

WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL.

MINUTES OF MEETING

HELD ON 14TH JANUARY, 1924.



1.

A MEETING OF THE WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL WAS HELD IN THE COUNTY COUNCIL CHAMBER, FORTVIEW, WEXFORD, ON 14TH JANUARY, 1924.

Present:- Mr E P Foley (Chairman) presiding; also, Messrs R Corish, James Shannon, John O'Byrne, James Byrne, James Hall, Sean Sinnott, M Cloney, J Cummins (V.C.), C Culleton, M M O'Donoghue, P Byrne, M Byrne, John Pender, P J Hayes, D Kavanagh, James Lawlor.

A telegram was received from Mr M Doyle, T.D., regretting his inability to attend the meeting owing to illness.

The Secretary, the Assistant Secretary, the County Surveyor and Assistant Surveyors T Treanor, R J Ennis, J F Birthistle, and John Kehoe were also in attendance.

The Minutes of last Meeting were read and confirmed.

The Late Mr Peter Corish.  
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The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr J O'Byrne, seconded by Mr Shannon:-

"That we desire to convey to our esteemed colleague, Mr Richard Corish, the expression of our heartfelt sympathy in the death of his father, the late Mr Peter Corish. All sections of the Council wish to associate themselves in this vote of condolence with a confrere, who has exhibited such marked ability and acumen in the administration of the business of the Council.

"That a copy of this resolution be furnished to Mr R Corish".

Postponement of Consideration of Items dealing with  
Road Administration.  
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The following motion, of which he had given previous notice, was moved by the Chairman:-

"That, in view of the extraordinary financial position in which the Council stands as regards government grants and the uncertainty existing as to payment of same, I will move, at meeting of County Council, to be held on 14th January, 1924, that all matters



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in connection with new road administration, grants, etc., be referred to a special meeting of the County Council for consideration".

In putting his motion before the meeting, the Chairman referred to the difficult financial position of the Council, the manner in which Government Grants had been held up, and the absolute necessity of receiving an assurance that, if the Council embarked on a comprehensive road scheme, the Government Grants, referred to in circulars from the Roads Department of the Ministry of Local Government, would be forthcoming.

The motion was seconded by Mr Cummins.

After considerable discussion, the Chairman added the following (by permission of the meeting) to his motion:-

"The items referred to special meeting for consideration to be Nos. 4, 5 and 14 on the agenda paper of the present meeting".

A poll was taken with the following result:-

For the Notice of Motion:- Messrs Hayes, Pender, Sinnott, Corish, P Byrne, O'Donoghue, Culleton, M Byrne, Shannon, John O'Byrne, Cummins, D Kavanagh, and the Chairman. 13.

Against:- Messrs Hall, Jas. Byrne and Cloney. 3.

Mr Lawlor was not present during the poll.

The Chairman declared the resolution carried.

On the motion of Mr Hall, seconded by Mr Lawlor, it was decided that the special meeting, dealt with in the foregoing, be held in the County Council Chamber, Wexford, on Monday, 28th January, 1924, at 11 o'clock, a.m., and that no other business, beyond that referred from present meeting, be dealt with thereat.

#### Rate Collection.

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The state of the Rate Collection and arrears was gone into at considerable length.

The following were the amounts outstanding on the various Rates:-

In respect of Rates for periods to 31st March, 1922, £5,290:1:3;  
For year ended 31st March, 1923, £3,424:12:4; and  
For year ending 31st March, 1924, £105,545:18:7.



As regards the latter, the amount collected up to 12th January, 1924, was £15,004:14:8.

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

"That, in any forthcoming legislation as regards payments of rates, provision be made by which the necessary adjustments can be made between landlords and tenants of houses, held under weekly tenancy, by which the poor rates would be paid by the landlord. That copy of this resolution be forwarded Messrs M Doyle, R Corish, T Johnston, T D's, and the Ministry of Local Government".

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

"That our Secretary be instructed to communicate with the various Rate Collectors to ascertain from their Solicitors how much money has been collected under Decree for Rates, and how much of this has been lodged to the credit of the Council."

#### Bonds of Rate Collectors.

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Under date 14th December, 1923, (G 51679/1923, Wexford County Council), the Ministry of Local Government wrote that the Minister was insisting on all local Bodies requiring Bonds from their Rate Collectors for the due and faithful discharge of their duties, and, as conditions were now approaching normal, the Minister did not see why there should be any difficulty in obtaining such Bonds. In view of the fact that Guarantee Bonds in Wexford County against fraud and embezzlement in the sums of £900 were being obtained through the Insurance Brokers, the Minister would be satisfied if additional Bonds in the form prescribed by the Public Bodies Order, 1904, for sums of £200 each, were provided.

Under date 29th December, 1923, (G 54288/1923, Wexford County), the Ministry of Local Government wrote, stating that the form of Bond for Rate Collectors, which they had received from Messrs McDonagh and Boland, Insurance Brokers, Dublin, was not sufficient of itself, as the Insurance Company did not guarantee the due and faithful discharge of his duties by the Rate Collector.



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

"That the Ministry of Local Government be informed we consider that our Rate Collectors should not be required to give the additional form of Bond, as prescribed by the Public Bodies Order, 1904, until such times as the present arrears of Rates, for periods up to 1923, have been wiped out. In the meantime, we are of opinion it would not be reasonable to expect any further assurance from the Rate Collectors through Fidelity Bond than that providing against fraud and embezzlement".

#### Poundage of Rate Collectors. -----

Under date 15th December, 1923, the Minister of Local Government wrote (G 49854/1923, Wexford County), asking for a full return of the amount of rates collected through the Bank, the amounts collected by the Rate Collectors, and the warrants in respect of the Collections. The Council had ordered that the collection for March, 1923, should be closed by 22nd October, 1923, but none of the Collectors had lodged the full amount of his warrant. As minor decrees can now be addressed to the Civic Guard, and others to the Sub-Sheriff, the Rate Collectors had no excuse for not lodging the full amounts of their warrants, and the Council should call on them to do so without delay. The Collectors were not doing their duty by simply holding decrees if they were taking no steps to have same executed.

Under date 1st January, 1924, the Ministry of Local Government wrote (G 53868/1923, Wexford County), pointing out that £66,706:7:6 out of a total warrant of £88,680:0:11 was collected through the Bank, being over 75 per cent of the total collected. Only £13,543:4:11 had been collected since the books were handed back to the Collectors in July last. In view of these facts, the Minister could not see that the Collectors have been making energetic efforts to close their warrants, and he was not prepared to consider sanctioning the payment of poundage fees to them until the full amount of the warrants had been lodged, or, until he was satisfied that decrees for amounts outstanding were in process of execution.



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The Chairman pointed out that, included in the amounts outstanding, were all the irrecoverable rates. In many instances, if these were taken into consideration, there would be only a few pounds outstanding. None of the Collectors were appointed on the condition that they would be obliged to lodge the full amount of their warrants. They were appointed at a time when grave risk attached to the position, and three or four of them had been sentenced to long terms of imprisonment because, though appointed by the Council, they had not received the sanction of the British Local Government Board. The agreement with the Collectors was that they would be paid poundage of 7d in the £ on what they had collected. The Collectors had been before him recently, and they had shown that every penny of Rate, which was recoverable, had been put into the hands of the Collectors' Solicitors for collection through the Courts.

A number of applications from Collectors for payment of poundage was read.

Several members held that the Council had no right to retain the services of the Collectors if they were not prepared to pay for them. The Collectors were on the road daily; several of them were poor men, and they could not afford to carry on their duties without payment.

After further discussion, the following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr Cummins, seconded by Mr Sinnott:-

"That our Secretary be directed to issue Pay Orders for amounts of poundage to Rate Collectors and to which they are entitled up to the end of November, 1923, as recommended by the Finance and Roads Committee, and agreed to by the County Council. That the poundage on old Bank Lodgments of 1920-1921, in so far as same have been identified by the Chairman, be also paid".

#### Disputed Items of Poor Rate.

Several applications were received, disputing assessments of Poor Rate on the ground that premises were vacant or unoccupied.

It was decided that these be referred to next meeting of Finance and Roads Committee.



### Proposals for Works.

The following was proposed by Mr J O'Byrne, seconded by Mr Shannon, and adopted:-

"That the several proposals for new works and for maintenance of works from Proposal Committee and Rural District Councils of the County (including tenders which have been accepted at this meeting on behalf of Rural District Councils), and as appearing on Forms 20, be and are hereby accepted. That attention be called to the fact that, as New Ross Rural District Council have suspended the transaction of business, nothing can be done as <sup>regards</sup> approval of the works and roads in this particular district."

As an amendment, Mr Sinnott moved and Mr Pender seconded the following:-

"That the resolution submitted by Mr J O'Byrne, as to approval of roads and works, be varied in so far as to provide for the rejection of the tender of the Co. Printing Works, Wicklow at £255:6:6 for the County Printing for 1924".

A poll was taken with the following result:-

For the amendment:- Messrs Pender, Sinnott, Corish, P Byrne and Culleton. 5.

