

a special meeting of the Wexford County Council was held in the County Council Chamber, Fortmead, Wexford on 4th January, 1926, for the purpose of considering the preliminary figures in connection with rate estimate for 1926-27, and minutes of Roads Committee in reference to proposed re-election of Wexford County Council.

The following were present:— Mr J. Mc Carthy (Chairman), also Messrs William Boggan, Patrick Byrne, James Cliner, Michael Cloney, Patrick Colfer, John Connor, Thomas Conroy, Richard Corish, Michael Doyle, James Gaub, Col. C. W. Gibbon, James Hall, Patrick Hayes, Michael Jordan, Aidan Treanagh, Nicholas J. Murphy, John O'Byrne, James Shannon, William Thorpe and John Whyte.

Messrs Thomas Rosair and John Pender, new members, were also present and subscribed the usual declaration of office.

The Secretary, the Assistant Secretary, the County Surveyor and the six Assistant Surveyors were also present.

It was decided on the motion of Mr Doyle seconded by Col. Gibbon that the business of the meeting be transacted in Committee.

Rate Estimates 1926-27

Under date 30th December 1925, the following letter was read from Mr Nicholas Pettit, Rathmore, Broadway:—

"At a public meeting held at Lady's Island on Tuesday night, the following was passed unanimously:— That we call upon the County Council to strike the coming rate more in keeping with the circumstances of the people - we are of opinion that if an extravagant rate is struck, there will be very much difficulty in collecting it."

Under date 28th December 1925, a letter was read from Mr James F. Kelly, Secretary, Co. Wexford Tourist Association, asking the County Council to include in their estimate a rate of 4d in the £ to advertise the amenities and attractions of the County Wexford, as the Council were empowered to do under the Health Resorts and Bathing Places (Ireland) Act.

In connection with Government Grants, the following letter was read from the Department of Local Government under date 31st December 1925:—

"In reply to the queries in your letter of the 19th inst. on the above mentioned subject, I am directed by the Minister for Local Government and Public Health to state that: (1) Section 2 of the Local Government (Rates on agricultural Land) Act 1925 enacts that the Minister for Finance shall in the financial year beginning on the 1st April 1925, and in every subsequent financial year, increase the agricultural grant by such amount as shall be provided for the purpose in such financial year by the Oireachtas.

Until the provision is made in respect of the coming financial year has been decided by the Oireachtas, no particulars as to the exact amount of the supplementary grant can be furnished.

(2) In view of the commitments on the road fund, and the uncertainty as to the rate of progress of the scheme already authorised, it is not at present possible to indicate to Local authorities the scope and extent of grants from the Fund for the year 1926-27.

Under date 2nd January 1926, the following was read from the County Surveyor:-

Herewith I send you schedule of all the County roads and forms in connection with the estimate.

In regard to the schedule, I have followed the division of the County into sub-districts as formerly agreed upon when the Direct Labour Scheme was adopted, and it will be quite easy for the Councillors to identify any road. In each sub-district I have set down the main Roads first, which now include first and second class. Following these are the third class roads which are usually repaired by direct labour, and at the bottom of the section, I have put in the 4th class or contract roads. The numbers run consecutively for each class of road in each sub-district. The main roads approved of by the County Council but not sanctioned by the Local Government Departments follow the sanctioned main roads. In my Estimate Form, I have set out, district, sub-district and numbers covered by each group of roads.

I have carefully gone over the whole of the works and I am satisfied that the money I have set out for each group is necessary to properly maintain the roads. I believe that these sums expended for the next three years on the entire roads of the County will bring them into fair condition. This excludes special improvement work to be done under the Road Fund Grants, and for this year I have taken no account of such grants, but estimate that we should get at least a sum equal to that which was allocated during the current year, namely £15,600.

I propose with the coming year's grants to allocate the larger part to bring up the Wexford-Enniscorthy road. Smaller proportion of Grants may be distributed elsewhere, and I suggest that £3000 or £4000 of such Grant should be expended on the Wexford-Rosslare road.

The figures in Part 1 of the Estimate include also minor repairs for upkeep of existing bridges and other structures and in Part 2, I have set out completely new works, and also larger reconstruction or repair jobs. I thought it better to set out these separately rather than add them to the sums in Part 1. I have a list of a large number of improvement jobs such as cutting corners, but I have not brought them in as recommendations at the present time, so as not to unduly raise the Estimate at this period. All these works will undoubtedly require to be done within the next few years, and will entail an expenditure of £3,000 or £4,000.

In regard to the Urban districts, I have omitted figures at the present time, but I have set out in my summary a figure to cover maintenance only. I have not dealt

with scavenging work, as I am doubtful if this should be included.

As regards improvements in the Urban Districts, I have already provided for the greater portion of the main roads in New Ross Urban, and a good part of Wexford Urban has been already done. Ennis-cocky Urban Council have estimated for improvement works to the extent of £2000, and we shall probably be able to allocate some of the current year's Grants to this work.

You will note that I have items under the heading, "Stock in Quarries." These figures are to cover expenditure already made but not specifically raised for this work. It is essential that we should commence each financial year with a quantity of material in each of our quarries, and this item will not be recurring, as the payments out of the Road Proposals will reconstitute the quarry stock each year.

The four Rural Districts in the past were indebted to the County Council for deficit on the Quarry and Machinery accounts amounting in all to £27,523, and this now forms part of the Bank overdraft, and I understand should now be raised.

In dealing with the Wexford Courthouse, I have provided for the money being raised on loan extending over ten years, to cover the cost estimated by the architect. For the County-at-Large Works (Harbours and Bridges), I have estimated at a low figure, but it is impossible to state in advance the extent of these works as they are subject to special damage.

The expenditure on quarries and machinery must be covered by the ordinary proposals, and accordingly I have set out no separate items against these. I have gone into the estimated expenditure on the machinery and have struck a balance sheet setting out receipts from cash to be paid out of Road and Quarry accounts. Last year the charge for rollers was 6/- per hour, for breakers 10/- per hour, for rock drill 10/- per hour, and for steam lorry 5/- per hour.

For the current year I propose increasing these rates so that there may be no deficit on the machinery account, and I ask for your approval to the following rates:-

Rollers 7/- per hour,
Breakers 12/- per hour,
Rock Drills 12/- per hour,
Lorry 6/- per hour.

The former rate of 8/- per cubic yard for material from the County Quarries I propose to continue, and with those rates I estimate that the refund out of the Road proposals will balance the machinery and quarry account. I enclose you sheet showing estimated receipts and expenditure on the machinery.

In regard to 4th class or contract roads, I have set out a figure opposite each particular road, and in Col 5 of the Form, I have stated the renewal period for the expiring contracts. I suggest that three years be the term for which contracts should be set.

From the statements of receipts and expenditure submitted for 1926-27 by

the County Surveyor, it would appear that expenditure was estimated at £13554 and receipts at £13660.

Colonel Gibson mentioned that one of the keys to the situation was the amounts withheld by the Government on account of deferred Land Purchase annuities which he believed would represent about 1% in the £. He understood that these had been admittedly been paid well in County Wexford. He proposed:-

"That a deputation from Wexford Co. Council wait upon the Minister for Agriculture and the Minister for Finance and ask them to endeavour to meet the anomalous position in which we find ourselves financially owing to the fact that the county is mulcted by Land Purchase annuities in other counties not meeting their liabilities under this head. That the deputation also endeavour to ascertain from the Department of Local Government what is the exact amount of grants which this Council may count on for the coming financial year. Without this information it is not possible for the Council to arrive at correct figures for their annual budget."

Mr Murphy seconded the resolution which was passed.

Mr. Conish considered that the Government were standing in their own light in not helping counties such as Wexford in which Land Purchase annuities were being well paid.

Mr Doyle said he could not say what the position was now, but when he asked the question in the past, the position was favourable. He then proposed the following resolution:-

"That our Secretary ascertain from the Land Commission what is the percentage of arrears due by Land Purchase annuitants in County Wexford."

Mr Cloney seconded the resolution which was adopted.

The meeting then took up the consideration of Road Estimate as presented by the County Surveyor which was made up as follows:- Main Road, £22124: Works in Quarries, £2000: Insurance £400: Sudden Damage and Contingencies, £2000, Total £26524. District Roads £57184. In addition, the following arrears were due by the Rural Districts for losses on Quarries and machinery as follows:- Enniscorthy £7517, Gorey £4854, New Ross £6935 and Wexford £8217. Total £27523. Carhouses, Bridges, Harbours, etc. £4569. Gross total £116,400.

The Chairman proposed and Mr Hayes seconded the following resolution:- "That a road estimate not in excess of last year be provisionally drawn up and that the County Surveyor be instructed accordingly. Further, that arrears due by late Rural District Councils for quarries and machinery be extended and that amounts under this head be included in the Estimate as was agreed to last year, viz:- one-sixth of arrears for the Districts of Gorey, New Ross and Wexford and one-tenth for Enniscorthy district."

Col. Gibbon proposed as an amendment:— "That the rate struck for roads including amount to cover portion of arrears for losses on quarries and machinery be limited to 3d. in the £."

Mr. Hall seconded the amendment.

The County Surveyor said if he was limited to the amount raised for last year, the roads would deteriorate.

After further discussion, the amendment was withdrawn and the resolution was adopted.
rem. con.

It was agreed that a special meeting of the Roads Committee be held on 15th January for the purpose of considering the revised estimate of the County Surveyor.

The general Estimate of the County Council for services directly administered by them and excluding roads was considered. It was decided on the motion of Mr. Thope seconded by Mr. Murphy to strike out a sum of £500, salary of Medical Officer of Health provided for under the Local Govt. Act 1925.

The Estimate is £60213 as against £64798 last year, a reduction of 3d. in the £. The demands from the Mental Hospitals showed an increase of £2164 over amount which was allowed by County Council last year.

It was pointed out that although for the two years past, the estimate of this body had been reduced by the Co. Council, the Committee had lived within their income for the first year. In the second year of reduction, the amount of deduction by the County Council was £3294 and on the working for the year there was a debit balance of £500 only on the year's working.

It was decided on the motion of Mr. Sean O'Byrne seconded by Colonel Gibbon that the Mental Hospitals Committee be allowed same figure as last year plus £500 debit balance or a total of £21946.

The Estimate of the Board of Health was for £54,988 made up of £3000 debit balance and £51968 for current year's working. Last year the amount raised by the Council under this head was £9000 debit balance and £49218 for current working, a total of £58218. The reduction of rate under this would be 2d. in the £.

No alteration was suggested in this Estimate, but it was decided to ask the Board of Health to give further consideration to expenditure which might have been included for the installation of a system of cold storage for butter which was unlikely to be established.

With regard to Rural District work now carried on by the Board of Health and the repayments of Rural District loans, the amounts when contrasted with those agreed to by the Co. Council last year showed an increase of £52 in Ennis-cocky and £64 in Gorey, a decrease of £279 in New Ross and an increase of £2270 in Wexford or £1677 over original estimate submitted by Wexford District Council.

It was decided that the Secretary, County Board of Health be asked to supply particulars making up the amount of increase in Wexford district.

