding out the deserving poor.

Query No. 2. whether in the event of any union or unions being dissolved and of the workhouse or workhouses thereof being no longer required for poor law purposes such workhouse or workhouses could with advantage be taken over by the county council for an auxiliary lunatic asylum under section 76 of the Local Government (Ireland) Act 1898 or could be otherwise utilised for any other, and if so, what public purpose

Reply:- Answered above.

Query No. 3:- whether with or without a dissolution of any union it would be possible

(a) by any arrangement for the maintenance of any class or classes of paupers in the workhouse of another union or (b) by combining a number of unions for the purpose of poor law relief.

or (c) by boarding out workhouse inmates to make better provision for the classification and treatment of the inmates chargeable to the said unions.

Reply:- Answered above.

Query No. 4. whether in the event of an amalgamation or combination of unions being carried out or any other arrangements being made for the relief of the destitute poor, any changes in the law and procedure as to administration and in the chargeability of relief would be desirable.

Reply:- In the event of imbeciles, etc., being centred in Gorey the county council should appoint one or two councillors from each of the four districts to act as a committee to administer the finances and management of auxiliary

asylum (section 76, 61 and 62 Vic Chap 37 - Local Government (Ireland) Act). Maintenance of imbeciles and harmless lunatics, in fact of all the inmates of the auxiliary asylum, should be a county at large charge.

Maintenance of the healthy infirm proposed to be transferred from Gorey to Enniscorthy workhouse should be charged to Gorey district.

Query No 5:- Whether having regard to the number capacity and situation of the workhouse hospitals county infirmaries, county fever hospitals, and other hospitals existing in the county, additional accommodation is required for the proper treatment of the sick poor in any union, district or locality in the county, and if other accommodation seems desirable how it may best be provided without entailing undue hardship upon the destitute or on the sick poor of the union.

Reply:- The workhouse hospitals in New Ross, Enniscorthy, Gorey, and Wexford, should be utilised as district hospitals, and be cut off from communication with the workhouses proper, and have each a separate entrance, and be in all respects managed as an hospital, as distinct from a workhouse, with a view to such hospitals in future under improved conditions of work and management being sufficient to satisfy the need for hospital accommodation in the county, and the public using these hospitals to be admitted without entry on the workhouse books.

Query No. 6. Whether any administrative and financial changes are desirable in order to secure a more economical system for the relief generally of (a) the sick (b) the insane, and (c) all other classes of the poor or destitute without impairing efficiency of administration

Reply:- Answered above.

Query No. 7:- How far in the case of persons who are not destitute, it would be desirable to introduce a system of payments or contributions in aid of the cost of treatment of the sick and insane in hospitals or other such

institutions.

Reply:- It would be desirable that the committee managing the institution, should have power to fix the amount of contribution to be paid in each individual case.

Query No. 8. what change, if any seems to be possible and desirable as regards the treatment of the vagrant poor generally known as "tramps or casuals".

Reply:- "Tramps or casuals" should be under the immediate supervision of the police by means of a system whereby any person leaving his own locality to procure employment would obtain a certificate from the head constable of his district as to his need of employment and the reasonableness of his going in search of it, said certificate to be considered as a guarantee of the bonafides of the holder, and to remain effective for three months, after which period the person should be placed in the category of the "professional tramp" and be liable, having been tried by two or more magistrates sitting at a special court or in ordinary petty sessions, to committal to a reformatory with a view to his being made self-supporting. In the case of persons passing from one place to another seeking employment the relieving officer should give them a ticket for one night to a common lodging house and if necessary afford them provisional relief. The term "workhouse" should be abolished.

(Signed) C. H. Peacocke, County Councillor
M. H. Ennis, County Councillor

Mr. Peacocke reports in addition to the above as follows:- "In the event of the workhouse hospitals of the four unions of the county, being utilised as district hospitals, having been cut off from communication with the workhouse proper, and having each a separate entrance, and being in all respects managed as an hospital as distinct from a workhouse, and having "pay wards" and qualified nurses to attend such wards, in such an event I consider the subject of amalgamating the County Infirmary with the Wexford district

hospital, will be well worthy the attention of the rate-payers. If such a change were realised it would prove a great saving to the County-at-Large charges.

(Signed) C. H. Peacocke

County Councillor

Lord Stopford moved: "That the foregoing report of Mr. Peacocke and Mr. Ennis be received"

Mr. Doyle seconded. Passed.