Against:- Messrs Kavanagh, Hayes, Hall, Lawlor, O'Donoghue, James Byrne, Cloney, M Byrne, Shannon, Cummins, J O'Byrne, and the Chairman. 12.

The Chairman declared the amendment lost. The resolution was then put and declared carried nem. con.

### Repairs of Bridges.

Under date 31st December, 1923, Circular R/36 from the Roads Department of the Ministry of Local Government was read. This pointed out that road bridges, which had been destroyed, had in some cases been replaced by cause-ways and temporary bridges with a much smaller capacity for the discharge of floods than the original structures. The Ministry trusted that proper bridges would be provided when plans for reconstruction were under consideration.



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The Secretary stated he had received that morning communication from the Ministry of Finance, under date 12th January, 1924, (764/16), enclosing receivable order for the payment of £4,940:6:7, moiety of the amount payable to the Exchequer in pursuance of Damage to Property (Compensation) Act, 1923, Section 14 (1), in respect of the financial year ending 31st March next. This moiety was due to be paid on or before 31st January, 1924.

The following resolution was received from Enniscorthy Rural District Council in reference to repair of damaged bridges:-

"That the damaged bridges be rebuilt and financed out of the 6d rate or a Government Grant, or that the money be obtained on loan, repayable in five years. That no work be commenced until a specific resolution of the County Council, on the recommendation of the Rural District Council, has been adopted, authorising same".

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

"That the Ministers of Local Government and Finance be requested to inform the Council what would be the proportion of the cost of reconstruction of bridges, etc., which is to be borne by the sixpenny rate for Malicious Damage, and what would be the definite amount forthcoming from Government Grants".

#### Roads in New Ross District.

Under date 2nd January, 1924, Mr Austin A Butler, Secretary, Local Branch, Cumann na nGaedheal, forwarded the following resolution:-

"That it is the opinion of the meeting that the condition of the roads in the District of New Ross is such that calls for immediate attention, and, in particular, the main road from New Ross to Wexford, and the road from New Ross to Ferry Mountgarrett, including the walls that fence off such road from the river- being in its present state a positive danger to the Public".

Mr M Byrne complained that the gaps in the fencing, referred to in the resolution, had remained open for a very considerable time, and nothing had been done; they were extremely dangerous.



The County Surveyor stated that he had a proposal before the New Ross Rural District Council meeting, covering fencing which was broken down near Ballyanne.

Mr Byrne pointed out that the fencing complained of lay between Mountgarrett Bridge and New Ross, and was not at the place referred to by the County Surveyor.

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

"That the County Surveyor be directed to have the defective and dangerous fencing, adjoining the river, on the line between Mountgarret Bridge and New Ross, repaired at once".

Road No 2E.  
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Mr P Byrne complained of the condition of Road, No 2E (from Ferns to Scarawalsh Bridge).

Mr Ennis, Assistant Surveyor, stated he saw the road on the 12th January, and he had no fault to find with the contractor according to what metal he had provided and what traffic the road was getting. He had seen it also a fortnight previous. He (Mr Ennis) did not think he could have spread the stones any better himself.

Mr P Byrne said the manner in which the stones had been spread was a disgrace to the County and a disgrace to the Deputy Surveyors. No inlet or watertable on the road had been cleaned for the past nine months.

After further discussion, Mr Ennis suggested that a Committee should be appointed to inspect the road, and the following resolution was then adopted on the motion of Mr Michael Byrne, seconded by Mr Kavanagh:-

"That a Committee, consisting of the following be appointed to inspect road, 2E, and to report to next meeting of the Council:- Messrs Hall, P Byrne, Pender, Lawlor, Mr Ennis, Assistant Surveyor, and contractor, to meet on 22nd January, 1924, at 1 o'clock, at Scarawalsh Bridge".



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Road from Kilmuckridge to Tinnaberna.

Mr O'Donoghue mentioned that the road from Kilmuckridge to Tinnaberna strand was in such a shocking condition that people could neither drive, ride, nor even walk over it.

It was decided that the County Surveyor be instructed to furnish a report on the condition of this road for next meeting of the Council.

Road, 25B, and Brownswood Quarry.

Under date 10th December, 1923, Mr J O'Brien, Glenteigue, Edermine, submitted a claim for £35 for work done in Brownswood Quarry and surplus material supplied.

After some discussion, the following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr Shannon, seconded by Mr John O'Byrne:-

"That the claim of Mr J O'Brien, Glenteigue, Edermine, for £35, in connection with road and quarry work, be referred to next meeting of Finance and Roads Committee, Mr O'Brien to be summoned to attend said meeting".

Claim by Road Contractor.

Daniel Connors, Ballinclay, Killurin, appeared before the meeting in connection with claim for road work.

The Chairman ruled that the matter could not be discussed as Mr Connors had not furnished any particulars of his claim. His appearance that day was the first intimation the Council had of the matter.

It was decided that the claim of Mr Connors be referred to next meeting of the Finance and Roads Committee, Mr Connors to furnish, in the meantime, particulars in writing of his claim".

Periodic Reports as to Roads.

Mr Corish considered that there should be certain periods in the year - say, three or four times - at which reports on every road in the County would be presented to the Council. The Council would then be in a much better position to deal with their estimates of expenditure. It was not when they were actually preparing estimates that these



matters could be best considered.

The County Surveyor stated that each Assistant Surveyor made a definite and specific report on each road that he visited and presents it previous to the time when payments are being made. If any difficulty arose or complaint was made about a road, it was specifically written about, but, if everything was going on all right, there is no specific report as it would only be overloading their records.

Mr Corish said it was patent that roads in the County Wexford were anything at all but what they should be, and he believed there should be a report made periodically as to their condition. He was not finding fault with the Surveyors because the roads were bad, but it would assist the Council to form a standard if they had some sort of tabulated statement or report which would give the condition of all the roads and which would be available to the members of the Council.

#### Proposed Diversion of Road Traffic.

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Mr M Byrne called attention to the manner in which the road from the bounds of the County to the main road at Templeudigan (New Ross - Newtownbarry) was being cut up by heavy motor traffic from Messrs Odlum's Mills, St Mullins. Mr Odlum would of course contend he was paying hundreds of pounds of motor duty, but what he paid would not go very far towards putting into repair the damage he was doing to the roads. However, Mr Odlum was giving a great deal of employment, and was likely to give more. For that reason, he thought they should try and meet Mr Odlum, but, if the traffic continued on the road he mentioned, it would be absolutely ruined, and he considered they should ask Mr Odlum to divert the traffic to another road until the one now referred to was brought into proper condition. They might also ask him if he would contribute something towards the cost.

Mr Shannon thought that Mr Odlum could make a diversion at the turn at Poulmounty and come out by Bailey's Mills through Ballywilliam.

It was ~~unanimously~~ decided that the matter be referred to the County



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 Surveyor and Mr M Byrne to make what arrangements they could with Mr Odium in the matter of the complaint made at the present meeting.

Ford of Lyng.  
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In connection with the flooding of land at the Ford of Lyng, the following resolution was submitted from the Wexford Rural District Council:-

"That we ask the County Council to take steps to compel the owners of the Sloblands at Ford of Lyng to do the necessary work of draining, and, if necessary, that they ask the local Teachtaí to have the County Council invested with the necessary additional powers to enable them to carry out the work and recover the cost from these owners".

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

"That the County Council communicate with Messrs M Doyle and R Corish, Teachtaí, with a view to having the circumstances of extensive flooding of land at Ford of Lyng, Tagoat, investigated by the proper Ministry with a view to obtaining some remedy in the interests of the public".

Proposed Road, Drinagh to Rosslare.  
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The Clerk, Wexford Rural District Council, wrote that, at the meeting of his Council on 12th January, 1924, he was directed to bring to the notice of the County Council the matter of the construction of a new road from Drinagh to Rosslare through the Sloblands. This would greatly facilitate a number of families residing in the district and give much needed employment. The Rural District Council asked the County Council to give the project their support and press on the Government to give a grant towards carrying out the project.

The Chairman said the County Council could not do anything until they knew ~~what~~ what the expenditure would be, provision to secure land, etc.



Period of Road Contracts.  
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Under date 9th January, 1924, the Ministry of Local Government forwarded Circular R/37, which pointed out that the general practice of entering into road contracts for from three to seven years was not, in present conditions, consistent with economical administration, as it might reasonably be expected that, within such periods, prices in general would fall much below present level.. In certain cases of new contracts, it might be prudent to restrict the period to even a single year. In all Direct Labour schemes now being formulated, provision should be made for annual proposals.

The County Surveyor stated that all recent renewals of road contracts were for short term periods.