The estimated amount for grants for next year showed a reduction of £10877 from last year and the rural district grants £1802. This will represent an increase of rate of

practically 8½% in the £.

It was pointed out that the difference in the amounts of grants for the two years arose from the fact that last year there were arrears of grants available for inclusion in the estimate.

It was decided that no action be taken for the present pending result of deputation to Government departments regarding payment of arrears of grants withheld owing to nonpayment of Land Commission annuities.

Separate charge table covering amounts of decrees for malicious injury, etc. was considered.

As regards the rebuilding of Wexford Courthouse, the plans, etc. submitted by architect provided for an expenditure of over £13,000. This would necessitate the borrowing of £7,000 as the grant for compensation is only £5,000 and the balance would be provided from other sources.

The Chairman proposed and Mr. Corish seconded the following:—
"That the County Council agree to the re-erection of Wexford Courthouse at a cost of £13,000 to cover building, furniture, etc. That application be made to our Treasurer (National Bank Ltd) for a loan of £7,000 to meet cost to be borrowed for 20 years at ½ per cent. under ordinary Bank rate. That the Department of Local Government be asked to sanction this proposal and that as soon as sanction of Department to Loan and consent to allow same by National Bank has been received, Treasurers open & relaps, architect be instructed to proceed with the preparation of detailed plans, bills of quantities etc."

Mr. Doyle proposed and Col. Sibson seconded the following amendment:—
"That the Wexford Courthouse be restored so far as the grant of £5,000 compensation will allow. That the matter be referred back to the architect for their opinion as to how best this can be done and that their reply be considered at next meeting."

A poll was taken with the following result:—
For amendment:—Col. Sibson, Treasurers Thorpe, Murphy, Hall, Whyte, Cloney, Boggan, Doyle and Jordan — 9.

Against:—Treasurers Gaul, Hayes, Connors, Ternagh, Cooney, Colfer, Byrne, Rowley, Corish, Pender, Clince, Shannon, Sean O'Byrne, and the Chairman — 14.

The amendment was declared lost and the resolution on being put was carried without a division.

Erection of Cottages - Enniserry District.

Mr. Shannon proposed:—That the Local Government Department be requested to sanction the allocation of £2,000 (portion of demand of Enniserry Rural District which would not be required to meet current expenses) for the erection of labourers cottages in Enniserry district."

The Chairman seconded. Passed.

Haulage of Road Material

In connection with haulage, Mr. Conish raised the question that hauliers should be confined to the same number of working hours as men employed on the roads, but the meeting considered that a strict ruling on this matter would not be advisable.

It was decided that the County Surveyor submit to next meeting of the Roads Committee a statement showing the average earnings of hauliers in the district of each deputy surveyor.

Advertising.

The question of having a contract with local papers instead of by lineage rate was referred to the Roads Committee for consideration.

Thomas Conish

The monthly meeting of the Wexford County Council was held in the County Council Chamber, Fortineu, Wexford on 11th January, 1926

Present:— Mr Thomas Mc Carthy (Chairman) presiding; also:— Messrs William Boggan, Patrick Byrne, James Clinie, Michael Cloney, Patrick Colfer, John Connor, Thomas Conroy, Richard Cronin, Michael Doyle, James Gaub, James Hall, Patrick Hayes, Michael Jordan, David Kavanagh, Aidan Lennagh, John O'Byrne, Mr. M. O'Donoghue, James Shannon, William Thorpe, James E. Walsh, John White, Thomas Rossiter, John Pender and Mr. R. P. Wemyss Esq.

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

Minutes of ordinary meeting of 14th December, 1925 and of special meeting of 4th January, 1926, were read and confirmed.

A letter was read from Colonel Gibbon apologising for non attendance in consequence of absence in Paris at meeting of Directors of Sugar Ref. Factory.

Validity of Co-options.

Mr. Thorpe moved the following of which he had given previous notice:—

"That the resolution co-opting two members in place of Messrs O'Arcy and Culliton be rescinded and that we proceed to co-opt two members, one for Wexford and one for Gorey, after each member has got notice that the co-optation will take place."

Mr. O'Donoghue seconded.

Colonel Quinn proposed:— That the question of the legality of co-optations of Messrs Rossiter and Pender as members of the Co. Council be referred to the Department of Local Government for decision, the matter having been referred to on the agenda paper for meeting of 14th December, 1925 as follows:—

Letter from Local Government Department:—
vacancies on Council to be filled by co-optation."

Mr. Walsh seconded the amendment.

A poll was taken with the following result:—

For: Messrs Boggan, Cloney, Doyle, Hall, Jordan, Kavanagh, O'Donoghue, Quinn, Thorpe, Walsh and White — 11

Against: Messrs P. Byrne, Clinie, Colfer, Connor, Conroy, Gaub, Hayes, Lennagh, Sean O'Byrne, Shannon, Rossiter, Pender and the Chairman — 13.

Mr. Cronin did not vote as he had "paired" with Colonel Gibbon.

The Chairman declared the motion lost.

Mr. Thorpe asked that his protest should be registered against allowing the votes of the two members the legality of whose co-optations were challenged.

The Chairman said even if these men had not voted the amendment and resolution would have been defeated. He had, however, ascertained from Mr. Elgee, that the co-optations had been legally carried out and that Messrs Rossiter and Pender having signed

their declarations of office were quite entitled to vote.

Superannuation of Mr. J. J. Rockford, Late Clerk R. D. Council New Ross.

The following notice of motion particulars of which were issued to the members of Council on 8 December, 1925, was moved by Mr. Thorpe:—

"That the question of the amount of superannuation to be granted Mr. J. J. Rockford, Late Clerk to New Ross Rural District Council, be considered and fixed, which action is necessary owing to the abolition of the office of Clerk to New Ross Rural District Council."

Mr. Cooney seconded the motion which was adopted.

After discussion the following resolution was moved by Mr. Doyle, seconded by Mr. O'Donoghue and carried:—

"That Mr. John J. Rockford, Clerk to late New Ross R. D. Council, who has devoted his whole time to the service of that Council and whose office has been abolished by Local Government Act 1925 be granted a superannuation allowance of £181:7:11 d. per annum said allowance to be subject to the consent of the Council for Local Government and Public Health."

The amount is calculated on an average salary for the three years ended 30th September 1925 of £346:8:6 d. with a three years average of £14 or £4:13:4 d. for Fees under Labourers Act's fifth Scheme, on official service of 31 years. Mr. Rockford also claimed on emoluments of £38:4:0 as Deputy Returning Officer for Local Elections but this was not included by the Council. The maximum amount which could have been allocated under Section 8 of Local Government Act of 1919 was £246:2:4 d. not taking into account the fees of £38:4:0 d. paid Mr. Rockford as deputy Returning Officer for Local Elections.

New Member Co. Committee of Agriculture & Technical Institutions.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr. Sean O'Byrne, seconded by Mr. O'Donoghue:—

"That Mr. Tynes O'Connor, Ballynacsimon, Kilmuckridge, be appointed a member of the Co. Committee of Agriculture and Technical Institutions vice Mr. J. D. Arney disqualified."

Recommendations of Committees.

The following recommendations were submitted from Finance Committee meeting of 14th December, 1925:—

Finance Committee Meeting.

The following minutes of Finance Committee meeting held on the 17th December, 1925, were submitted:-

Payments.

Treasurer's Advice Note for £4747: 16: 6d was examined and signed.

Application Assistant Surveyors - Increase of Salary.

The adjourned application from four Assistant Surveyors for increase salaries were submitted:

It was pointed out that the salaries of these officials were:-

Mr. J. Kehoe £200

Mr. R. J. Emmis £200

Mr. Birchall £180 rising by annual increments of £5 to £200

Mr. Cullen £180 rising by annual increments of £5 to £200

The average salary for Limeri was £279: 2: 2d and for Free State £236: 4: 0.

In a number of Counties officials were employed as "part time" officers.

Mr. Sean O'Byrne stated the Surveyors were in receipt of 6d per mile in respect of mileage. Only one of the officials now applying was in receipt of this allowance at the time of appointment.

Mr. Hayes pointed out that the allowance was for the running of motor cars by the Assistant Surveyors and the cost of the cars was deducted from the Surveyors salaries.

In reply to query the Assistant Secretary stated the annual deduction from the four officials salaries in repayment for the car in each case was:-

Emmis £37: 18: 4d

Kehoe £72: 6: 3d

Birchall £55: 16: 8d

Cullen £55: 16: 8d

The Chairman stated that while he was not going to propose an increase in the Surveyors salaries at this meeting he thought it well that the Committee should recognise that in practically every other County Assistant Surveyors were paid larger salaries than those of the four Assistants now applying. The 6d per mile, mileage allowance, which was the Local Government Department's scale was paid in other Counties.

Colonel Gibbon proposed:- "That the application of Assistant Surveyors for increase in their salaries be adjourned for three months from the date of next County Council meeting."

Mr. Gault seconded.

Passed

Application Mr John J. Fanning - Removal Expenses.

Mr. John J. Fanning, Ex-Clerk Gorey R.D. Council and now transferred to the

County Council, applied for the sum of £12 cost of removal of himself, family and belongings from Kory to Wexford.

Mrs. Fanning stated the transfer was not of his own choosing. He was the only Ex-R.D. Clerk in the County to be transferred and he asked the members to favourably consider his application.

Mrs. Sean O'Byrne proposed that the £12 applied for by Mrs. Fanning be paid subject to sanction of Local Government Department.

Colonel Gibbon seconded.

Passed.

Application for Poundage.

Mrs. James Murphy, Rate Collector for No. 19 Collection District applied for payment of poundage.

Refused in view of the backward state of his collection.

Old Jail.

Colonel Gibbon enquired if any further reply had been received from Board of Works in connection with utilization of old jail.

The Chairman stated that the Board of Works had replied that the matter was being considered.

Colonel Gibbon proposed and the Chairman seconded:—

"That the Board of Works be again written to in the matter."

Courthouse.

Mrs. Sean O'Byrne proposed, Colonel Gibbon seconded, and it was passed:—

"That the County Surveyor communicate with the architect with a view to having the preparation of the plans for Wexford Courthouse expedited so that the work of rebuilding could commence at an early date."

The recommendations of Finance Committee were confirmed on the motion of the Chairman seconded by Mrs. Sean O'Byrne.

Special Finance Committee Meeting.

The following minutes of Special Finance Committee meeting held on 23rd December, 1925, were submitted:—

Payments.

Treasurer's Advice note for £1111 2:7d was examined and signed.

Overdraft.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of the Chairman seconded by Mr. Gaul.

"That in view of the backward state of the Rate Collection, owing to the difficulty of farmers disposing of their barley, application be made to the Local Government departments for extension of present overdraft of the County Council to 31st March, 1926 and that the Treasurer of the Council be requested to allow accommodation to present limits of overdraft to the Council with extension of £10,000 to 31st January 1926."

Rate Collector James Murphy No. 17 Collection District.