The report was then discussed.

(Mr. Peacocke proposed and Mr. Ennis seconded - "That the report of the Committee be adopted." Passed.

Lord Stopford moved as an amendment - "While we are of opinion that it is highly desirable that an auxiliary asylum for imbeciles and idiots should be provided, we are not in a position to recommend that any workhouse in the County should be used for that purpose. But we suggest that if after inquiry it is found that there are too many workhouses in this County for the population, that there should be a redistribution of Unions in this and the neighbouring counties and any workhouse that is closed should be used as an auxiliary asylum."

Mr. Doyle seconded the amendment.

For the amendment there voted: Messrs J. Bolger, Kinsella, Kavanagh, and Doyle, 4.

Against: Messrs Furlong, Browne, Peacocke, Kehoe, Ennis, Donohoe, Dimpsey, Cummins, Murphy, J. Bolger, Walsh, and the Chairman, 12.

The Chairman declared the amendment lost.

Mr. Doyle proposed - "That each Union be charged according to the number of imbeciles etc. sent to the auxiliary asylum."

On a poll there voted for. Messrs Murphy, Kavanagh, and Doyle, 3.

Against: Messrs J. Bolger, Furlong, Browne, Peacocke, J. Bolger, Ennis, Kehoe, Donohoe, Dimpsey, Cummins, Walsh, and the Chairman - 12.

The Chairman declared the amendment lost.

Mr Doyle moved - That the word "Gorey" be struck out of the report in connection with the establishment of hospitals."

The motion fell through for want of a seconder. The motion for the adoption of the report was then put and adopted with the exception of the separate paragraph at the end and submitted by Mr Peacocke.

Mr Peacocke moved the adoption of the concluding paragraph in the report.

Mr Doyle seconded
on a poll there voted:-

For - Messrs Peacocke, Kinsella, Murphy, Kavanagh, and Doyle - 5.

Against - Messrs J. Bolger, Furlong, Browne, Kehoe, Ennis, Donohoe, Dempsey, J. Bolger, Walsh, Cummins, and the Chairman - 11

Irish Education Act 1892.

Councillor J. Bolger moved (from Conference of County School Attendance Committees). Confirmation of the following suggested amendments to the Irish Education Act 1892:- Sec 1, sub sec 3a. - That three miles limit be substituted for two miles limit, and right of way for road for children between the ages of 10 and 14. Sec 14. sub section 2 - Read "Impose a fine not exceeding including costs 10/- instead of 5/-

Sec 4. sub sec 1 - That after the word making order (in this Act called an attendance order) add the words "with costs"

Sec 4. sub. sec 3. After the words less than two months add except in the case of truant and incorrigible children that the Magistrates be empowered to send said children to an Industrial School.

Sec 7. sub sec 1. After the words Court of Summary jurisdiction shall be constituted, substitute one justice of the Peace instead of two.

Councillor Browne moved:- "That when the recommendations of the conference of School Attendance Committees comes before the meeting, as it appears from section 15 (2) of

the Irish Education Act of 1892, that the County Council is obliged on application from a District Council, to put the Act in force in that District, the recommendations of the Conference be referred to the District Councils for their opinion and also as to whether they wish the Act to be enforced in their respective districts."

Mr. Kavanagh seconded Mr. Bolger's resolutions
Passed.

Mr. Doyle seconded Mr. Brown's motion which was subsequently withdrawn.

Mr. Bolger's motion was then put and declared passed. Mr. Bolger moved that the foregoing resolutions be sent to the Chairman of the Irish National Party, Mr. French, the Chief Secretary, Sir Thomas Esmonde and the Secretaries of the Irish County Councils. Mr. Kavanagh seconded. Passed.

Mr. Bolger moved the following:-

"That the unappropriated portion of the Equivalent Grant assigned to Ireland by the Development Fund Act, be applied exclusively for the improvement of primary education and of better equipment of Irish National Schools, as it is absolutely necessary, that heating cleansing and proper sanitary arrangements be provided for, also with a view to encourage regularity of attendance, to stimulate energy, and to facilitate the intellectual progress of the children of the poor, a liberal system of school prizes be established, and that the present inadequate school staff be increased, that the maximum of educational advantages may be brought within the reach of every child in the country."

Mr. Peacocke seconded. Passed.