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### Proposed Erection of Petrol Pump

Messrs E. O'Connor & Co. Merchants, Ferns, applied under date 9th January, 1924, for permission to erect petrol pump outside their premises.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr. Cummins seconded by Mr. O'Donoghue:-

"That the application of Messrs E. O'Connor & Co., Ferns, for permission to erect petrol pump in front of their premises at Ferns be agreed to; Messrs O'Connor & Co., to pay 2/- per year for same: be responsible for erection or for any accidents that may occur in connection with said pump. That Mr. Elgee, Solicitor, to the Co. Council, draw up the necessary agreement, safeguarding the Council and that the permission now given be determinable by a month's notice in writing."

### Auditors' Reports

Reports of Auditor of Ministry of Local Government in connection with audit of accounts of Wexford R. D. Council for six half-yearly periods to 31st March, 1923; Co. Committee of Agriculture & Technical Instruction, four half-yearly periods to 30th September, 1923: Co. Wexford Tuberculosis Committee, five half-yearly periods to 30th September, 1923, were submitted to the meeting.

### Mr. D. Radford, Clerk Co. Surveyor's Office

Under date 9th January, 1924, Mr. D. Radford, Clerk in Co. Surveyor's Office wrote:-

"I would be much obliged if you would inform the gentlemen of the Council that my period of internment is



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completed and I am at liberty to return to my previous position if it so pleases them".

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

"That Mr. Denis Radford, 1 Old Pound, Wexford, Clerk in Co. Surveyor's Office, be reinstated in his position."

#### Midwives Act 1918

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

"That consideration of correspondence from Ministry of Local Government and Central Midwives Board, relative to proposed adoption of Midwives Act, 1918, by this Council, be adjourned to next ordinary meeting of the Council."

#### Motor Car Act

Under date 17th December, 1923 the Ministry of Local Government wrote (R/MT/209/32) relative to payment of £645:11: 5d, administrative expenses, Motor Car Act.

The Secretary explained that an injustice was done to the Ministry as regards payment of this amount. When the resolution of the Council threatening to suspend the work under Motor Car Acts until this sum was paid, was passed the amount had been actually paid into the Bank but a misunderstanding occurred owing to the fact that no advice of the payment had been received from the Ministry. He, (Secretary) had apologised to the Ministry in the matter.

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

"That prosecutions be instituted against the following for alleged breaches of Motor Car Acts etc.:-

Andrew J. Kehoe, Island Road, Enniscorthy  
William Deighan, Motor Garage, Taghmon  
Michael Rocks, Conduit Lane, Waterford  
Dr. T. J. Kelly, Enniscorthy.



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Courthouses - Newtownbarry, Gorey, New  
Ross

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In connection with new tenancy of Newtownbarry Courthouse, Mr. J. V. Fahy, District Justice wrote, under date 21st December, 1923, that the first Court was held in Newtownbarry on 17th February, 1923.

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

"That the new tenancy of Newtownbarry Courthouse with Dr. Dormer, landlord, begin as from 17th February, 1923 - date when first Court was held therein by District Justice."

Under date 1st January, 1924, the Minister of Local Government wrote (G.55227/1923 Wexford County) that it was intended to introduce legislation empowering Co. Councils to re-acquire possession of Courthouses, surrendered during the conflict with the British Administration, subject to the payment of reasonable compensation to the owners, based on their loss of revenue in the interim. If notice of Council's intention to reassume possession in any such case be now given to the owner, it may be assumed that the date of such notice would be taken into consideration in relation to the assessment of compensation.

The Secretary stated that, on receipt of this letter, he had furnished the following under date 2nd January, 1924, by registered post on Mr. H. Hamilton, New Ross in connection with New Ross Courthouse.

"This is to give you notice that the Wexford Co. Council have applied to the Ministry of Local Government to re-acquire possession of New Ross Courthouse for the purpose of having all Court business carried on therein as previous to the surrender of the premises.



I desire to point out to you that the Government is about to introduce, at once, legislation, empowering Co. Councils to re-acquire possession of Courthouses which were surrendered during the conflict with British administration, and my Co. Council propose to take advantage of this legislation to re-acquire the Courthouse at New Ross.

This notice is served on you as agent to the landlord of the said Courthouse in respect of ground rent. "

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

"That we approve of the action of our Secretary in serving notice on Mr. Hugh Hamilton, New Ross, of the intention of the Co. Council to re-acquire possession of New Ross Courthouse, also, of the form of Notice issued by him. We desire also that Mr. Hamilton be informed that he will be held responsible for the cost of any effects, the property of the Council, which were disposed of by him."

Under date 21st December, 1923, the following letter was read from Messrs Huggard and Brennan, Solrs., New Road, Gorey:-

"Re Compensation Claim - Gorey Courthouse - Mr. M. J. Breslin. Referring to previous correspondence in connection with this matter we would be glad to know what position the County Council take up with regard to the Gorey Courthouse."

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr. J. O'Byrne seconded by Mr. R. Corish:-

That our Secretary be instructed to serve on Messrs Huggard & Brennan Solrs., (Gorey) for Mr. M. J. Breslin notice of the intention of the Co. Council to re-acquire possession



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of Corey Courthouse, notice to be on similar lines to that served on Mr. H. Hamilton in connection with New Ross Courthouse.

As regards Enniscorthy Courthouse, Circular Letter was read from Mr. Denis O'Brien, Hon., Sec., to Portsmouth Tenants Committee, relative to offer of 18 years purchase for the property.

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

"That Circular letter from Mr. D. O'Brien, Enniscorthy, relative to proposed purchase of Portsmouth property at Enniscorthy be referred to the next meeting of Finance & Roads Committee, in the meantime that our Secretary be instructed to serve upon Messrs O'Flaherty & Son, Solrs., Enniscorthy, notice of the intention of the Co. Council to re-acquire possession of the Enniscorthy Courthouse premises and which is to be on similar lines to notice already served on Mr. H. Hamilton, New Ross in respect of New Ross Courthouse."



Removal from Office of Mr R J Sinnott, Rate Collector.  
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Under date 15th December, 1923, the following letter, No G 29764/1923, Wexford County, was read from the Ministry of Local Government:-

I am instructed by the Minister for Local Government to transmit the accompanying Order under Seal made by him on the 12th instant removing Mr R J Sinnott from office as Poor Rate Collector.

A duplicate of the Order is enclosed for the information of Mr Sinnott.

The following is copy of Sealed Order, which is dated 12th December, 1923, (No 29764/1923), and addressed to the Wexford County Council, to Mr Sinnott, and to ~~xxx~~ all whom it may concern:-

"In exercise of the powers vested in me by the Poor Relief (Ireland) Acts, 1838 to 1900, and by sub-section 5 of section 83 of the Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1898, and of all powers in this behalf enabling me, I, the Minister for Local Government, do hereby remove R.J.Sinnott of Mountain Gate, Cleariestown, in the Administrative County of Wexford, from the office of Poor Rate Collector in the said Administrative County, and I do hereby declare the said office to be vacant".

Under date 8th January, 1924, the following was read from Mr Sinnott in reply to Sealed Order:-

Relative to your communication, enclosing copy of Sealed Order, declaring my removal from the position of Rate Collector, I desire to refer the matter to the consideration of the Council, whose employee I voluntarily became when the Council was at a standstill through the action of the dismissed Rate Collectors.

I would remind them:- (1) That no inquiry of any kind was made through the Council concerning me or my collection; therefore, absence from duty did not cause my removal. (2) The collection in my district can compare favourably with any other in the County.- This, in itself, removes the possible plea that the state of my collection demanded it. (3). The fact that my release and dismissal occurred practically at the same time suggests that the cause of my removal was political.



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If the Council in their deliberations find any other motive, I shall be pleased to be informed accordingly.

I consider this action on the part of the Minister challenges the competence, freedom and inherent privileges of the Council, and demands, in the interests of internal unity, justice and fair play, the strongest possible action by the Council.

As I have never, since I first took office, merited the condemnation of the Council, I place myself unreservedly in their hands, trusting absolutely in their sense of duty as public representatives, to protect me from this grave injustice and all that it implies. In doing this, they will still further continue to merit the esteem of all rightminded people whose sense of fair play has been strongly offended by this act.

After a lengthy discussion, the following resolution was proposed by Mr Shannon, and seconded by Mr Corish:-

"That, in the best interests of peace in the country, we are of the opinion that the Sealed Order, removing Mr Richard Sinnott from the office of Rate Collector, should be withdrawn, and we request the Government to do so".

Mr Sinnott proposed as an amendment:-

"That Mr R J Sinnott be re-instated in his <sup>former</sup> position as Rate Collector".

This was seconded by Mr Cummins.

A poll was taken which resulted as follows:-

For the amendment:- Messrs Sinnott, M Byrne and Cummins. 3.

Against:- Messrs Kavanagh, Hayes, Pender, Hall, Lawlor, Corish, P Byrne, O'Donoghue, Jas Byrne, Cloney, Shannon, John O'Byrne, Culleton, and the Chairman. 14.

The Chairman declared the amendment lost.

The original resolution was then put and passed nem. con.



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Mileage Allowance - Assistant Surveyors.