The Secretary reported that Mr. Finn, Deputy Checker, had reported over the telephone that he suspected there were some irregularities in a/c's of James Murphy Rate Collector for No. 17 Collection District. He (Mr. Finn) was making a special examination of Murphy's books on 22nd December 1925 and would send on a detailed report as soon as his examination had been completed. There appeared to be £115 odd in receipts which had not been accounted for and Mr. Murphy admitted having received portion of this.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of the Chairman seconded by Mr. Gaul:—

"That our Secretary take steps to suspend Mr. J. Murphy, Rate Collector for No. 17 Collection District, should an unsatisfactory report as to the collection of Mr. Murphy be received from Mr. Finn, Deputy Rate Checker."

These recommendations were confirmed on the motion of the Chairman seconded by Mr. Sean O'Byrne.

The Minutes of Finance Committee of 7th January, 1926, were submitted as follows:—

The fortnightly meeting of the Finance Committee of the Wexford County Council was held in the Council Chamber, Fortnew, Wexford on the 7th January, 1926

Present: - Mr. J. Mc Carthy (Chairman), presiding, other members, Messrs Sean O'Byrne, James Lamb, P. Hayes, J. E. Walsh and William Thope.

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

The minutes of last meeting were read and signed.

A letter was read from Colonel Gibbons apologising for his absence.

Treasurer's Advice Note for £4371: 17: 7 was examined and signed.

Rate Collection.

The state of the rate collection in respect of second moiety of current year was submitted. A sum of £1482-4-11 only had been collected and the amount outstanding was £71,704-8-5.

The following resolution was adopted:-

"That the rate collectors be informed they must have at least 25 per cent. of second moiety of their collections for current financial year lodged by 31st January, 1926, otherwise the Committee would be compelled to seriously consider the advisability of recommending the County Council to adopt some alternative method of collection."

Collector James Murphy, No. 19 Collection District.

A report was submitted from Mr. M. J. Finn, Official Checker of Rate Collectors' accounts for New Ross District, stating that on 22nd December 1925 he had, as directed by the Secretary examined the books of James Murphy (Collector for No. 19 Collection District) and found that items Nos 9 and 20 Hordown E.D. had not been accounted for: amount £38:16:6. Murphy denied he had received this amount until he was informed that the Ratepayers concerned had produced the receipts to the Secretary of the County Council. The following items appeared to have been similarly dealt with:-

Adamstown	No 1	Amount	£31:8:5
Barrinstown	No 139	" (second moiety)	£4:2:11
Hordown	No 38	"	£6:2:9
"	" 102	"	£7:14:0
Kilgarvan	No 95	"	£4:4:11
"	" 149	"	£22:14:8
Total			£76:4:8

which with the £38:16:6 for Nos 9 & 20 Hordown E.D., left £115:4:2 to be accounted for.

Murphy also stated to Mr. Finn that he would collect for Adamstown that evening and lodge amount, £31:8:5 together with Nos 9 and 20 amount, £38:16:6 making a total of £70:4:11 in the Taghmon Branch of the National Bank next day by 12 o'clock noon.

He stated positively that the amounts represented by the remaining receipts had not been collected.

Mr Finn with Murphy on the evening of December 22nd 1925 to lodge £70:4:11 in Wexford in time to submit receipts to County Council meeting by 10-45 am. on 23rd of December 1925.

Mr Finn stated in conclusion — "I may say, I have retained all his books for 1923, 24, 25." and 1926 pending your instructions as to their disposal."

The Secretary stated that as the result of a conversation with Mr. Finn, he (Secretary) communicated with the ratepayers responsible for payments of Nos 9 and 20 Ardara Division. The ratepayers attended at County Council office and produced the original receipts which had been issued from his collecting book by Mr. Murphy. Rate note had been issued in respect of the other numbers mentioned in Mr. Finn's report but no replies had been received from the ratepayers concerned. Mr. Murphy had not carried out his promise to Mr Finn to lodge the £70:4:11 on 23rd December. He had lodged £7:4:11 only. On the 4th of January, Mr. Murphy lodged the balance of £63, and was instructed to lodge the balance of the missing receipts making up £44:19:3 at once. He promised to carry out this instruction by to day, 7th January, but did not carry out a further direction to have the lodgment made in Wexford.

The following telegram was received from Mr. Murphy during the course of the Finance Committee meeting:—

Posting receipts, will have them next post:

Mr. Murphy stated to the Secretary to the Council on the 4th January that he had given the receipts to the ratepayers in question as they had paid their portion of the amounts and he was withholding lodgment until he had received the amounts in full. Mr. Murphy had been suspended and his books taken up.

The following resolution was adopted:— "That the members present at this meeting instruct Mr. James Murphy Rate Collector for No 19 Collection District at County Council office on Monday, 11th January 1926 at ten o'clock in connection with the state of his collection."

Register of Voters.

It was decided to make an advance of £125 to Mr. J. P. Scullon, Registration Officer to meet cost of work in preparing Register of Voters.

Wexford Courthouse.

It was agreed to pay the sum of £2:1:6 to Messrs Thompson Brothers Ltd. Wexford for repairs of "Antiseptic" stove in office of Clerk of Peace.

General Building List.

In connection with supply of forms under above, tenders were received from the following:— Messrs Kellys Ltd, Dublin, £5:4:3; Messrs O'Connell, Dublin, £13:2:6 and "The People" Wexford, £4:9:6. The tender of "The People" being the lowest was accepted.

The sub Committee appointed at meeting of Finance Committee of 4th January reported as follows:-
 "Mr James Murphy met the sub Committee of Finance Committee on 11th instant at 11th o'clock am.,
 He had not then lodged the £44.19.3 which was still outstanding. He stated that he had not
 been paid for all the amounts of the missing receipts. In the case of one ratipayer he mentioned
 that portion of the amount had been paid about three weeks ago and the balance about a
 week after. It was stated that this Ratipayer stated he had paid the total amount
 of his rates in one sum."

The sub Committee made the following recommendation:-

"That Mr. James Murphy, Rate Collector for No. 19 Collection District be placed on
 probation for the period of the present collection on conditions that he lodges £44.19.3
 by 10 o'clock pm., to-day; this recommendation to be subject to the sanction of
 Insurance Company and of Local Government Department."

Before the close of Co. Council meeting the Secretary reported that Mr. Murphy had
 not lodged the amount as directed by the sub Committee.

Mr. Lamb proposed, and Mr. Boggan seconded the following resolution, which was adopted:-

"That the services of Mr. James Murphy, Rate Collector for No. 19 Collection District be
 dispensed with, and that the Finance Committee be empowered to deal with the necessary
 arrangements for the closing of the Collection. That the terms of this resolution be furnished to
 the Insurance Company and also to the Personal securities of Mr. Murphy."

The Recommendations of the Finance Committee were adopted on the motion of the
 Chairman, seconded by Mr. Sean O'Byrne

Roads Committee.

The following minutes of Roads Committee of 28th December, 1925, were submitted to
 the meeting:-

The monthly meeting of above Committee was held in County Council Chamber, Foxine,
 Wexford on 28th December 1925.

Present:- Mr & Mrs Cusby (Chairman) presiding, also present: Colonel Gibbon, Treasors
 Sean O'Byrne, William Boggan, James Hall, James Shannon, Patrick Colfer, and
 Michael Cloney.

The Meeting, the County Surveyor and assistant Surveyors J. Treanor, John Healy,
 R. J. Emmis, J. Cullen and P. O'Hall were also in attendance.

The minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed.

Wexford Courthouse

The County Surveyor submitted the following letter in connection with the
 reconstruction of Wexford Courthouse:- from Mr Delap (of Delap & Orpen):-

"Many thanks for yours of the 22nd. I note that you will be able to see me
 on the 28th and I shall call at your office with the plans about 10-30.
 I have gone very carefully into them with Mr Orpen and I think we have
 got the accommodation that was decided upon as being necessary. We have
 made an approximate estimate, going into the pricing, as far as possible

at this stage, and we find that the cost of the reconstructed building, as shown on these plans, will amount to about £13000.

When I met you last and our first draft plans were discussed, modified and approved, your Committee gave me instructions to go ahead, and I am not quite certain whether they did not intend that we should, without further reference to them, get out quantities and proceed to ask for tenders for the actual work. Mr O'Brien and I discussed this matter very carefully and we decided that we would not be justified in going further than we have done until we have your approval. If we had gone ahead and asked for contract prices and got out quantities, we would have made the County Council liable for a considerable sum in fees for plans and quantities for a job that might turn out much larger than they had anticipated. Now having our approximate estimate of £13000, the County Council, if they give us instructions to go on, will know pretty well what they are rendering themselves liable for, and we will feel much more comfortable.

There is one other point to which I wish to refer, - I rather think it would be more regular if we had instructions under the seal of the Council, as I believe there is some legal difficulty about paying fees for such a job as this unless the whole procedure is absolutely in accordance with the lines laid down by the Local Government Board.

I thought it well to raise these questions when writing so as to have a record of the matters I wish to discuss with you when I see you on the 28th.

Mr O'Brien (who was in attendance) stated he had brought down the finished plans of the Courthouse - and in which he had incorporated the suggestions which had been made by the Courthouse Committee, and provided for all the accommodation which everybody concerned required. There could not be any certainty as to what the cost of erection would be until contract plans had been made out and figures from reliable contractors obtained. Mr O'Brien's estimate had always, however, run very close to the actual cost.

It was decided to have the matter considered at a special meeting of the County Council for consideration of Rate to be held on 4th January 1926.

County Surveyor's Report.

The following report was presented by the County Surveyor.

"Under the new Public Bodies' Order, 1925 I have prepared schedule of Roads. Some few years ago I revised the numbering, description and length of all the roads in the County, and I am maintaining these numbers and descriptions, save for minor alterations, to suit altered circumstances. I have again checked over every description and believe that the schedule is correct in all detail. This work was preliminary to the detailed estimate on the Public Bodies' form, and I hope to send it to every Committee together with the form of estimate previous to the special meeting to deal with same. On the 4th prox. I was unfortunately delayed with this work by being confined to my home.

for several days.

I have been in communication with the military authorities in regard to the charring of gelignite, and have arranged to have this work carried out on the day previous to blast at the old jail premises. I am getting special felt-lined wooden cases made in our machinery yard to store the charred gelignite, and I expect we shall be able to carry out the work satisfactorily.

I submit quotations for insurance of stock, etc. In the machinery yard, and suggest we cover to the extent of £4,000. The question has been raised in regard to the storage of petrol and oils within the buildings, and I ask for authority to build a small concrete store in the corner of the yard away from the building, so that danger may be eliminated. This store will cost about £12. I have purchased an oil cabinet for storing paraffin oil at £2:16:3.

The contract for electric light installation in the machinery yard has been completed with the exception of connecting up the main, and I hope to have this carried out at once.

I have been unable to go thoroughly into the defects at Ferrycong Bridge at present. Wexford Bridge bascule also will require immediate rebuilding, and as I believe these jobs may entail employment of reinforced concrete. I ask for authority to employ a consulting engineer, as is usual when dealing with this material. I suggest that Mr. Selap who was consulting engineer for the Deeps and Tuamgranagh bridges, and who is also employed in connection with the rebuilding of the Wexford Courthouse should be engaged for these two bridges.