Application Increase of Salary.

The following letter under date 1st February 1904 was read from Mr. G. H. Richards, Assistant in the County Council Office:- "I beg to apply for an

increase in my salary. My duties are greatly increased.

I now attend the meetings of the four District Councils for the purpose of executing Contractors Bonds (which was hitherto performed by the Solicitor of the Council) and for three months in each year, I have charge of the clerks engaged in the preparation of the Rate Books.

I have also extra work in connection with the new Motor Car Act.

I am sure the Secretary, and Assistant Secretary will vouch for my efficiency in the discharge of my duties."

Mr Dempsey moved and Mr Ennis seconded, that Mr Richards be granted an increase of salary of five shillings per week. Passed.

Overline Bridges.

Under date February 13th. letter No 7/658 the Secretary of the Dublin, Wicklow and Wexford Railway wrote as follows:-

"With reference to your letter of the 3rd instant, addressed to Mr Shannon, I am desired to advise you that my Directors confirm the proposed arrangements namely to pay a sum of £27.10/- per annum for the maintenance of the roadways on and approaches to overline bridges in the County Wexford, excluding the bridge at Wexford over which the County Council have no control.

It will be convenient to have a formal agreement embodying the terms settled by the County Council and this company, and I shall be glad to hear whether you will furnish the draft of this document, or desire us to prepare it."

In connection with the same matter the following letter to the County Surveyor was read from Mr A. Gordon, Engineer's Office, Great Southern and Western Railway, Inchicore, Dublin. Under date 8th February 1904

"Following mine of the 27th ult. I brought this matter before my Board on Friday last and they have agreed to pay the County Council an annual sum of £11. for

the maintenance of the roads in question.

I shall be obliged if you will arrange for this and let me hear."

Mr. Cummins proposed, Mr. Kehoe, seconded and it was passed - "That we accept the offer of the Great Southern, & Western Railway Company of £11, for the maintenance of the roadways on and approaches to overline bridges, on their system, and that Mr. Elgee prepare the agreement between the County Council and the G. S. & W. Railway Company."

Kilmore Pier.

The Dockyard Company
Wexford

February 1904

To. Henry Webster Esq. B. C. C. C.

County Surveyor, Wexford.

Dear Sir

In further reply to yours of the 9th inst; assuming that according to the strict letter of the contract; that says the wall should be finished according to the specification and plan to your satisfaction the loss and damage falls on me.

I think in a case like this a public board like the County Council, ought not to throw the whole loss on me. I therefore state the following facts for the information of the Co. Council:-

1st- It was admitted that £1,000 for this work was very low and any person taking it up could not expect to make a profit. And in the County Council fixing a price, no allowance was made for such a very bad summer as we have had

2nd. My principal object in taking up the contract was the improvement of Kilmore, because it was well known that failing a contractor and good securities the work would fall through altogether.

3rd. I therefore looked on myself more as a servant of the County Council than as a contractor and as a matter of fact my time was given in the services of the Co.

council, all last year, for nothing.

4th - The damage caused to the wall was occasioned by no fault of my workmen or myself. We did the work as well as it could be possible to do it.

5th In your letter you point out that one day you showed me some dry work. Quite right. I explained to you the reason, as you may remember, that the preceding high water, had taken the cement away.

You then approved of my having this part grouted and pointed which was done. This washing out of the cement occurred all through the building of the lower end of the wall. To my knowledge none of the wall was built dry, but of course when the cement got washed out the wall looked a dry built one in places.

6th - I am now, (and I believe most of the Kilmore people who saw the heavy seas are) of opinion the wall ^{could} not stand such heavy sea built in this manner. Its chief weakness is the washing out of the cement each high water and if the wall is to be built up again in this manner, the result must be the same as I or no one else can keep the cement in the wall.

As a fair proof that the cement was put in the wall, you may remember you very kindly made an estimate of 45 tons as necessary to complete the work.

My bill at Messrs Cooper's shows some 60 tons were used.

7th - There is no comparison between the effects of the sea on the extreme upper parts of the wall and the lower part. As the upper portion of the wall is $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet to 2 feet higher than the lower part and therefore it was easier to build the upper part and of course the cement had a better chance of remaining in the wall.