Under date 18th December, 1923, the following, signed by the six Assistant Surveyors of the County Council, was read:-

"We beg to acknowledge receipt of cheques for the month of November for travelling expenses which we note are made out at the rate of 6d per mile. This is not the scale as authorised by the Local Government Department. Accordingly, we are only accepting these cheques as payments on account for the above expenses.

We beg to call your attention to Circular, No R/104, dated 27th April, bearing on the matter".

Under date 20th December, 1923, the Ministry of Local Government wrote (No R/RS/32) that the question of travelling expenses generally was under consideration, but, in the meantime, the Minister was not prepared to interfere with the decision of the Wexford County Council in fixing the mileage rate for Assistant Surveyors at 6d per mile.

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

"That the question of mileage allowance to Assistant Surveyors be deferred until information be received from the Ministry of Local Government as to their views on the matter".

Late County Wexford Infirmary.

Under date 21st December, 1923, the following letter was read from Mr M J Kavanagh, late Registrar, County Wexford Infirmary:-

At long last the affairs of the above Institution have been concluded and the settlement effected over the matter that was before the Court of Chancery.

I am forwarding you the different Account Books and several documents, etc., as under:-

② Fire Insurance Policies.

Minute Books (4).

Register of Admissions.

Financial Statement Book, Expenditure.

do do do Receipts.



21.

Paying Patients Account Book.

Copies of old abstracts audited.

② 2 Copies of Audited Abstracts of Accounts from the 31st March, 1922, to the close of the accounts of the Institution.

Receipts and Vouchers in connection with the said Audit.

Bank Pass Book.

Correspondence in connection with the case of the "Cullimore Funds" which was heard in the Court of Chancery last July.

② Copy of the Order of the Court in said case.

② Receipt for payment of taxed costs of said case.

Inventory of Furniture and Fittings handed over to Dr S A Furlong in accordance with the instructions of the Co. Council.

Various other unimportant documents and books.

The items marked ② are enclosed with this letter, as also, a short statement referring to disposal of Funds lodged in Bank from sale of "Cullimore Funds", and item of £7-8-0 due by Pay Patient.

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

"That, subject to the sanction of the Ministry of Local Government, the overdraft, due by the Governors of late County Infirmary to Provincial Bank, Wexford, which, at 9th January, 1924, stood at £415:12:9, to cover Principal and Interest, be repaid; also, £6:1:6 for supplies. That the Council be responsible for payment of annual premium on insurance policies, amount, £4:7:0.

#### Report of Analyst.

Analyst's report for quarter ended 31st December, 1923, was laid before the meeting. Eighteen samples of drugs were analysed; thirteen were genuine and five condemned. Three samples of water from Wexford Rural District Council were analysed; one was safe for use, and the others were described as first-class waters. Four samples of butter were analysed; they were all genuine.



County Board of Health - Proposed Residence for Dr O'Brien.  
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Under date 21st December, 1923, the following was read from the Secretary, County Board of Health:-

I laid the resolution of the County Council in connection with this matter before the meeting of my Board, held on the 17th instant, when I was directed to send a synopsis of the whole position as regards the matter to you, with the view to having the matter reconsidered by your Council, and Dr O'Brien is being requested to attend the meeting of your Council in connection with the matter.

At the present time, the Board of Health is paying a rent of £5 a month, or £60 a year, for the residence the Doctor occupies. In addition, the Board pays £12 a year for the Surgeon's use of the telephone, and £8 a year for gas. Under the terms of his appointment, he is entitled to Coal, light, apartments and laundry.

At the last meeting of the Board of Health, the Surgeon stated he was willing to have his allowances commuted to the value placed on them for the County Council (£33) and take that in lieu with Rosepark, or, to have the present allowances continued and given to him, together with the rent, so that he might take a house himself, which would be as convenient to the Hospital as his present residence is.

The Surgeon also stated that, if Rosepark were purchased for him, he was willing to give the land attached to it over to the County Council for their own use, and was satisfied to do the necessary repairs on going into occupation and defray the cost himself.

I am requesting Dr O'Brien to attend your next meeting, and would you be good enough to let him know when it will be held.

Dr O'Brien attended the meeting and stated that, in his opinion, his allowances were worth £75, and actual cost would be £57. If he was satisfied to allow these to be commuted to £33, he submitted he was making a substantial concession.

The Chairman pointed out that, as the voting at the County Board of Health, in regard to the residence of Dr O'Brien, was equal, it could scarcely be said that the County Board of Health made a recommendation in the matter.



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Mr Culleton gave the following Notice of Motion:-

"I will move at the next meeting of the Wexford County Council that the resolution of the Council, agreeing to purchase Rosepark as a residence for the Surgeon of the County Hospital only on condition that the latter would forego his allowances for fuel, light and laundry from the County Board of Health, be rescinded, and that the Council further consider the matter with a view to ascertaining if the residence cannot be secured on different terms".

Foot and Mouth Disease.  
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Under date 4th January, 1924, (22-24), the Department of Agriculture & Technical Instruction forwarded poster for guidance and information of the public relative to prevention of Foot and Mouth Disease.

No Order, as the meeting considered that the poster in question was at present very widely displayed all over the County.

Under date 10th December, 1923, the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction forwarded (V.B. 2714-23) copy of Order, The Foot and Mouth Disease (Imported Packing) Order of 1923, which came into force on 7th instant.

Licences, Poisons & Pharmacy Act.  
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On the motion of Mr J O'Byrne, seconded by Mr Hall, the following resolution was adopted:-

"That renewal of licence under Poisons and Pharmacy Act be issued to Mr J J Haughton, Ferns, as from 7th December, 1923, on condition that Mr Haughton will stock and sell only Sheep Dip manufactured in Ireland".



Payment, Old Malicious Injury Decrees.

Under date 4th January, 1924, Messrs M J O'Connor & Co., Solicitors, Wexford, acting for Mrs Sarah Duff, wrote that the Under Secretary of State had requested information as to whether the decree for £30 to Mrs Duff, with £12:2:5, costs, and expenses, made on 5th March, 1919, had been paid. The Secretary of State had directed that, if not, renewed application for payment should be made to the County Council. Messrs O'Connor & Co asked that the matter should be put before the Council.

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

"That all old Malicious Injury Decrees, in respect of which money has been raised by the County Council, be paid as soon as the financial position of the Council will allow of this being done".

Proposed Sale of Houses at County Home.

Under date 3rd January, 1924, the Minister of Local Government wrote (A 52656-1923), asking for copy of draft conveyance of the property at County Home, Enniscorthy, which it was proposed to sell to Mrs Cosgrave, and to be informed, at the same, time, as to the accommodation in the houses proposed to be sold, how they are let, and what was the amount of rent received for each house.

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

"That the letter of 3rd January, 1924, (A 52656-1923), from Ministry of Local Government, relative to proposed sale of houses at County Home to Mrs Cosgrave, be referred to Mr R W Elgee, Solicitor to the County Council".

The Secretary stated that Mr Elgee had been ill for the past fortnight, and was not yet able to attend to business.

Proposed Improvements at County Hospital.

Under date 2nd January, 1924, Mr A A Butler, Secretary to the local Branch of the Cumann na nGaedheal, New Ross, wrote, forwarding resolution protesting against proposed expenditure for improvements at County Hospital.



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The Chairman pointed out that there was no necessity to take any action on this resolution, as the County Council decided months ago to leave the question of improvements at County Hospital over for new County Council.

#### Primary Scholarship Scheme.

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Under date 21st December, 1923, the Secretary, Ministry of Education, wrote that the Minister was prepared to approve of the Scheme of Scholarships, submitted by the Council, provided the provisions and programme sent from the Ministry were embodied in the Scheme.

#### Food and Drugs Acts.

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Requisitions for articles of equipment under Food and Drugs Acts were received from Sergeant Kavanagh, New Ross, and Sergeant McDermott, Enniscorthy, ex-officio Inspectors.

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

"That requisitions for articles under Food and Drugs Acts from Sergeants Kavanagh and McDermott be agreed to; that these officers be asked to exercise all possible economy in making purchases. That we hereby agree to supply to ex-officio Inspectors under Food and Drugs Acts articles on any reasonable requisition made by them".

#### New Ross Urban Council.

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Attention was called to the notice that Mr James Gleeson, Inspector of the Ministry of Local Government had been directed to hold a local inquiry into the performance of their duties by New Ross Urban Council at 11 a.m., on 16th January, 1924.

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

"That the Assistant Secretary to the Council be instructed to attend the local inquiry to be held for the Ministry of Local Government into the performance of their duties by the New Ross Urban Council, and that he present to the Inspector the figures outstanding



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on foot of the Demand made by the County Council on the Urban Council."

Letters under date 20th November, 1923, 15th December, 1923, and 24th December, 1923, from the Clerk, New Ross Urban Council, relative to the County Council demand, were read. The Urban Council either stated they were not in a position to pay or made no order on the application.

Late New Ross Guardians.