Recently I carried out surfacing of the road going into New Ross from Tuamgranagh with "Tarkolite". The makers' representatives as well as the engineers in charge of the Irish Department were present. As far as I can judge at present, I believe the material will prove satisfactory, and as it will be made locally, in the town of New Ross it will be of great advantage to be able to use it.

I have had difficulty in regard to the drainage of the Dular road near the town of Enniscorthy, and as legal points have arisen, I ask that the matter be submitted to the Solicitor.

I submit estimate from a local person for supply of waterproofs for the men engaged with the rollers and tar sprayers. I have seen samples of the materials, and as the garments will be made locally, and price is reasonable, I recommend that seven suits be purchased for each roller, making in all 42 suits @ £1-14-0 each, amounting to £71:8:0.

I am in communication with the Railway Company in regard to easing the corner on Road 197R at Ballylannon Railway gates and hope to deal with the matter satisfactorily. The cost will be small, and will be carried out under the ordinary District Labour proposals.

Mr. Treanor, Assistant Surveyor reports an encroachment on 130G, and I shall be glad to have instructions.

The Health Board have made applications in regard to the repair of roads in Garden City, Gorey and I submit letter regarding same. I do not think that at the present time the Council should undertake further responsibility in regard to roads.

I submit correspondence in connection with complaint by the Emmiserry Branch of the Transport and General Workers' Union and explanation by Messrs Emmis and Cullen, Assistant Surveyors.

When dealing with payments to contractors on Form 22, I found it necessary to defer payments in a number of cases, and I decided the Assistant Surveyors to notify all these contractors I now ask for authority to take proceedings against such as continue defaulters.

In connection with the chawing of gellignite, the proposal of the County Surveyor to have special felt-lined wooden cases for storing the chawed gellignite made in the machinery yard was approved.

With reference to insurance of stock etc. in machinery yard, Messrs Gyle & Co., Brokers, 7 Angelsea Street, Dublin submitted tender on £4000 @ 10 1/2 per cent. and Messrs Mc Donagh and Boland, Dame Street, Dublin @ 1/6 per cent.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr. Hall seconded by Mr. Cloney:— "That the tender of Messrs Mc Donagh and Boland for insurance of stock in machinery yard @ 1/6 per cent. on £4000 be accepted, the insurance to be carried out through an Irish Insurance Company.

In connection with oil cabinet, the County Surveyor submitted quotation from the Irish American Oil Company Ltd of Dublin for a 50 gallon "Perfected" oil cabinet with pump at £2:16:3. This was accepted, on the motion of Mr. O'Byrne seconded by Mr. Colles.

As regards Wescford and Ferryconig Bridges, the following was adopted on the motion of Mr. Cloney seconded by Mr. O'Byrne:—

"That the services of Mr. Delap be retained as consulting engineer in connection with Wescford and Ferryconig Bridges."

In connection with Dulort road, the County Surveyor stated that Mr. Elger, solicitor, had given it as his opinion that the County Council would have to pipe the place, and Mr. Cullen, Assistant Surveyor had decided to use the course of the old gullet.

This work was approved.

In connection with oil suits for workmen, the County Surveyor submitted tender from Mr. E. Wickham 60 North Main Street, Wexford offering to supply waterproof suit consisting of one short jacket, one trousers and one cap, made of double calico and lined as per the sample which he submitted at £1:14:0.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr. O'Byrne seconded

by Mr. Shannon:— That the tender of Mr. E. Wickham 60 torch trains steel, Wexford to supply 42 waterproof suits at £41.18.0 be accepted subject to article supplies being approved by County Surveyor.

In reply to Mr. Pyggar, the County Surveyor said the men would be held accountable for any avoidable accidents and for any wilful damage to the suits which would be in charge of the ganges.

In connection with road encroachments on 130 &c the following was read from Mr. Lennor, Assistant Surveyor:—

"I made inspection of above road to-day when I found a Mr. Howell of Ballyduffbeg, Camolin had begun the erection of a stone built fence at a width of about eight feet between existing fence and road. The new fence is more or less in line with the fences at either side. I warned him not to proceed with the work as consent of County Council was necessary."

Mr. Lennor mentioned that the new fence would not cause any encroachments and would not be an obstruction.

The following was adopted on the motion of Colonel Kilbride seconded by Mr. Hall:— "That the Roads Committee will not raise any objection to erection of fence at the premises of Mr. Howell, Ballyduffbeg, Camolin, but the County Council in agreeing to this should make it clear that they will not agree to the erection of any building at the place."

In connection with the repair of roads at Gorey Garden City, the County Surveyor submitted the following letter from Mr. Aidan A. Connolly, County Home, Enniscorthy:—

"There are some roads through what is known as the Gorey Garden City which require stones, and the Housing Committee of the Health Board have passed an applications for same. Would you kindly let me know whether you consider these roads should come under your control, as I don't see how they can be really considered Labourers' Act charges."

The Committee decided that as these roads had never been the subject of presentment, their repair could not be carried out by the Council.

As regards proposed prosecution of road contractors, the following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr. O'Byrne— seconded by the Chairman:— "That the County Surveyor take proceedings against road contractors who are neglecting to carry out their contracts in any case in which he considers this necessary."

Mountgarrett Bridge.

Mr. Delap mentioned that he was preparing the designs for this bridge, but Mr. Bowen, County Surveyor, Kilkenny came to the conclusion that the load provided for in specification of 1915 would not be enough for present traffic and 50 per cent extra had to be calculated upon. In the design of

1915 an opening span of 28 feet was considered all that was necessary - that for existing bridge being 27. Recently the joint Bridge Committee has decided that the opening span should not be less than the opening span of any bridge below Mountgarret. The span of Barrow viaduct bridge was 80 feet, New Ross bridge 40 feet and Railway bridge above New Ross 40 feet. If the joint Committee insisted on having an opening span of 40 feet instead of 28 feet, it would more than double the difficulty of securing a proper design. He (Mr. Delap) was at present awaiting a letter from Mr. Bowen in the matter. The increased traffic had raised the tonnage from 63 to 93 and if the span had also to be increased from 28 to 40 feet it would mean that the structure would cost a good deal more money.

The County Surveyor did not consider there was any necessity why the opening should be increased from 28 to 40 feet in view of the possible traffic passing through the bridge.

Erection of House within Prescribed Limit.

Under date 24th December 1925, Mr. E. Keogh, Ballinapark, Kilbride, Wicklow wrote that he intended building a shop in the village of Blackwater on a vacant site the property of Mr. Dunne on the road between the Catholic Church and the Bridge. The building as proposed would be in a line with the existing buildings there. It wished for the approval of the Council.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr. Shannon seconded by the Chairman: - "That the application of Mr. Keogh, Ballinapark, Kilbride, Wicklow for permission to erect a house within the prescribed limit at Blackwater be referred to the County Surveyor and if the latter considers that proposed building will not be an encroachment or cause obstruction, no objection will be made to its erection.

Application for Construction of New Road.

A number of residents and ratepayers of Knockaloe, Rathduff and Springmount (Killanne district) made application to have the lane leading off road 104 E, on which six families lived put into repair. During 10 stones being carted over this lane by the County Council for the past two or three years, it was now impossible to bring a load over it. They asked that the County Surveyor should visit the place and report to the Council.

The following resolution was proposed by Colonel Gibbon seconded by Mr. Shannon and adopted: - "That the County Surveyor be instructed to deal with memorial from residents and ratepayers relative to proposed repair of lane (off Road 104 E.) and report to next meeting of the Roads Committee."

Flooding on Road 16 E.

The following report was submitted by the County Surveyor

"On the 11th December, I inspected this place with Mr. Elger, County Engineer,

and Mr. Seaver, Assistant Surveyor. I consider that the Mill Pond dam is unnecessarily high, it having been raised to its present level some years ago. The sluices if kept open at times of flooding would, I believe, be sufficient to prevent water from coming out on the road, but I consider that there should be a proper slipway constructed so as to safeguard the road from flooding if the sluices happened to be closed. I recommend that the dam be lowered to an extent of 2 feet for a length of 12 feet, and provision may be made for setting up boards in very dry weather to retain the water for the mill, but this would be very exceptional, and of course at the end of the dry periods the boards should be removed. I am writing to this effect to Mr. Cousins."

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of the Chairman seconded by Mr. O'Byrne:—"That the County Council be recommended to issue instructions to have the proposals of the County Surveyor as to preventing flooding on road at B.G. put into effect."

Ballyvergin Cross.

The County Surveyor submitted the following report from Mr. Hehir, Assistant Surveyor:

"I had an interview with Mr. Kennedy, Ballyvergin, re above cross roads on the 27th November and he told me that he would be willing to allow us to take off the two corners if we agree to give him work on the road. I told him that we could make no bargain of that kind with him but that we had no objection to giving him work at the steam rolling there provided he got out his full tonnage and cleared the sides of his three contracts properly. Under these circumstances he refused to give his consent to have the corners removed."

You have a rough sketch of the place which I gave you before the last meeting of the Roads Committee."

It was decided that the County Surveyor submit estimate as to the cost of this work, provided that the County Council are prepared to take steps to have the necessary land taken compulsorily in order to have dangerous corner removed.

Dangerous Corner at Ballycorney.

Under date 11th December 1925, Mr. Emmis, Assistant Surveyor reported that he had seen Mr. Martin Havanagh, the owner of the hedges which were obstructing the view at the dangerous corner and the hedges had not yet been cut.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of the Chairman seconded by Colonel Gibson:—

"That Mr. Emmis, Assistant Surveyor be instructed to warn Mr. Martin Havanagh that if he neglects to have cut, hedges at Ballycorney which are a source of obstruction to a clear view of the road, proceedings must be instituted against him."

Sparrowland Flooding.

In connection with the above Mr. J. Cullen, Assistant Surveyor, reported that owing to work which he had had carried out at this place, flooding would be prevented

there in future.

Cherry orchard Quarry

With reference to the working of this quarry, the following report was submitted from Mr. Ennis, Assistant Surveyor:-

"I have had one man (Redmond) hand breaking in Cherry orchard for the past four weeks. He is breaking scabbings. On account of him having only one arm, I am anxious to keep him going as long as possible. The supply of small stuff will only keep him for two months or so more.

With regard to the large material, I have to keep the breaker at this as I want a large quantity of 1" and $\frac{3}{4}$ " stones, specially the latter for tarring.

At the same time I am going to start three or four men at this large material with hammers.

In connection with the employment of men at this quarry, Mr. Ennis mentioned that as regards taking on men whose employment at Kiltrea Quarry had closed, he felt that the employment of roadmen in his own district should be his first consideration and he could not guarantee taking on others until his own had been placed.

Cornex at Troughlass.

The following report was submitted by Mr. Cullen, Assistant Surveyor:- "I have received instructions to cut this corner, but it was suggested that existing fence should be cut down and a wire paling be erected. I interviewed Mr. Roche, Troughlass, Co. Wick, the owner of the fence and he wants £25 compensation before proposed paling can be erected, which shall consist of four strands of wire on railway sleepers spaced three yards apart for a total length of 36 yards.

The meeting considered that £25 was an exorbitant claim and recommended the County Council to have the necessary steps taken to have the land taken compulsorily.