8th The facts that I had the wall to all intents and purposes finished, and that I reported the same to you in January last; with the exception of some grouting and pointing, made necessary by the cement being washed out of the wall; this grouting and pointing which was done before the great storm ought to stand

in my favour with the Council.

9th - The fact that you and your assistant many times inspected the wall whilst building, and that official objection was never made to me, goes to prove, that my men were doing the work as well as it could be done, and that the unfortunate state of affairs as now exists could not be foreseen.

10th - The fact that I was paid some cash on account also shows the wall was being built as well as it could be, and that if no big storm had taken place this winter, the wall as it was built, would have been taken over and this of course would have thrown the loss on the County Council.

11th - As to placing sand bags on the wall now to further protect the wall. When building the lower end of the wall, I several times tried to save my days work by sand bags, but it was no use, the bags were washed off by even a very moderate sea. So far as the next couple of months go, the wall must only take its chance, as any storm that will further damage it would wash the sand bags off at once.

12th - But the strongest point in my favour and one that I must ask you and the Co. Council to consider well is - If the wall is to be built up again, it can be done no better, I or no one else, can keep the cement in the wall; it is in fact an impossibility; therefore a change of plan is absolutely necessary in the future interest of the Co. Council and also the future interest of Kilmore Harbour.

13th - I am just as keen to-day on building up this wall and making a good job of it; but I cannot do work that is impossible (ie. keep the cement in the wall).

Taking all these facts as stated above I think this is a case where the County Council ought not to throw all the loss and damage on me. I did my best and could do no more.

As to future work, I give my opinion for what it is worth; that it will be necessary to put a coping

of bagwork on the wall, nothing else would have any chance of standing such heavy storms as we now get every February.

I presume you will put this letter before the council.

Yours truly

Francis Walsh

The following minutes of the Finance Committee in respect of the above were confirmed on the motion of Mr. Donohoe, seconded by Mr. Kehoe.

Mr. W. J. O'Connor Solicitor on behalf of the contractor for the construction of works and dredging at Kilmore Harbour appeared before the council and pointed out that about three weeks ago a tidal wave or bad storm had swept away the coping and damaged the work to the extent of £200 or £300. If the summer had been fair the work would have been finished.

This portion of the work was completed; - (Mr. Webster, County Surveyor) - said all the stones were in position but some pointing had to be done.

Mr. O'Connor said that Mr. Walsh was willing to carry out the contract at the original price and suffer all the loss but the work would not be well done and the coping would not stand storms. As an alternative he was satisfied to do the coping in cement bags which would cost between £200 and £300 more than the contract.

Mr. Walsh had already expended £900 in cash on the work.

Mr. Webster explained the plan to the Committee. During the summer owing to the weather the cement got washed out of the joints. He (Mr. Webster) thought that some of the work had been set in the dry, but he found that it had been set in cement, but taken away by the washing sea. Portion of the work which had been specified to be done in concrete bags had stood the effect of the weather and was very satisfactory although it was more exposed to the wind than the rest.

Mr. Murphy said he saw some of the concrete bags that were put on the work washed off and were

round the strand.

Mr. Webster said when the work was finished he went down to see it and found the masons were closing up in dry work and pointing it afterwards.

He called upon the foreman and told him that this could not be passed, but it was only a small stretch and they were finishing it in a hurry.

Mr. Walsh had put in bags of concrete in places to protect the work. The breakwater had done a great deal more than was anticipated, and as regards the benefits to the harbour, and the deepening was most remarkable.

Mr. Murphy - It would be better get the thing out of it altogether if it is to cost £200 or £300 every time there is any storm.

Mr. Peacocke - If the work is carried out as originally contracted for, would it be a substantial job.

Mr. Webster - If carried out exactly as there, it would.

Mr. Murphy said the whole breakwater was shook to the foundation. The Council should see the work. He found the sand was much higher inside than outside on two occasions.

Mr. Webster - I tell you exactly as it is now.

Mr. Ennis said that from the time the breakwater rose two feet, the sand began to accumulate outside and leave the inside.

Mr. Webster - At the first the sand from the cot safe went into the harbour and it was now washed out of it.

Mr. Ennis said that the view of their engineer should be taken as to the damage to the top of the Pier, but when the work was completed it would mean that there would be a deep water safe harbour in Kilmore.

Mr. Murphy proposed: "that Messrs Browne, Mr. Murphy, J. Bolger, Peacocke, Furlong, Ennis, Kehoe, and the vice-chairman, form a committee to inspect the breakwater at Kilmore and report, and that any other members of the Council who wish can join the inspection."