Under date 1st January, 1924, letter was read from Mr David O'Keeffe of the Ministry of Local Government that he intended, on 16th January, 1924, in the Boardroom of New Ross Workhouse, to hold an informal enquiry in connection with an Order of the Minister, determining the division of the assets and liabilities of the late New Ross Guardians as between the Counties of Wexford, Kilkenny and Carlow. The Council were invited to send Representatives.

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

"That the Chairman, Secretary, and Solicitor to the Council be directed to attend informal enquiry into the settlement of Assets and Liabilities of the late New Ross Guardians to be held on 16th January, 1924."

Mountgarrett Bridge.

Under date 24th December, 1923, letter was read from Mr T Drew, Secretary, Kilkenny County Council, that his Council had appointed the following representatives on Joint Committee having charge of the work of reconstruction of Mountgarrett Bridge:- Messrs G Dooley, Hoosgrove, Rosbercon; John Dunphy, Ballyverneen, Glenmore; Thomas Galavan, Cullentragh, The Rower, and Patrick Galavan, Farrentemple, the Rower.

Mr Cloney said he would not act on this Joint Committee, and, accordingly, the four representatives of Wexford County Council are:- Messrs John J O'Byrne, Cushinstown, Ballynabola; James Byrne, Boley, Ballycullane; John Cummins, 64 O'Connell Street, Waterford; and Michael Byrne, Ballynabearna, Ballywilliam.



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Campile Dispensary.  
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Under date 12th January, 1924, the following letter was read from Mr John H Williams, Assistant Architect, Board of Works, Waterford:-

I have been informed that the old Hospital at Campile, now used as a Dispensary, might be available for use as a Civic Guard Barracks, and perhaps the dispensary transferred to the Cottage occupied by the Guards at present.

I would be glad to hear from you on this matter and if you think there would be any possibility of arranging the exchange. There does not seem to be any other accommodation available in the village.

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

"That the letter of Mr J H Williams, Board of Works, Waterford, as to obtaining Campile Dispensary for the purposes of a Barrack for Civic Guard be referred to the following Committee to report to next meeting of the Council:-Messrs Cummins, James Byrne and Cloney.

Fethard Dispensary.  
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The County Board of Health forwarded bill for £1 for repairs to Fethard Dispensary. Authority was given to Mr O'Brien, a member of New Ross Guardians, on 28th January, 1922, to have these repairs carried out. The work was not done until 13th July last owing to some difficulty in procuring the materials required.

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

"That the account for £1 from William Cooper for repairs to Fethard Dispensary be paid, subject to the sanction of the Ministry of Local Government."

Old Age Pension Sub-Committee No 1.  
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Communications were read from the Clerk, Rural District Council, Wexford, asking the County Council to arrange that Old Age Pension Sub-Committee No 1 should meet at Killimick in addition to the present meetings at Bridgetown and Wellingtonbridge.



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

"That we hereby request the Old Age Pension Sub-Committee No 1 to arrange for meetings at Killinick for the convenience of applicants for pension. These meetings to be in addition to the meetings held at Bridgetown and Wellingtonbridge."

Dogs Worrying Sheep.

Under date 14th January, 1924, a letter was read from the Clerk, Wexford Rural District Council, calling attention to complaints which they had received from Bridgetown District as to dogs worrying sheep. They wished to know if the County Council could do anything in the matter.

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

"That Wexford Rural District Council be asked if they desire the County Council to apply to the Department of Agriculture & Technical Instruction for an Order to compel owners of dogs in Bridgetown District to keep them muzzled".

New Telegraph Line.

Application was received from the Engineer in Chief, General Post Office, for permission to erect telegraph line between Yorkville and White's Bridge near Enniscorthy.

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

"That this Council agrees to erection of overground telegraphic line between Yorkville and White's Bridge near Enniscorthy, work to be carried out to the satisfaction of the County Surveyor".

*Conon O'Sullivan*



WEXFORD CO. COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING

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HELD ON 28TH JANUARY, 1924

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H. J. FRIZELLE,  
SECRETARY CO. COUNCIL

FORTVIEW,  
WEXFORD,  
31ST JANUARY, 1924.



A Special meeting of the Wexford County Council was held on 28th January, 1924 in the Co. Council Chamber, Fortview, Wexford for transaction of the following business:-

1. Consideration of Circular Letter R/35 from Ministry of Local Government as to proposed grant of a million and a quarter for road improvement. This refers in a particular way to the wages paid to road and quarry workers and which will be discussed at this meeting.

2. Consideration of letter from Ministry of Local Government as to proposed grant of £3,510 for improvement of Trunk Roads in Co. Wexford

3. Circular Letter from Ministry of Local Government re Economy in Local Administration.

4. Reports of meetings of Special Committee which considered items 1,2 and 3.

5. Conditions of Employment of Road and Quarry Workers.

Mr. E. P. Foley (Chairman) presided and there were also present:-

Messrs D. Kavanagh, John J. O'Byrne, James Hall, M. M. O'Donoghue, James Byrne, P. J. Hayes, P. O'Byrne, R. Corish, J. Cummins, Thomas Shannon, J. Pender, John O'Byrne and M. Cloney.

#### Circular R 35

Under date 27th November, 1923 the following circular (R 35) from Ministry of Local Government was read

"I am directed by the Minister for Local Government to draw the attention of your Council to the following



extract from the Financial Statement made in An Dail by  
the Minister of Finance on the 2nd instant:-

" ....the Government expect to be in a position  
"to finance to the extent of, perhaps, a million  
"and a quarter, a generous scheme of works for  
"the improvement and repair of roads over the  
"next eighteen months....

"It is an essential feature of these schemes that  
"they cannot be initiated until definite recognition  
"is given to the fact that the Government, in the  
"financial and economic interests of the country, cannot  
"consent to allow them to be conducted in a manner that  
would "raise or keep prices or wages above the nominal level  
"at which they should fairly stand at the present time"

Within the next two months local bodies will be engaged in framing their estimates of expenditure for the next financial year and in the discharge of this task ample opportunity will arise for giving proof of their desire to participate in the Government Scheme of state-aid for roads. The inferior condition into which the main roads of the country has fallen is admittedly due to the totally inadequate return obtained in recent years from the money expended on their upkeep. It is in the National interest to secure a high standard of road maintenance but if the large mileage of trunk roads requiring reconstruction is to be dealt with efficiently and with due regard to the cost which can reasonably be borne by ratepayers, a stricter control of expenditure must be instituted, existing rates of wages must be reduced and the present privileged character of road labour reviewed. The direct labour system as developed in several counties has resulted in altogether unjustifiable overhead charges without securing any effective increase in control and co-ordination of administration upon which discipline and efficiency so largely depend. The need for economy renders the present time opportune for a review of the entire position and if the question is approached in a business-like manner there should be no difficulty experienced in securing adequate retrenchment without any sacrifice of efficiency. The Council should in the first place insist upon a reduction of the present high wages to road labourers, and the number of men employed on each section and the hours of work should be arranged so as to secure the maximum output. Arrangements for the control and supervision of men employed should rest with the County Surveyor. Each section should be visited at least fortnightly with occasional surprise visits at the hour of starting and leaving off work. Charge hands should work with their men when so directed by the County Surveyors and particular care should be taken in the arrangement and checking of the work of carters. In this connection a suitable arrangement with consequent savings in charges for supervision might be readily effected by contract agreements for small undertakings such as supplying and



delivering broken stone on the road-side where required. A further helpful check on expenditure would be provided if arrangements were made for segregating expenditure in respect of different sections so as to be available for comparison, and it should be possible to institute this practice without any additional staff expenditure.

All proposals submitted Rural District Councils should be closely examined by the County Council and all new works not urgently required should be rejected or postponed until a substantial improvement is effected in the condition of existing works.

Finally I am to draw attention to the provisions of Section 27 of the Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1898, in regard to the limits of expenditure on roads, and to state that in considering applications under this Section the Minister will require from each Council a satisfactory statement regarding the rate of wages to be paid to road labourers during the ensuing financial year. Applications accompanied by a wages statement should be made in time to enable a decision to be communicated to the Council before the rates are struck.

This Circular should be referred to a Committee of the County Council and the Surveying Staff for special consideration and report to the County Council at an early date as possible".

#### Trunk Road Grant £3,510

Under date 23th November, 1923 the following letter (No.R/SG/32) was read:-

"With reference to the scheme submitted by the County Surveyor for the improvement of three sections of Trunk Road under the above mentioned Grant provisionally allocated to the Wexford County Council, I am directed by the Minister for Local Government to request that you will be good enough to state whether the County Surveyor has obtained lists of demobilised men from the local office of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce in accordance with the terms of this Department's Circular Letter of the 24th ultimo.

Having regard to the rate of wages paid to agricultural labourers in the County, the maximum rate which would appear to be payable to labourers employed on work under this Grant



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is 4/6d per day.

It is noted that the estimated cost of the work is £15 in excess of the Grant allocated.

Special Committee - Roads and Wages

The following Minutes of meeting of Committee re above were read. Meeting 18th December, 1923.