Cornex at Honeyfield.

Mr. Cullen, Assistant Surveyor reported:- Any work County Council might decide on doing here except it was of a very elaborate nature would not lessen the danger of careless drivers. The corners at this place were quite visible to drivers.

No action.

Ashmilla Lane.

Mr. Cullen, Assistant Surveyor, submitted the following report:- "Reference yours of 3rd inst., I inspected this lane on the 4th inst. and beg to report as follows:-

The width between fences varies from 7 feet to 10 feet. The level of the adjoining land slopes from nothing at road 104 E. where lane starts, to five feet over existing travelling surface at a distance of 340 yards from road. Lane way surface at present consists of a soft rock bottom, and is almost impassable for vehicular traffic.

To widen lane to 16 feet between fences, build new fence, bottom and surface, I estimate the cost would be £250 not including any compensation for land owner.

This lane runs off 104 E on Hillside side of Bridge to Mountain."

The County Surveyor said that this proposal would entail the making of a new road.

It was decided that at present the Council were not in a position to deal with the making of any new roads. They would table the application which could be considered when the Council had money available to deal with proposals of this nature.

Kilmaroe Drainage.

The following report was submitted by Mr. Bickiside Assistant Surveyor:-

"I am in receipt of your copy of letter from Mr. Cooper, Solicitor re above. There is no doubt that the water has been delivering into the paddock belonging to Mr. Stafford. There is no outlet from this paddock for the water and as a result it is well nigh rendered useless.

This paddock has only lately been tilled by Mr. Stafford. He acquired it a few years ago and the delivery of the road water on his property is undoubtedly a hardship.

The only way out of the difficulty is to lay a pipe sewer under Butler's garden and bring the water across to the boundary fence. The continuation of this fence is on Mr. Stafford's land and he states he would facilitate us there in any way.

Prior to bringing yourself and Mr. Elgee there, I put this proposal to Butler feeling that the County Council would sanction the work under such unusual circumstances. Butler agreed it would be a very good plan and even offered to lend a hand with the work.

Since then he has hurriedly begun to erect a wall crossing the proposed course of this pipe, and claims the laying of the pipe would damage his premises. This is in my mind absurd and would indicate that he is more interested in having the water still delivered on to Mr. Stafford's land than in getting a way out of the difficulty which would be satisfying to all."

The County Surveyor states that Mr. Elgee, solicitor had advised that the Council should not deal with this matter until it was decided that no further action be taken.

Slip Road Works Number K 883.

The County Surveyor submitted the following letter under date December 18th 1925 from the Roads section, Local Government Department:-

"With reference to your letter of the 27th ultimo and enclosure on the above subject, I am directed by the Minister for Local Government and Public Health to state that according to a report furnished by Mr. Quigley, Chief Engineer (Roads) on the occasion of his inspection on the 7th ultimo, the work was then in a very unfinished condition, that about half a mile of the road was waterlogged, clay and quite impassable and that over a mile had still to be gravelled or metalled. It is understood that Mr. Bickiside who accompanied Mr. Quigley on the inspection stated that he hoped to get a junction made in the middle portion of the road and so give a passage through. Unless this is done, it would appear from the Chief Engineer's report that the work already accomplished will be rendered useless. Kindly say how the matter stands and whether the road is now available for public use. Has any definite decision been arrived at as regards the right of way."

The County Surveyor mentioned that Messrs Tredon, the owners of the plot had not made any reply to his letter of the 3rd December 1925, as to dropping portion of the fencing which they required in view of the great advantage which the new road afforded to the Estate. Mr (C. Surveyor) had had an interview about a fortnight ago with Mr Joyce, manager for Messrs Tredon, but pending a decision from the latter in connection with the fencing, nothing could be done.

It was decided that the County Surveyor ask Messrs Tredon for a reply to his letter of the 3rd December.

The County Surveyor stated that as regards the right of way, Mr Elger, solicitor might approach the Railway Company. He had the signatures of 30 or 40 different people who had utilised the right of way for 40 years. Another £500 would be required to complete the road.

It was decided that the Local Government be asked for a supplemental grant of £500 to complete the road and that the Railway Company be written to by Mr Elger solicitor as regards the right of way.

Congbyme Quarry Haulage.

The County Surveyor stated that he had arranged with hauliers at above quarry for haulage at 1/- per yard mile.

This was considered satisfactory.

Doran's Hill Quarry.

In connection with the suggestion of opening a second quarry at Doran's Hill, the County Surveyor reported that there was a man living in a small cottage on the place. He understood the County Board of Health were building a new cottage for this man. Nothing could be done as long as the present cottage stood.

It was decided that the matter be adjourned to ascertain what was the possibility of the present cottage becoming unoccupied.

Repairs Gorey Workhouse.

The County Surveyor submitted the following estimate as regards repairs to Gorey disused Workhouse:-

Slating and repairing chimneys £44:15:0. Repairs to small store £27:10:0. Repairs to boundary wall £22. Total £94:5:0.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr Byrne seconded by Colonel Gibbon:-

"That the necessary repairs to Gorey Workhouse as estimated by the County Surveyor at £94:5:0 be carried out within this amount."

Gorey Courthouse.

Mr. Elger, solicitor, submitted under date 19th Decr. 1925, an offer from Messrs Sugrue & Brennan, solicitors on behalf of Mr. Breslin, who purchased the ground rent of Gorey Courthouse, to sell his interest therein for £450. Mr. Elger stated he could not recommend the acceptance of the offer as it was out of all

proportion to the value of the premises.

Colonel Gibbon proposed: - "That Messrs Huggons & Brennan solicitors, be offered on behalf of Mr Breslin 12 years' purchase of his interest in Gorey Courthouse, viz, £120 and also four years' ground rent, viz, £40, total £160."

Mr Hall seconded the motion which was adopted.

Calore Drainage.

In connection with above, Colonel Gibbon mentioned that the culvert above the bridge should be cleaned up by the County Council; it was the business of the person who owned the adjoining land to clean up back drains. That being the case it was the duty of the Council to look after the drain which went under the public road.

Referred to County Surveyor for report.

New Ross Courthouse.

Under date 21st December 1925, the following was read from Mr Hugh R. Hamilton, New Ross, agent for the Tottenham Estate: - "Referring to yours of the 19th inst, your County Surveyor went over the Courthouse premises here lately and should be able to advise the County Council as to the value of them. The Price the Trustees have consented to accept is £1000. It is for your Council to accept or decline their offer."

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Colonel Gibbon, seconded by Mr Hall: -

"That Mr. Hamilton be informed that the offer of £600 by the Council (in view of his refusal to accept a settlement of amount of purchase money for New Ross Courthouse by valuation or arbitration), is final, and that we request his decision within a fortnight from the 11th January - the date of next meeting of the County Council."

Form 22. Payment to Road Contractors.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr O'Byrne seconded by Mr. Clary: - "That the several proposals for payment to road contractors, etc. as agreed to at meeting of County Council on the 14th December 1925 and as appearing on Form 22 be and are hereby approved subject to the modifications and other orders thereon noted and initialled by the Chairman and that pay orders in discharge of same be issued."

Number of Roads.

Proposed by Mr O'Byrne, seconded by Col. Gibbon, and adopted: - "That the Council be recommended to adopt the various distinguishing letters and number for roads in this county in accordance with schedule submitted to this meeting by the County Surveyor, "we consider that this lettering and numbering has been done in a most efficient manner and can suggest no improvements thereon."

Working of Brounwood Quarry.

Under date 17th December 1925, the following letter was read from Mr A. Hornagh, Mr. C. C.:-

"I wish you to bring up again at Roads Committee meeting the various grievances which were discussed at last meeting of the County Council as I will

bring in the carts concerned to that meeting and let them speak for themselves and let it be decided one way or other. I also wish you to bring in Mr. Cullen and Mr. Gorman as it would be unfair to proceed with charges like those of the carts behind those men's backs."

Mr. Tremagh brought before the meeting the following carts who were concerned in the matter:-

Nathaniel Cary, Peter Heloe, Patrick Leary and Pat Hinsella.

John Gorman, overseer at Brownswood Quarry was also in attendance.

The men alleged that former had been employed at haulage while men who had no other means of livelihood but cartage were unemployed, that differential rates had been paid, and that the overseer had his own horse working at haulage.

Mr. Cullen Assistant Surveyor, and Mr. Gorman rebutted the allegations as to favouritism. Mr. Gorman contended that the loads drawn by the men who were present had been consistently short and that former were only employed when it was necessary to get every available cart in the district on account of the deplorable condition of the Ennisorthy - Westford Road. He admitted that he had lent his horse to a boy named George Reilly who lived with him and who had no means of support, but denied that he had benefited by the transaction.

The County Surveyor stated that all the hauliers had been paid at the one haulage rate per ton mile and a comparison of the figures showed that one of the men now complaining earned the highest amount while employed at the work.

After considerable discussion, the following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr. Boggan seconded by Mr. Shannon:-

"That the District Surveyors and Overseers be instructed to exercise all possible care in giving employment at haulage to genuine working men except in abnormal times. That in future horses which are the property of overseers be not employed in connection with any work of the County Council."

Colonel Gibbon proposed and Mr. Cloney seconded the following resolution which was adopted:- "That a sub-committee consisting of the Chairman, Messrs. Shannon, Hall and Jordan be appointed to investigate the working of Brownswood Quarry and that the said sub-committee make their own arrangements as to date of investigation."

Mr. Tremagh M.C. complained that some of the men engaged at work in this quarry were not provided with unemployment cards. One of them, he understood, had decided on taking proceedings against the County Council.

This matter was referred to the County Surveyor.

Traps For Assistant Surveyors.

The following application was read from Mr. Means, Assistant Surveyor:- "I would be glad if you would let me have a set of traps for my district as my old maps

are worn out. I want to have new set bound but will see to this myself when I will have tumbering and section boundaries and quaries marked."

The County Surveyor was instructed to provide a set of maps for each Assistant Surveyor as required.

Night Watchman at Clonkaston Road.

The following letter under date 10th December, 1925 was read from Mr. Kehoe, Secretary, Irish Transport and General Workers Union, Ennis County Branch:-

"I am instructed to make application to you to have Thomas Balfe paid at the rate of £3 per week. Balfe is employed as night watchman under Sanger Dunderland on the Clonkaston road. He is employed at this work since November 24th at the rate of six shillings per night. The man works from 5 p.m. to 8 a.m. each night, Sunday night included. This means that the man works 15 hours per night or 105 hours per week for 42s. The road and quarry workers get 30s for a fifty hour week, therefore we hold that as Balfe works over double their hours, he should at least get double their pay. Trusting your Council will grant the increase and that the balance 18s per week be paid to Balfe as from November 24th.

The County Surveyor mentioned that Balfe was provided with coal and the County Council also supplied oil for lamps.

No action.

Employment of Workmen.