Mr. Donohoe seconded. Passed.

Mr Bolger said that the idea of the construction was a good one but it struck him when he was there that it was too flimsy to stay there.

Mr Webster- The same storm did damage to the main Pier.

It was decided that the inspection take place on Wednesday March 2nd at 11 o'clock sharp and that Mr Webster, County Surveyor and the Contractor be invited to attend, and that the report of the Committee be considered at the special meeting of the Council to be held on March 10th.

State of the Roads.

The following letter from Mr Mahon Surveyor G. P. O. was read- The letter is dated 14th February 1904.

"I have received strong complaints as to the condition of the roads between Taghmon and Bannow (Coolbruck - Wellingtonbridge section) and between Enniscorthy and Killarn (Ballyhiland - Killarn section)

The drivers of the mail cars working between these points besides being unable to observe the scheduled time, thereby causing public inconvenience are, I am informed, exposed to grave risk owing to the dangerous state of disrepair into which the roads have been allowed to fall.

I shall feel obliged if the matter will be laid before your Council at the earliest possible moment in order that steps may be taken to remedy the existing state of affairs."

The Secretary stated that on the date of receipt a copy of the above letter was furnished to the County Surveyor.

Mr Webster explained that he had prosecuted, and recovered a penalty, against the Contractor, of the road referred to at Ballyhiland this week, and the other road complained of was being repaired out of money he had in hands.

Mr Ennis proposed, Mr Kehoe seconded and it was passed:- "That the explanation of Mr Webster be furnished Mr Mahon, Surveyor G. P. O."

The State of the Rate Collection

The Secretary submitted the state of the Rate collection up to Saturday. All the collectors were much behind, but Mr. J. L. Doyle, was particularly backward, having collected only £ 254 : 18 : 6 out of £ 1070 : 7 : 8.

On the motion of Mr. Ennis, seconded by Mr. Kehoe the Secretary was directed to send a circular letter to each ^{of the} collectors calling their attention to the backward state of their collection and that a special letter be forwarded Mr. Doyle that unless he displays more diligence in the discharge of his duties serious notice will be taken of his conduct.

Malicious Injury Cases.

Under date February 20th a letter was read from the Assistant Clerk of the Rural District Council, of New Ross enclosing a letter from Mr. Bolger Solicitor to the Council asking the Council to arrive at some settled practice as to whether he was to be employed as Solicitor to the Council in Malicious Injury cases or otherwise.

At present he never knew whether he was to be employed or not, and he did not wish to be prevented from acting for claimants in these cases if he were not to be employed by the District Council.

Proposed by Mr. J. Bolger seconded by Mr. Ennis and passed - "That the Solicitor to the County Council has received directions to appear on behalf of the Council in all cases of claims for criminal injuries. The question of the Rural District Council of New Ross employing a Solicitor is a matter for that body alone."

Lights for New Ross Bridge.

Under date 17th February 1904. letter No 24/2081. the following; was read from the Board of Trade London.

"I am directed by the Board of Trade to acquaint you for the information of the County Council of Wexford that the Board have received representations from the

New Ross Harbour Commissioners and the Grand Canal Company upon the subject of the difficulties stated to be caused to navigation during the winter months especially owing to the arches of New Ross bridge not being lighted at night for the guidance of craft navigating through or under the Bridge.

The Board understand that the matter has already been brought to your notice by the Harbour Commissioners but that the County Council are advised by their solicitor that they are not responsible for providing lights for navigation, and I am to request that you will favor this Department with the views of the Council fully on the matter.

From the complaints received the Board gather that the bridge in question was erected in 1852 by the Grand juries of the Counties of Wexford and Kilkenny but they are unable to trace any record of application having been made for their consent to the erection of the bridge in question and I am to request that you will favor the Board with a reference to any statutory enactments referring to this bridge and the powers of the County authorities over it.

The Board will be glad if your reply includes a statement as to the nature of this bridge i.e. number and size of spans, whether opening or not, headway above ~~high~~ water of ordinary spring tides etc."

Proposed by Mr. Cummins, seconded by Mr. Kehoe:-
That the letter from the Board of Trade with reference to lights on New Ross bridge be referred to our solicitor.

Passed.

Edmund Gore.