At the meeting of the Wexford Co. Council on 10th December, 1923 the following resolution was adopted:-

"That a Committee be appointed to consider Circular Letter R.35 under date 28th November, 1923 from the Ministry of Local Government and recommendation from Finance and Roads Committee re same, the first meeting of the said Committee to be held on Tuesday 18th December, 1923 in the Co. Council Chamber, Fortview, Wexford at 11 o'clock a.m."

"The following are the names of Committee:-

The Chairman (Mr. E. Foley) Messrs Cloney, Corish, Culleton, Hall, Doyle, John O'Byrne and Shannon.

In accordance with the above the Committee met on 18th December, 1923 the following were present:-

Mr. E. Foley (Chairman) presiding; Messrs Cloney, Culleton, Hall, John O'Byrne and Shannon.

"The Secretary the Co. Surveyor and the following members of the Surveying Staff were in attendance:-

Messrs T. Treanor, John Kehoe, W. H. Jones, R. J. Ennis, Sean F. Birthistle and Thomas Cullen.

Vote of Condolence with Mr. Corish

On the motion of Mr. John O'Byrne, seconded by the Chairman a vote of condolence was adopted to Mr. Corish M.C.C., and a member of the Committee on the death of his father, Mr. Peter Corish.



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Roads and Machinery

Circular R.35 having been read for the meeting, the Co. Surveyor said the proper way to repair the roads referred to in the Circular Letter was by laying down a heavy sheeting of stones and rolling it in. Unless the material was partially consolidated by rolling at the beginning it would be scattered about the road by motor traffic. The material should be kept in two grades - coarse and fine, the former being rolled in on the leading roads and the fine graded material kept for the by-roads where it could be consolidated by the traffic.

In connection with hire of engines the Co. Surveyor stated that it was unsatisfactory and uneconomic to continue hiring engines. The owners of the latter were paid 7/- an hour and taking Co. Council engine <sup>and</sup> breaker on this basis for nine months working a profit of £65 was shown. This also allowed for £20 depreciation. The profit on three breakers used with hired engines was £7, £97 and £113. He (Co. Surveyor) employed a man to look after the breaker with their own engine which swelled the cost by £2 per week but notwithstanding the cost per ton with their own engine and breaker was 5/10 as against 7/- with hired engine.

Mr. Cloney asked how much more material was it proposed to obtain from quarries this year as compared with last.

The Co. Surveyor stated that about 90,000 cubic yards of material was to be obtained from quarries this year; it would not be double that of previous years.

Dealing further with hire of engines the Co. Surveyor stated that recently he had been sending a man to take charge of breaker working with hired engine as it ensured an increase in output which more than covered the wages.

Mr. O'Byrne said if cost of this man's wages was added to

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the expense of hired engines the cost per hour would be 7/10 instead of 7/- while the cost of their own engine and breaker was 5/10 per hour.

The Chairman said they should also remember that there was a 30 per cent saving in material by having it rolled in.

Mr. Cloney held that under a full programme of steam rolling the Council would have to provide 270, 000 cubic yards of material for the coming year.

Arising out of a comparison between limits of expenditure on roads during recent years the Co. Surveyor stated he had been anxious in the past to put more material out but did not wish to jump prices.

Mr. Kehoe, Assistant Surveyor said if they could begin this coming year with double the quantity of the material for the current year they would soon have considerably improved roads.

Mr. O'Byrne held that if each Assistant Surveyor had an engine and breaker double the quantity of material could be provided.

The County Surveyor said the number of men employed in the quarries could not be doubled as they would not have room in which to work.

Mr. O'Byrne pointed out that under present conditions the men were working only six months in the year in the quarries; if they could be employed all the year round double the present quantity of material would be provided.

The Chairman said that the Ministry would in regard to the Circular letter expect at least double the quantity of material to be provided.

The County Surveyor mentioned that if double the quantity of material was to be provided more quarries would have to be opened. The specified material for all roads for the current year was 92,260 cubic yards. Up to this the output was certainly



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not more than 60,000 cubic yards.

Mr. Treanor considered that he would not be able to increase the output in his district by more than 30 per cent; the engines would have to be taken from quarries for at least three months for rolling work.

The Chairman mentioned that there was a grant available for machinery from the old Ministry of Transport. The County Surveyor had informed them that effective outfits for each Assistant Surveyor would cost in the aggregate £6,000. They expected to obtain £2,000 by grant and this would leave £4,000 to be raised from the ratepayers. If they borrowed £4,000 at 4 per cent repayable in ten years it would be paid off by £488 per annum. By judicious supervision they should get value for considerably more than this amount.

It was then decided that the Co. Surveyor should obtain quotations for engines, vans, etc., for quarrying and steam-rolling outfits. He was also directed to, (if possible) secure particulars of cost of any suitable second hand engines which might be purchased in the County and in the latter event the cost of having these engines converted to rollers.

A further direction was given the Co. Surveyor to communicate with the Ministry of Local Government as to what grant for machinery for Co. Wexford would be available; also if it would be forthcoming in the event of the Council purchasing suitable second hand machinery.

The Chairman called attention to the fact that material from some quarries was turning into mud and it might be more economic to utilise good hard wearing stone of half the quantity which would make up for extra haulage.

The Co. Surveyor admitted that it would be well if some two or three of the quarries could be replaced but no others suitable could be procured in the districts concerned.



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Mr. Cloney suggested that a small portion of a road adjoining quarries complained of should be properly made and ~~shaped~~ <sup>shaped</sup> and the Council could then ascertain how the material stood the test.

It was decided that this suggestion should be adopted.

As regards haulage the County Surveyor stated it was made up to give a man 12/- a day for horse and car and his own services; the average cost was 1/6d per ton mile.

Mr. Treanor ~~said~~ the procedure adopted by the Wexford Co. Council as regards cartage carried out the suggestion of the Ministry which objected to employing carters by the day

Questions of wages etc were adjourned to meeting of Committee to be held at 11 o'clock on Thursday 3rd January, 1924.

Adjourned meeting - 3rd January, 1924

The adjourned meeting of the above Committee was held in Co. Council Chamber, Portview, Wexford on 3rd January, 1924.

Present:- E. P. Foley (Chairman) presiding also Messrs M. Cloney, John O'Byrne, James Shannon, James Hall and C. Culleton.

Mr. P. J. Hayes was also in attendance.

Mr. M. Doyle T.D., wrote explaining his inability to attend the meeting owing to illness. Mr. Gorish was also absent owing to illness.

The Secretary the Co. Surveyor, and all the Assistant Surveyors were in attendance; also Mr. W. Murphy, Machinery Overseer.

The Minutes of the meeting of ~~the~~ Committee held on 18th December, 1923 were read and signed.



### Provision of Material

The County Surveyor stated that the amount of material which they had aimed to provide this year was 92,260 cubic yards; at the 31st December they had obtained 64,699 cubic yards, and the 27,000 balance required would be machine broken. They started with a number of holes drilled and an amount of material in stock but had been held up from various causes, such as drainage work and want of gellignite. Also handbreaking had run away with the money. He expected that under normal conditions a breaker would break from 200 to 220 cubic yards per week and taking 36 weeks work for the year the output per breaker would be about 8,000 cubic yards. To break the normal quantity of 68,000 cubic yards would require nine breakers; they had seven so that two new breakers would be needed. Breaking would have to be done between March and December: it would not be possible to travel the breaker in winter as the breaker and engine would cause a good deal of damage to the roads and the output would not be satisfactory owing to short days.

Mr. Cloney asked if any provision had been made to put out rubble.

The Co. Surveyor said this would not come in under normal conditions but where it was required he made a proportion between it and broken material. Roads would take three times the quantity of material if it could be obtained and paid for. The following was the County road mileage:-

"Trunk Roads 99 miles; main roads 126; local roads 1,308; fourth class or accommodation roads 430 miles. From 100 to 120 cubic yards per mile was provided for first class roads - practically from one quarter to one third a cubic yard per perch.

Mr. Cloney said this appeared to be a very small quantity for



first class roads if they expected improvement.

The County Surveyor said he would not be against putting a great deal more material on the roads but it could not be done without rolling. It would take 400 cubic yards to the mile to put on a 12 feet wide surface and raise the road. But this could not be attempted without rolling. He would aim at rolling 140 cubic yards a week for 12 week. To consolidate about half the material on first and second class roads would require six rollers. They would require six engines costing £6,960; portable engine £400 and two breakers £1,200 total £8,560. He thought it would be advisable if they could do their rock drilling by a compressor plant run by an oil or gasoline engine. It was not economic to employ a full powered engine to work a rock-drill. With hired engines which would be available only for five or six months the material could not be put through in the time. Then it would not be possible to have a regular staff. To have a whole lot of men for four months only during the year would not be satisfactory. If the Council purchased the machinery he had outlined they would get a third of the cost by grant from Ministry of Local Government. There was due originally on grant £8,505 and as £1,400 was paid the balance to credit of the Council was £7,105. He thought the best method of providing the money for the necessary machinery was by loan. Assuming they received a third would be obtained from the grant they would have to borrow £5,707. Taking this on a ten year basis at 5 per cent the annual repayment for Principal and Interest would be £727. If they did not purchase their own engines convertible to breakers they would have to hire engines and still purchase breakers. This would be an unsatisfactory proposition. The loss by hiring twelve engines as contrasted with working



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*£1200*

their own would be ~~£1200~~ and against this they had only to put £727 repayment of loan. Taking the experience of working their own and a hired engine in the same quarry the result was:- Cost per cubic yard for Co. Council engine 2/10; cost per hired engine 3/8d output per hour (Co. Council Engine) 6 cubic yards; hired engine 4 : 6 cubic yards. The upkeep of breaker ~~was~~ run by hired engines was in every case considerably more than when breaker was run by Co. Council engine.