Under date 10th December 1925, the following letter was read from Mr. Mr. Kehoe, Secretary to the Ennis County Branch of the Irish Transport and General Workers Union:-

"I am instructed to inform you that a man named Patrick Jordan was employed on the Bradley road, Ennis County on Monday last under Sanger John Doyle. This man I am informed was working with Mr. Lett when he was taken on to work on the roads, while Peter Fenlon, milkhouse, an old employee of the County Council is still unemployed since last March. Fenlon worked as a roadman for two years and as a quarryman for 10 or 20 years. This being so, we hold that Fenlon being an old employee should get the preference before a man who was employed. Trusting that your Council will reinstate Fenlon."

Mr. Ennis, Assistant Surveyor, stated that Fenlon had never been a regular employee of the Council. He was employed on the roads for some time but was not satisfactory. This was not his fault as he was unable for the work. He had no one dependant on him and was living with his brother who, with his son, was at present employed at quarry work. Jordan had been a casual worker with Mr. Lett who had asked Mr. Ennis to take on Jordan on road work as he had a wife and five children depending upon him.

No action.

Motor Car Administration.

Under date 21st December 1925, the following report was submitted from Mr. Richards, Local Taxation Officer:-

"By direction of Roads Committee, I instituted legal proceedings against Patrick Byrne, Irish Street, Westport, for using motor car (licensed as a Hackney Vehicle) as a "Commercial Goods Vehicle" contrary to provisions of Finance Act 1922 Sec 14.

This case was heard on 9th December at Westport District Court and dismissed by the District Justice on the grounds that I had offered no proof of my appointment to conduct the prosecution.

In connection with this decision I would point out that Section 24 (3) of Inland Revenue Regulations Act 1890 provides:-

"Evidence of a person reputed to be or having acted as a Commissioner, or collector, or officer, or person employed in relation to Inland Revenue, shall unless the contrary is proved be sufficient evidence of his appointment or authority to act as such."

As a matter of fact, I had my appointment in Court and stated that fact.

The evidence of Garda Siochana clearly proved that the defendant in the case was guilty of the offence for which he was charged.

I attach newspaper reports and would call attention to the discourteous manner in which I was treated in open Court by the District Justice, and by defendant's solicitor.

After the case was dismissed, I gave notice of appeal and for doing so was ordered by the District Justice to conduct myself and to leave the Court.

Since the District Justice came to this County, it has been found increasingly difficult to sustain prosecutions in connection with motor vehicles.

I therefore submit that unless the Ministry sanctions appeals against such decisions to the Circuit Court, it is waste of time and money to bring such cases before the District Court. If a favourable decision is not obtained in the present case, it will have a ruinous effect on the collection of motor duty in this County.

Three cases dismissed by the District Justice have been already reversed on appeal before Judge Brimmoole.

I attach herewith all original documents in above case and would also refer you to Circular No. 149 under date 16 January 1924, from Ministry of Local Government.

"Extract from Free Press - 12th December 1925."

"It is now time that the public should have some protection from prosecutions of this kind. It is reducing the administration of these acts to an absurdity," commented Mr. J. R. Brennan, solicitor at the close of a prosecution brought in Westport District Court by Mr. Claude H. Richards, Taxation Officer for County Westport against Patrick Byrne - Bundobry for using a motor car registered for hackney purposes as

a commercial vehicle.

Mr Richards, who was not legally represented rose to conduct his own case.

Mr Brennan - I don't know whether Mr Richards has any right to conduct the prosecution. I am however in this difficulty to-day that my clients have come from Newtownbony and are in Court and I don't want to put them to the trouble and expense of coming in again. It seems to me very questionable whether these prosecutions should be conducted without professional assistance.

The Chairman said these acts were exceedingly difficult and imposed severe penalties. He was of opinion that every department in such cases should have legal assistance. He would adjourn the case if Mr Brennan wished.

Mr Brennan asked to have the case heard under protest.

The Chairman stated that in other districts such prosecutions were dismissed on the same grounds. He would hear the case under protest but would not decide it.

Mr Richards then quoted the Section of the Act under which the proceedings were brought, and another under which he claimed the right to conduct the prosecution.

Mr Brennan - I would like him to point out the difference in the duty.

Chairman - I expect him to prove his case fully and if he does not, it will collapse.

Guard O'Loke examined by Mr Richards stated that on the 29th of July he saw defendant's motor car in the South Main Street, Wexford. On examining the licence he found it was a hackney car. The car was piled up with bedding and furniture about four feet above the back of the car. Defendant told him he was hired by Dr. Lawlor, Bundock to remove the articles from Rosslea where he had been on holidays.

Complainant sworn proved that the car was licensed for hackney purposes. The difference in the duty of a car licensed for hackney purposes and for commercial use was £1:4:0 a quarter.

Mr Brennan - I want to see the schedule showing that.

Witness - It is in the Finance Act.

Mr Brennan - You must find it for me. You are here as a witness now and you are conducting your own case.

Witness handed Mr Brennan a copy of the Finance Act stating that Section 4 dealt with the point in question.

Mr Brennan - You saw this car on the street and reported it to the Guards.

Witness - Yes.

Mr Brennan - Show me where the words "commercial vehicle" are used in the regulations?

Witness - It is in the regulations, but I have not them with me.

Mr. Brennan - Here is a prosecution launched by a man in a responsible position. He goes and gives information to the Civic Guards and he puts in the summons, "a hackney car used for commercial purposes." It is time that the public were protected in some way from this. If you go to the seaside with your children now, you must hire a motor lorry to carry the baby bottle. You must go along in a motor car after it. It is time - this petty vindictiveness of the official responsible was put to an end.

Chairman - This is a prosecution headed Claude H. Richards, Local Taxation Officer, and Mr. Richards has not offered me one single iota of proof of his appointment.

Complainant - I beg your pardon.

Chairman - Sit down. I don't know whose fault it is, but in cases of this kind and of such importance, every department ought to have the assistance of a solicitor. I will dismiss this case without prejudice.

Complainant - I give notice of appeal.

Chairman - Please conduct yourself in Court. Just get outside.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of the Chairman seconded by Mr. Shannon - "That the Department of Local Government be requested to allow the Wexford County Council to appeal in the case of C.H. Richards, Local Taxation Officer versus Patrick Byrne, Tutorborough (Hackney Car No. 423.)"

Prosecution under Motor Car Act.

Under date 21st December 1925, the following was read from the Department of Local Government (R/T. 1/32) regarding prosecution against the Wholesale Druggs, Co. Wexford (Dr. J.V. O'Connor) under Motor Car Act.

"I am directed by the Minister for Local Government and Public Health to return herewith your file relative to the above mentioned prosecution, and to state that he is advised that the District Justice was right in dismissing the case on the ground that the proceedings were commenced more than six months from the time when the cause of complaint arose.

The enactment imposing that limitation is not the Escape Act 1848 but is section 10(4) Petty Sessions (Ireland) Act 1851.

The penalty of sub-section (2) of section 13 of the Road Act 1920 is not an Escape penalty and the Escape Act has no application. With regard to the statement reported as having been made by the Defendant's Counsel viz: - that the case was outside the Petty Sessions Act, reference might be made to 37 and 38 Vic. c. 72 and Irish Insurance Commissioners versus Hamilton.

(1913. 2. (R. 453). The limitation of six months from the cause of complaint ends that ad. appls.

The Council is advised that the cause of complaint arose on the 10th January when the declaration was made. The offence is not a continuing one and the fact that no evidence was obtained until May is immaterial. No further steps can usefully be taken in regard to Dr O'Connor's declaration.

Dr O'Connor would appear to have been guilty of an offence under Section 13(1) of the Road Act 1920 each time he used his lorry, and a prosecution can be brought under that section for each such offence committed during the past year. There has been up to the present no licence in force for the vehicle. The licence which has been issued is (1) for a vehicle of a weight different from this vehicle. (2) invalid.

It should be possible to obtain evidence of the user. The penalty for such offence is at least Twenty Pounds. The Council can accept the excess duty payable and waive their right to prosecute or, if Dr O'Connor refuses to pay, may recover a greater amount by way of fine.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Colonel Gibson seconded by the Chairman :-

That in connection with the prosecution of Mr C.H. Richards, Local Taxation Officer v Wholesale Drugs Company, Wexford (Dr A.V. O'Connor), Dr O'Connor be called upon to pay the excess duty payable in this case, and in the event of his refusal that proceedings be instituted against him in accordance with the advice of the Department of Local Government.

above Bridge.

In connection with the claim of Mr James Maguire of Trillick, Inch for £7 value of a heifer lost by flood near this bridge, Mr Maguire writes as follows under date 7th November 1925 :-

"I presume you must not be aware of the full facts of the case. I now try to inform you that the cause of the trouble was owing to the fact that there were two breaches or gaps in the bridge and I sincerely trust you will be good enough to settle this small claim without litigation.

The following report under date 11th December 1925, was read from Mr Leland, Assistant Surveyor :-

"I reported on above matter on 15th ultimo and 17th ultimo. I stated in report on the 15th that one of the heifers was found struggling in the water near breach in the wall, and on the 17th further reported several small breaches in parapet. At the place where the animal was drowned there was no breach, but possibly she entered the flooded part of the land at some place other than where discovered dead. The wall from the place where one animal was saved and the other lost is continuous, and as reported, there are small breaches in it."

The Committee decided to adhere to their former decision in this matter viz, to take no action as they were advised they were not responsible for the accident involving the loss of Mr. Maguire's heifer.

Tree at Clonoe Crossroads.

Under date 24th November, 1925, the following letter was read from Mr. Simon Sinnott, Clonoe, Camolin:-

"I write you in the matter of the tree at Clonoe crossroads as I got orders from a member of your Council to have it cut down which I object to as it is no obstruction whatever. I would be very grateful if you would have the matter brought up at your Council meeting."

The County Surveyor stated that the Roads Inspection Committee had recommended this work to be done.

Mr. Treanor, Assistant Surveyor said he had had an interview with Mr. Sinnott who did not wish for sentimental reasons to have the tree removed. If the Committee would be satisfied, Mr. Sinnott would cut down the fence and put a wire paling on it. This would lower the fence and would obviate the necessity of having the tree cut down.

It was decided that if Mr. Sinnott would carry out the work mentioned at the meeting by Mr. Treanor, the Roads Committee would not insist on having the tree cut down.

Thungamott Bridge.

Mr. Conish proposed, Mr. Shannon seconded, and the following resolution was adopted:-

"That no funds amount be allocated to the cost of the erection of new bridge at Thungamott on behalf of the Co. Wexford."

House at Blackwadi.

The Co. Surveyor reported that he considered the applications of Mr. Keogh in this matter should be agreed to provided the frontage of the building be not nearer than 30 feet to the centre of the road. Mr. Keogh was satisfied with this.

The Chairman proposed and Mr. Sean O'Byrne seconded the following resolution which was adopted:-

"That permission be granted to Mr. E. Keogh for the erection of a house in the village of Blackwadi provided the frontage of same be not nearer than 30 feet to the centre of the road."

Mr. Sean O'Byrne proposed and Mr. Hall seconded the following:- "That the recommendations of Roads Committee of 28th December, 1925, be and are hereby adopted." Passed.

Rate Collection and Publicity.

The Chairman moved:- "That all discussions in connection with the state of the Rate Collection be carried out in Committee."