The question of storage ~~of~~ accommodation for machinery was raised but the County Surveyor considered very little difficulty would arise in regard to this as the machinery would be out working for practically all the year. The Co. Council engine had been out all the year except for one fortnight. To deal with material and work for an annual grant of £35,000 and also ordinary maintenance they would require twelve engines eight breakers and one portable engine in addition to what machinery they had.

Mr. O'Byrne said what they should arrange for was a full road outfit for each Assistant Surveyor.

The County Surveyor said that each Assistant Surveyor would have charge of an engine and breaker but it might be necessary to have an interchange of working from time to time. For instance Mr. Kehoe would have a great deal of sea gravel in his area and it would not be necessary to have an engine for this. When not required his outfit could be utilised in quarries situate in the other Assistant Surveyor's Districts .

In reply to the Chairman the Co. Surveyor stated that if Council did not purchase engines they would certainly have to provide breakers the cost of which would be £3,600. The proposals made to the meeting would provide for a complete plant for each Assistant and a stand-by plant. They would also



have the plants for Ballybrennan and Tara Hill Quarries. After further discussion the following recommendation was agreed to:-

"This Committee recommends the Co. Council to purchase six road engines, one portable engine and two breakers with vans etc., at a cost not exceeding £3,560 provided the Ministry of Local Government furnish one third of same and which we understand is available from grant 48 P. This recommendation deals with the normal maintenance of the roads of the County. If proposed £35,000 grant from Government funds be available we desire to point out that a further six Road plants will be required if the work proposed under the grant is to be carried out to the satisfaction of the Roads Department of the Ministry of Local Government. The estimated cost of providing these additional outfits is £10,560 and we consider one-third of this amount should be forthcoming from Government Grant 48P."

#### Wages to Workers

A long discussion took place relative to recommendation as to wages to be paid road workers in connection with work to be carried out under the proposed Government grant.

The Chairman pointed out that in view of present economic conditions every one would have to face the fact that wages would have to be reduced.

The County Surveyor states that the number of men suggested for employment under Direct Labour Scheme was 450; they were actually employing 453 and with the grant they could put on 200 more.

Mr. Cloney considered that the rate of wages should be fixed at 3/4d per day: he did not consider anything extra should be



paid to gangers and believed it was not satisfactory to leave the same ganger always in charge of the same men.

The Chairman said it would not be a practical proposal to put the ganger on the same footing as an ordinary road worker.

Mr. Culleton said they were paying 38/- per week in Co Wexford and the average over the 26 Counties was 36/-.

Mr. O'Byrne said that tho' road and quarry workers had nothing to spare out of their wages he considered they should agree to a sensible reduction which would allow of men who were unemployed being taken on.

Mr. Cloney held the Country was not able to pay more than 3/4d per day.

The Chairman said that every 2/- per week off wages of road-men and gangers would represent employment for 25 more men.

Mr. Culleton said he would with great reluctance, propose the wages be fixed at 36/- per week.

The Chairman mentioned that the suggested reduction was 10/- per week.

Mr. O'Byrne asked if it were possible to agree on a 10 per cent reduction from all officials of the Council, workers, officers etc., for the purpose of finding work for the unemployed.

None of the suggestions made were seconded and it was then decided to refer the fixing of wages back to the Co. Council.

#### Conditions and Terms of Employment of Workers

The draft conditions of employment of road and quarry workers as submitted by the County Surveyor were laid before the meeting as decided by the previous Co. Council meeting but in view of the fact that no agreement had been arrived at by the Committee as to wages it was decided that this matter also should be referred to the meeting of the Co. Council.



Circular re Economy

The Circular from Ministry of Local Government relative to effecting economies in the administration of the Council was read but no action taken thereon.

The Chairman proposed and Mr. John O'Byrne seconded the following resolution:-

"That the Report of Committee re Roads and Machinery in respect of meetings held on 18th December, 1923 and 3rd January, 1924 be received. Passed unanimously.

The Chairman referred to the present condition of the roads as appalling. They were made for the traffic of ten or twelve years ago but motor traffic had now so increased and was filling such a public need that it was up to the Council to put the roads into proper condition. To do this in an efficient way would mean the purchase of a great deal of machinery. At present they were in the position of a man who having undertaken to do a neat and artistic job had to use very rough and incomplete tools or borrow unsuitable implements.

The public and more particularly motor users had a grievance against the Co. Council: the latter were grumbling at the cost of the upkeep of their cars, the wear and tear of tyres etc., all on account of poor condition of the roads. He was afraid the economic position was not going to improve for next year and ordinary people would have great difficulty in meeting their obligations. It was well known that numbers of people were not even able to pay their poor rates. He knew of one Rate Collector, who, in a good district had been only to obtain £3 in Rates for his day's work. He asked the meeting when ~~was~~ considering the fixing of the wages of workers to look at the position of the County as a whole, and not from any sectional or partisan standpoint.



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Mr. Shannon considers the economic position in his district was nearly normal; he did not believe there would be any difficulty in obtaining rates from 75 per cent of the ratepayers.

Mr. Corish said it was an admitted fact that some people were taking advantage of the times to ~~load~~<sup>wade</sup> their responsibilities.

Mr. J. Byrne said this would not apply so much to the past three months.

In connection with proposed purchase of machinery the following letter to the Co. Surveyor from Mr. Quigley, Engineer, Roads Department Ministry of Local Government under date 24th January, 1924 was read:-

"I cannot answer what our Ministry of Finance will do in regard to purchasing Plant. I have not the smallest doubt that we will go to your aid from the Road Fund to the extent of 1/3 of the total cost. In the estimate which I have made out for the total plant required in the Free State, I have put Wexford down for the following:-

2 Crusher Sets	
4 Traction Engines and Sets	
4 Roller Sets	
2 Tar Sprayers	Total £10,000

My proposal is that the money be borrowed for the purchase of all such plant, and that the Road Fund guarantee the annual instalments of repayment. The plant will thus cost the ratepayers nothing. I hope that this will be sanctioned, I am sure the very least we will do will be to undertake half the cost. If a sum of £10,000 is not sufficient, what is your Minimum requirement?

The rate of wages fixed for Wexford is 28/-

Each County has taken up the Grant we offered in September last, except Wexford and Cavan, what is the matter with you?"

The County Surveyor pointed out that the machinery represented by the £8,560 was essential for ordinary maintenance.



Mr. Corish proposed and Mr. Shannon seconded the following which passed nem. con., :-

"That recommendations of special Committee read at this meeting in so far as some relate to the purchase of machinery costing £8,560 necessary for ordinary road maintenance be adopted on the understanding that an assurance be given by the Ministry of Local Government that the grant of one-third of the cost of said machinery be available and that the requisite loan for the balance can be obtained by the Co. Council. The machinery to be purchased is to include six road engines, two breakers with vans etc., and one portable engine or second hand engine (Fowler) recommended for purchase by the Co. Surveyor. That the Special Committee be requested to consider the various makes of engines, breakers etc., and forward recommendations to the Council.

The Co. Surveyor said all engines were at the one price as the manufacturers had made an agreement.

A long discussion took place as to the comparative cost of running hired engines and those owned by the Co. Council, from which it appeared there was a difference of 2/- per cubic yard in favour of the Co. Council engine while on the point of output the Co. Council gave six cubic yards per hour while hired engine made 4 • 6 Cubic yards.

As regards the share of the Co. Council in the million and a quarter grant the Co. Surveyor said that he believed the share of the Co. Council would be about ~~£3,500~~ <sup>£35,000</sup> this included Urban as well as Rural areas. No proportion as between these had been agreed to. He favoured an allocation per mileage of trunk roads to which only this large grant was to apply. He calculated on this basis that the share of the Urban Districts would be £5,000. Taking the new grant at £30,000 for Rural Districts it would enable 30,000 cubic yards to be put out as he



figured the material would cost £1 per cubic yard on the road. He believed 400 yards would go to the mile so they could calculate on doing the worst  $7\frac{1}{2}$  miles of trunk roads in the first year. Half of the ordinary material would also be rolled in.