In moving the motion he pointed out that the collection was very often hampered by statements made by Councillors and in his opinion it would help the interests of the Council if the discussions regarding Rate Collection were dealt with in private.

Mr. Shannon seconded. After some discussion the resolution was, however, withdrawn.

Ballybrannan Quarry and New Ross Urban Council.

Mrs. Cooney complained that the New Ross Urban Council had not received the supply of material from Ballybrannan Quarry which had been arranged to be supplied some considerable time ago. The Urban Council had taken contracts to have the material drawn from the Railway Station.

The County Surveyor stated he intended to have the material delivered in New Ross by mechanical haulage and would be able to save 1/6 d per cubic yard by doing so.

After some discussion Mrs. Cooney mentioned that the New Ross Urban Council had secured a cheap rate per rail for this material. This statement was confirmed by a telephone message from the Town Clerk, New Ross, and it was ascertained that with the rail freight as now arranged it would be cheaper to send the material by rail.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr. Conish seconded by Mr. Sean O'Byrne:— That the County Surveyor be instructed to supply at once to New Ross Urban District Council per rail, the amount of material which it was arranged the Council was to receive from Ballybrannan Quarry.

Main Roads Scheme.

Under date 4th January 1926, Scaled Order L.D./32/35, made under Section 1 of the Local Government Act 1925, the Minister for Local Government and Public Health declared the following roads to be main roads as from 1st April 1926:—

From County Boundary at Bunde Bridge, via Inch, Gory, Camolin, Ferns, Colnabona, and Kilmannon to Enniscorthy U.D. Boundary at Blackstoops Road.

From Enniscorthy U.D. Boundary near Cliff House via Coolamoney, Ballymackey, Clomochie, Ballyanne Hills and Mount Ganett to New Ross U.D. Boundary at Ardara.

From Enniscorthy U.D. Boundary at Wexford Road via Black Castle, Edmunde House, Oylegate and Sadley, Tennyconig and Park to Wexford U.D. Boundary at Boat Club.

From Wexford U.D. Boundary at Traullintown via Dinagh, Assaly Bridge, Hillinick, Taggart and Kilbane to Rosslare.

From Tennyconig via Allentia House, Larkin Cross Road, Camross, Ballynabla and Moyville to New Ross U.D. Boundary at Southknock.

From Colnabona via Tomacross, Mountfurni House and Colatun to County Boundary at Newtownbarry.

From Ballyanne three roads via Ballynacoolagh to County Boundary at Ballymounth Bridge.

From Gore via Montague Cottage, Ballycanew, Ballyedmond, Garrymore, Castlebridge and Knotton to Wexford U.D. Boundary at New Bridge.

From three roads south of Ballykiltane via Finoge Bridge, Walshestown, Ballycozly, Inacross roads, Kilmore, Millroad and Beak to Kilmore Quay.

From Blackwater Harbour via Blackwater, Croshur, and Castle Church to Castle's four roads.

From Kyle four roads via Oulart, Corbally and Clonsilla. No. 10 Enniserry U. D. Boundary at Templeshannon.

From Enniserry U. D. Boundary near Convent via Tuilhouse, Cooley Carney, Doran's cross roads and Killialy to County Boundary at Scullogue.

From Courtown Harbour via Ballinacree Bridge, Marefield House, Gory, Conigbeg House, Craanford, Ballyfarnell to County Boundary at Ballygels.

From County Boundary at Prospect via Koolmeelagh, Conagh, Kerturagh, Cloneyburn and Bolamore to Doran's cross roads.

From Fens four roads via Tombrack Bridge, Strahat and Clonsilla to Ryland Castle four roads.

From Knockatone three roads via Killenni, Carrigunane, Ballymashree and Knockmore to Killialy.

From Borohill House three roads via Aughragh Bridge, The Gap, Adamstown, Ballygerin, Kilgarvan, Tuilmonty Bridge, Taghmon, Hoferston House, Waddingtown, Ballyconick Bridge, Coylecalb Bridge, Baldinstown and Bridgeton to Senacre cross roads.

From Cooper's cross roads, Ballinag via Killann, Lomanine, and Ballygishan to Ballybanogue three roads.

From Westford U. D. Boundary near Tuilhouse via Tuillanore, Waddingtown, Wellingtonbridge, Cunaghmore, Ramsgrove, Ashurstown, Dunbrody, Ballykelly and Camblin to Southknock three roads.

From Balhainy four roads via Ballyranogue, Dungulph Castle and Gory to Fethard.

From Westford U. D. Boundary near Convent via Barnstown Castle and Sandstown to Larkin's cross roads.

From Knocken three roads via Groustown to Taghmon.

(Situati in Enniserry Urban District)

From U. D. Boundary at Blackstips Road via Island Road, Slaney Place and Millpark Road to U. D. Boundary near Cliff House.

From junction with Island Road via Shannon Quay to U. D. Boundary at Westford Road.

From U. D. Boundary at Templeshannon via Templeshannon Slaney St., Market Square, Cathedral Street and Duffy Rd. to U. D. Boundary near Convent.

(Situati in New Ross Urban District)

From U. D. Boundary at Ardross via Greywell Road, John Street and Swivel Bridge to U. D. Boundary at Rakeen.

From U. D. Boundary at Southknock via Henry Street, Priory Street, South Street and North Street to junction with John Street.

(Situate in Wexford Urban District)

From U. D. Boundary at Boat Club via New Road, Redmond Place, Commercial Quay, Custom House Quay, Crescent Quay, Paul Quay, Trinity Street, William Street and Maudlinstown (exclusive of portion maintainable by Wexford Harbour Commissioners) to U. D. Boundary at Maudlinstown.

From U. D. Boundary at New Bridge to junction with New Road.

From junction with Paul Quay via King Street Lower, King Street Upper and Siskilby Road to U. D. Boundary near Millrace, exclusive of portion maintainable by Wexford Harbour Commissioners.

From junction with Siskilby Road via Joseph Street, Conigan Street, Red Pound (part), School Street, and John Street to U. D. Boundary near Convent.

On the motion of Mr. Hall seconded by Colonel Quinn, the following resolution was adopted: - That the Council expressed its disappointment that the Minister for Local Government and Public Health did not include in main Roads Scheme, the road from Wexford to Rosslare which, perhaps, bears the heaviest motor traffic of any road in the County. They would also point out that in their opinion it was not necessary to include in the declaration the road from Blackwater to Ballyconiger (Blackwater Harbour). In other minor details the Council considered the Scheme could also be improved, but owing to the period of the year and the necessity for dealing with estimates of expenditure on roads, they agree to accept the declaration for one year and hope that by the time it will be necessary to consider Road Estimates for year 1927-28, arrangements satisfactory to the Council may be made.

Under date 5th January, 1926, the following letter No R/L.R.D. 1201 was read from the Department of Local Government (Roads): - "I am directed by the Minister for Local Government and Public Health to state that he has considered the application of the Wexford County Council for Orders under section 24(3) of the Local Government Act 1925, directing the Urban District Councils in the County to construct and maintain the roads in the Urban areas declared by his Order dated 31st December 1925 to be main roads for the purposes of the Act.

The general principle laid down by section 24(1) of the Act is that the maintenance and construction of all main Roads in a County shall be the duty of the County Council and the Minister has decided that no sufficient reason has been advanced in the case of the Urban Districts in Co. Wexford to warrant a departure from this principle. Accordingly it is the duty of the County Council to maintain and construct, as from 1st April 1926, all main roads in County Wexford including those in the Urban Districts.

The County Surveyor will therefore make provision in the Road Works Scheme for the maintenance and construction of the main roads in each Urban District in the County as well as main roads situated outside Urban areas."

On the motion of Mr. Sean O'Byrne seconded by Mr. Patrick O'Byrne the

following resolution was adopted:-

"That as regards maintenance of main roads in Urban Districts, this County Council is prepared to enter into contracts with the Urban District Councils for the maintenance of same subject to the cost of maintenance receiving our approval. As regards scavenging of streets in Urban Districts the County Council will provide only for such scavenging as is done by them on rural main roads."

Overdrafts.

Under date 1st January 1926, letter No. 60590/1926 (Wexford County), was read from the Department of Local Government sanctioning total overdrafts not exceeding £50,000 to 31st January and not exceeding £40,000 to 31st March next. Interest might be paid thereon at the agreed rate.

Sanatorium Grant.

Under date 14th December 1925, letter (No P.H. 55781/1925 Miscellaneous) was read from the Department of Local Government relative to sanatorium grants which was set apart in pursuance of the Finance Act 1911 and of the National Insurance Act 1911 for the provision of sanatoria and other institutions for the treatment of tuberculous persons, and stating that the amount of the grant provisionally assigned to Wexford, after deduction of previous issues was £3346:19:7.

On the motion of Colonel Guinness seconded by Mr. Rossiter the following resolution was adopted:-

"That the County Board of Health be informed that if they are satisfied to proceed with the work of improving the old Fever Hospital in Enniscorthy for the reception of additional advanced cases of tuberculosis, the Sanatorium State Grant applicable to County Wexford, viz:- £3346:19:7 is available."

Local Elections Postponement Act, 1925.

Under date 21st December 1925, the Department of Local Government wrote that the Local Elections Postponement Bill 1925 had been passed by both Houses of the Oireachtas. The object of the Bill was to avoid the holding of Local Government Elections again in 1926, these elections being now postponed until 1928.

Authorized Committee.

Under date 6th January 1926, (letter No. 548448/1925 Wexford County Council), the Minister for Local Government wrote that, after consultation with the Departments of Education and Agriculture, he now authorised contributions in aid of travelling expenses of the members of the County Wexford Committee of Agriculture and Technical Instruction in respect of the current half of the financial year ending 31st March next and in respect of the forthcoming financial year.

County Rate (1926 to 1927) - Adjustment. Rules 1925.

Under date 5th January 1926, (No 316/1926), the Department of Local Government forwarded copy of order made under above title. The rules provided for the carrying out of the necessary adjustments under Local Government Act 1925,

in respect of the areas of abolished Rural Districts by means of an increase or reduction in the rates for separate charges in those areas.

Poor Rate Demand Note.

Under date 5th January 1926, (57863/1925) the Department of Local Government wrote relative to apportionment work in connection with preparation of Poor Rate Demand Notes.

It was decided that the Secretary raise the matter at the Conference with the officials of the Department of Local Government to be held on the 14th January.

Estimate and Demand of County Board of Health.

Under date 5th January 1926, the Minister for Local Government and Public Health (60803/1925), Wexford County forwarded copy of letter which he had issued to the County Board of Health as to Estimate and Demand of that body being considered at their meeting on the 18th January 1926.

Withheld Grants.

Under date 5th January 1926, the following letter, (62261/1925) was read from the Department of Local Government:-

"With reference to your letter of the 22nd ultimo, on the subject of State Grants, I am directed by the Minister for Local Government and Public Health to state that the amount of State Rate Grants absorbed in the Guarantee Fund in respect of Land Purchase arrears in Wexford County is £16,478:16:10. 10 portion of the Agricultural Grant has been withheld."