After further discussion the following resolution was proposed by Mr. Cummins seconded by the Chairman and adopted:-

"That in connection with grant of a million and a quarter for the improvement of trunk roads the Wexford Co. Council purchase by loan six breakers and six engines provided an assurance be received from the Roads Department of the Ministry of Local Government that the Government grant for Road maintenance would be forthcoming for at least several years; otherwise this proposed large expenditure for machinery for improvement of Trunk roads would be almost useless. This resolution is adopted upon the acceptance by the Government of the proposal of Mr. Quigley, Chief Engineer, Ministry of Local Government, that the Government will guarantee the repayment of the annual instalments of the loan so that the machinery plant will cost the Ratepayers of the County nothing. If it be intended that the provision of this machinery will mean any increase in County Rates it could not be agreed to by the Council. That Messrs Doyle Corish and Esmonde T.D.'s be requested to approach the Ministry of Finance to ascertain when grants dealt with under Circular R 35 and special County Grant P48 will be available."

Wexford - Enniscorthy Road

Mr. Corish complained of the disgraceful state of the road from Wexford to Enniscorthy at Kyle.

The Co. Surveyor admitted that the material on this road was bad but a great deal of bottoming had to be put in.

The Chairman said this was one of the roads he had in his mind when he suggested that in some instances it would be more economic to take half specified amount of hard wearing material



instead of local stone.

The Co. Surveyor said he was providing a couple of hundred cubic yards for this road from Ballyboggan quarry which would effect a great improvement.

#### Wages of Road and Quarry Workers

Mr. Cloney proposed:- "That wages to Road and Quarry Workers be fixed at 3/4d per day, the position of gangers to be abolished. Mr. Cloney said the Ganger could only time one work man every morning so that so far as time keeping was concerned the position was a fraud; and men who held it should take to the shovel. The Assistant Surveyors had been provided with Motor Cars and were now able to make efficient inspections; they could cover every mile in their districts in four days. As road work was not productive it should be paid at the lowest rate.

Mr. Pender held that the surprise visits of gangers gave very efficient supervision; in fact it would not be possible to have proper supervision without gangers.

The Chairman believed that men working on the roads were generally speaking, keeping good time: the Council had now a better road staff than some time ago.

In reply to a query the County Surveyor stated that 453 men and 45 gangers were employed on the roads.

Mr. Hayes also referred to the necessity which existed for the employment of gangers.

Mr. P. O'Byrne <sup>said</sup> ~~believed~~ that Mr. Cloney was not in earnest when he proposed a wage of 3/4d per day to road and quarry workers. and believed Mr. Cloney would be ashamed when he came to read his proposal in print. Mr. Cloney had stated that road work was non-productive but were good roads no asset in saving wear and tear of vehicles and securing speedy transport to fair and market. If Mr. Cloney understood the work of Gangers he would not have



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proposed their abolition. Besides keeping the men's time and directing the work they had to for ward pay sheets, forms etc., to Assistant Surveyor. It would not be possible for a Surveyor to discharge his own duties properly and carry on the work even of one ganger.

In reply to a query the Co. Surveyor stated that nothing could be said against 95 per cent of the men; the remaining 5 per cent were being got rid. *of*

Mr. J. Byrne said that road workers were getting a competitive wage with what farmers were paying to agricultural labour. It would be strange to call on farmers to fix a wage to knock themselves out.

Mr. J. J. O'Byrne said that every member of the Council should look on the work and expenditure of the Council as if these were his own. It was admitted that there was great difficulty among the people to pay their way and the time had come when a considerable reduction in the expenditure of the Council was necessary.

Mr. Hayes said the proper standard to consider was :- Were the wages of Road Workers too big in contrast with the cost of living ?.

Mr. Shannon said road workers were skilled ~~men~~ and, if asked to work for £1 a week they would find other employment.

Mr. Cloney admitted that the men on the road were good men but the country was unable to pay them the existing wages. If a fair wage was agreed to there would be work for all.

Mr. Hayes considered if the Government concentrated on the food profiteers and reduced the cost of living it would be easy to have a substantial reduction of wages agreed to.

The Chairman said that roadmen realised they had a very good position with constant employment and payment for broken time. The



economic position was so acute that something must be done to bring down the expenditure of public bodies.

Mr. O'Donoghue said that the Secretary should lay on the table for next meeting of the Council a list of the officials of the Co. Council with the salaries fees and bonuses they were now in receipt of and what they were paid in 1914. He believed the men on the roads were quite agreeable to a reduction in their wages.

Mr. Corish held that the Minister of Local Government had no right to issue a mandatory direction as to what wages Co. Council should pay, and Council should challenge the powers of the Minister in this regard. Mr. Cloney was proposing an "indiscriminate" reduction. He (Mr. Corish) believed there should be a revision of wages but Mr. Cloney was not going the right way about it so that the Council would obtain satisfaction in their work. If such indiscriminate reductions as were proposed by Mr. Cloney were carried out there would be a great up heaval among the workers. The present proposal from Dublin was unworthy of a Government; to his mind it was a huge bluff on the part of the Minister and the Council should fight it.

Mr. Pender asked if it was the case that the grant would not be forthcoming unless the wages of workers were reduced to 28/- per week.

Mr. Corish proposed:- "That we inform the Ministry of Local Government that we cannot agree to the wages of Road and Quarry workers being reduced below 34/- per week and request that he should make the Road grant immediately available with a view to minimising the hardships visited on the workers of this County; above figure not to refer to workers in Urban Areas.

Mr. P. Hayes seconded as an amendment, Mr. James Byrne proposed and Mr. O'Donoghue seconded the following:-

"That 27/- per week be paid as wages to road and quarry workers in Rural Districts.



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A vote was taken on the amendment with the following result:-

For :- Messrs Kavanagh, J. J. O'Byrne, Hall, O'Donoghue, James Byrne and the Chairman (6)

Against:- Messrs Hayes, P. O'Byrne, Corish, Cummins, Shannon, Pender and John O'Byrne (7).

Mr. Cloney declined to vote.

The Chairman declared the amendment lost.

As a further amendment Mr. Cummins proposed:-

"That the wages of Road and Quarry Workers in Rural Districts be fixed at 32/- per week.

Mr. Shannon seconded.

A vote was taken with the following result

For:- Messrs Cummins, Shannon and John O'Byrne (3)

Against:- Messrs Kavanagh, Hayes, John J. O'Byrne, Hall, P. O'Byrne, Corish, O'Donoghue, J. Byrne and Pender (9)

Mr. Cloney and the Chairman declined to vote.

The Chairman declared the amendment lost.

As a further amendment the Chairman proposed and Mr. Kavanagh seconded the following:-

"That a rate of 30/- per week be fixed for road and quarry workers in Rural Districts this amendment being moved in the hope that it would be agreed to as it would be the means of securing the proposed Government grants and obtaining sanction to the extensions of limits of Road expenditure from the Minister of Local Government.

On a poll the following was the voting.

For the amendment:- Messrs Kavanagh, John J. O'Byrne, Hall, O'Donoghue and the Chairman (5)

Against:- Messrs Hayes, P. O'Byrne, Corish, Shannon, Pender, and John O'Byrne (6)

Messrs Cummins J. Byrne and M. Cloney did not vote.

The Chairman declared the amendment lost.



A vote was then taken on the original motion proposed by Mr. Corish and which resulted as follows:-

For:- Messrs Hayes, P. O'Byrne, Corish, Shannon, Pender, and John O'Byrne (6).

Against:- Messrs Kavanagh, John J. O'Byrne, Hall, O'Donoghue, James Byrne, Cloney and the Chairman (7).

Mr. Cummins did not vote and the Chairman declared the motion defeated.

#### New Ross Courthouse

Under date 26th January, 1924 the following letter was read from Mr. Fahy, District Justice:-

"Mr. Hamilton, New Ross, writes as follows:-

"I am quite willing you should have the temporary use of the New Ross Courthouse - say up to the end of February by which time the Co. Council should have come to a decision about renting the premises"

I intend using the Court on Thursday next and will be much obliged if word were sent to the proper Co. Council employees in New Ross to arrange immediately about cleaning and ventilating the place for that day. It would be convenient if the arrangements were made with Mr. Denis Corish, District Court Clerk, New Ross".

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

"That the letter of Mr. J. V. Fahy, District Justice, re cleaning etc New Ross Courthouse be referred to our Solicitor, Mr. R. W. Elgee, and our Secretary be instructed to act on Mr. Elgee's advice.

#### Notice of Motion Living Vans

Mr. Shannon gave the following notice of motion:-



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"I hereby give notice of my intention to move at meeting of Co. Council to be held on 11th February, 1924 that the Council adopt a resolution to have all living vane required for machinery plant made in Ireland and, also, if possible, of native timber."

University Scholarship Scheme

Mr. Shannon gave the following notice of motion:-

"I hereby give notice of my intention to move at the meeting of Co. Council to be held on 11th February, 1924 that the award of University Scholarship to Mr. P. J. Hayes, South Main Street, Wexford, be reconsidered, and, if cancelled, that the Council take such action in regard to same as will meet the conditions of University Scholarship Scheme."

*Canon O'Riordan*

11-2-24