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

"That the deputation suggested at the meeting of the County Council on 4th January 1926 to Ministers of Government Departments in connection with Government Grants which have been withheld consist of the following:- Mr. J. Mc Carthy (Chairman), Colonel Gibbon (Vice-Chairman), Mr. W. Doyle B.D., Mr. R. Conish B.D., the Secretary and Mr. Elger, Solicitor. That the Secretary arrange with the Ministers concerned for the reception of the deputation when he has received information from the Land Commission as to the percentage of outstanding annuities in Aris Sáoistáil due by Wexford County."

Mountgarrett Bridge Joint Committee.

Under date 5th January 1926 (R/329/14), letter was read from the Minister for Local Government stating that he was advised that the four persons appointed by the Wexford Co. Council to act as their representatives on the Mountgarrett Bridge Joint Committee could continue to act on this committee until the bridge had been completed.

On the motion of Mr. Thorpe seconded by Mr. Clince the following resolution was adopted:-

"That our Secretary be instructed to communicate with Messrs. J. Cummins, Mr. Byrne, James Byrne, and J. J. O'Byrne, the representatives of this County

Council on the Mountgarrett Bridge Joint Committee and request them to inform the Council if they wish to continue to act as members of this Committee in view of the fact that they are now no longer members of the County Council.

Travelling Expenses of Nurse O'Connor, Tuberculosis Nurse.

Under date 18th December 1925, (P.H. 59104/25 Wexford County), the Minister forwarded copy of letter which he had issued to the County Board of Health stating that he considered that travelling expenses should not be granted to Nurse O'Connor Tuberculosis Nurse, as a fixed allowance, but should be paid on vouched statements of expenditure submitted by her each month.

Referred to County Board of Health.

Rate Collectors' Poundage

Under date 4th January 1926 (No 560054/1925 Wexford County), the Minister for Local Government wrote stating that he would raise no objection to the payment by the Wexford Co. Council of the balance of poundage fees on the sums collected and lodged by the rate collectors in respect of the collections of the first moiety of the current year's rate.

Conference with Department of Local Government.

Under date 5th January 1926 (No 57863/1925), the Minister for Local Government wrote that he had fixed 14th of January and (if necessary) 15th January for the Conference with officials of Local Bodies in connection with the issue of the Public Bodies Order 1925, and the Local Government (Application and Adoption of Enactments) Order 1925 and at which the provisions of these two Orders could be discussed and difficult points solved.

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

"That we authorise our Secretary to attend the Conference with the officials of the Department of Local Government to be held on the 14th January, and in the event of our Secretary not being able to attend, Mr. J.A. Fitzgerald, Assistant Secretary act in his stead."

Damage to Property (Compensation) Act 1923.

Under date 5th January 1926, (D.B/202), the Minister for Local Government wrote requesting the Council to make the necessary provision in the Estimates for 1926/27 to meet the sum to be lodged in Exchequer in respect of the forthcoming financial year under the terms of Section 14 of the above Act whereby the Council were required to pay a contribution equal to a rate of sixpence in the £ on the rateable valuation of the County, including Urban Districts for each of the Local financial years mentioned in sub-section 1.

Any payments in arrears should be lodged without delay.

It was decided that this communication be considered at the special meeting of the Council which is to deal with the preparation of rate estimates.

Food and Drugs act.

Under date 21st December 1925 (Letter No L 5330/25), the Department of Agriculture wrote that one of their officers had obtained four samples of butter at New Ross on the 9th of December and three samples at Gorey on the 12th December which on analysis proved to be genuine. In addition, a sample of butter purchased at Gorey on the 12th December was found on analysis to contain 16.06 per cent. of water.

Primary scholarship scheme.

Under date 23rd December 1925, a letter was read from the Department of Education (Secondary Branch) agreeing to the renewal for the present year (1925-26) of the scholarships held by Bernadette Berny and Kathleen O'Keefe. A further extension of these scholarships would not be approved unless there was evidence of more marked progress by these pupils during the present year.

Old age Pensions Act.

A communication was received from the Clerk of the 3 Old age Pensions sub-committee recommending the appointment on that sub-committee of Mr. Thomas Scallan P.P. Taghmon vice Very Rev Canon Fortune P.P. Taghmon, deceased.

On the motion of Mr. Cloney seconded by Mr. Conish, the following resolution was adopted:— That Mr. Thomas Scallan P.P. Taghmon be appointed a member of the 3 Old age Pensions sub-committee vice Rev Canon Fortune deceased.

Appointment of ex-officio Inspector of Food & Drugs New Ross District.

Under date 14th December 1925, a letter was read from the Chief Superintendent, an Garda Síochána, Wexford nominating Garda C. Driscoll (2532) for the position of Inspector of Food and Drugs for New Ross district to fill the vacancy caused by the transfer of Sergeant John Cavanagh (1768) to Courtown Harbour.

On the motion of Mr. Sean Byrne seconded by Mr. Hope the following resolution was adopted:—

That Garda C. Driscoll (2532), New Ross be appointed ex-officio Inspector of Food & Drugs for New Ross district vice Sergeant John Cavanagh (1768) transferred to Courtown Harbour.

Flooding at Ford of Lyng and Cabore.

Under date 20th November 1925, Mr. Elgue, Solicitor to the Council wrote that he had looked fairly into the question of taking proceedings against the owners of adjoining lands to abate the flooding at Ford of Lyng, caused by the drains on the Wet Lands having been allowed to get choked up. In the year 1917, an opinion of Counsel was taken in the matter and he advised that, as under Section 48 of the Wexford Harbour Improvement Act 1852, a District Board of Commissioners was created for the maintenance and repair of the embankments, drains, etc. belonging to the lands comprised in the south reclaimed lands and had power to levy rates for the purpose of such repairs and cleansing, the proper person to be proceeded against would be the District Board of Commissioners.

These proceedings would have to be taken in Chancery, and as the costs of such proceedings would amount to a very considerable sum, he asked for instructions before entering on same.

As regards the flooding at Cahore, the proceedings would be the same as in the case of Lord of Lym, the defendants being the Trustees of the Cahore Drainage District.

On the motion of Mr. Hope seconded by Mr. R. Crish the following resolution was adopted:—

"That proceedings be instituted against the owners of the South Stob - Messrs. Beldon and Miss Lytle - to obviate the flooding on the road at Lord of Lym as their action in neglecting to clear the drains, etc. is the cause of said flooding. That Mr. Elgee be instructed to communicate with the Land Commission and ascertain what particulars they have in this matter and that the proceedings now desired be not taken until he submits to the meeting of the Roads Committee any information he is able to obtain from the Land Commission in the matter."

In connection with Cahore, the Chairman proposed and Mr. Hall seconded the following resolution:—

"That we call upon the Trustees of Cahore Drainage District to obviate the flooding at Kentown road which is caused by the neglect of said Trustees to keep the drainage system in proper repair."

Pension of Dr. S. V. O'Connor.

Under date 21st December 1925, the following letter was read from Messrs P. J. O'Flaherty & Son, Solicitors, 1 Bone Street, Wexford:— "Dr S. V. O'Connor has consulted us with reference to the pension of £133:6:8 which was granted to him by the Wexford Board of Guardians on the termination of his employment as medical officer of the Wexford Workhouse and Crossbeg Dispensary District in April 1922.

The pension at this rate appears to have been paid to him until the County Council gave notice of dispute under section 11(4) of the Local Government (Temporary Provisions) Act 1923 when the pension was cut down by the trustees for Local Government to £10. When Dr O'Connor made representations to you in response to the Circular of the Local Government Department dated the 14th April 1923, he did so without prejudice to, and reserving any legal rights he had and he accepted the reduced pension under protest.

It appears to us that section 11(4) of the Local Government (Temporary Provisions) Act 1923 has application only to County schemes defined by the Act, that is to say, a scheme prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Act by the Council of any county to which no existing scheme related. The Wexford Scheme was "an existing County Scheme" which came into operation on the 25th October 1921 and as Dr O'Connor's pension of £133:6:8 was validly granted by the Guardians under Sec. 8 of the L.G. (Ireland) Act 1919, Sec. 11(4) of the Local Government (Temporary Provisions) Act 1923 gave no power either to the County Council or to the

Minister for Local Government: to review it. We are accordingly instructed to take proceedings to enforce our clients' rights unless we hear that the County Council are prepared to pay the pension awarded to him together with all arrears to date."

On the motion of Mr Doyle seconded by Colonel Quinn the following resolution was adopted:—
"That as the pension of Mr O'Connor was fixed by the Minister for Local Government, the application of Messrs O'Hallerty & son, solicitors on his behalf be submitted to that Minister for his advice."

Game Laws.

A resolution was received from the Tipperary & R. County Council, requesting the Government to introduce a new Game Act at the earliest possible date in order to help sporting organisations to preserve stocks of game, the preservation of which was a national concern.

Mr O'Sullivan proposed and Colonel Quinn seconded the adoption of the resolution. As an amendment, Mr Conish proposed and Mr Gault seconded:—"That the resolution be made 'read'."

On a show of hands, the amendment was carried by 11 to 7.

Travelling Expenses of County Councillors.

A resolution was received from Roscommon County Council protesting against the inadequate travelling allowance to members of County Councils and their various administrative Committees and also the distinction made excluding members living within a five mile radius from securing any contribution towards travelling expenses.

Mr Thorpe called attention to an opinion given by Mr Justice Mac Lennan H.C., to the Limerick County Council relative to the amount to which members of County Councils and authorised Committees were entitled as travelling expenses.

The following is an extract from this opinion:—

"I am of opinion that on the true construction of the statute as a whole, members of the Board of Health and of the approved Committees are entitled on complying with the rules and provisions of the statute to the travelling expenses for the whole journey to and from their official residence to the place of meeting. The rules and regulations of the statute should be carefully complied with, as any unauthorised payment to members will in all probability be surcharged."

Mr Thorpe proposed and Mr Sean O'Byrne seconded:—

"That our solicitor be directed to obtain from Mr Justice Mac Lennan H.C. Council's opinion as to the proper amount of travelling expenses which can be claimed by members of County Councils and their authorised Committees."

Passed, Colonel Quinn dissenting.

Lace on Ford Motor Cars.

The following resolution was received from Wick County Council:—

"That taking into consideration that the Ford Motor Car is practically all made in Ireland, we recommend the Government to give very favourable consideration to reducing the Licence duty thereon for the following reasons:—

- (1) Considerable employment is given in its manufacture.
- (2) It is the cheapest car made and has relatively the highest sale.
- (3) It is the only car within the reach of people of limited means.
- (4) The increased manufacture at Cork which would follow, would materially reduce our imports and help to reduce unemployment.
- (5) It is the lightest car and consequently does less harm to roads.

Under date 15th December 1925, a letter was read from the Ennis corby Motor Co. Ltd. also asking that some concession should be made in the taxation of Ford Motor Cars.

The resolution from Kilkenny Co. Council was adopted on the motion of Mr. Conish seconded by Colonel Quinn.

Ancient Monuments.

Mr. Cloney brought forward the advisability of the County Council taking over ancient monuments which were not scheduled as such by the Office of Public Works. If this were done, the County Council would be in a position to prosecute anybody who would cause wilful damage to such monuments. In his opinion it was absolutely necessary that something should be done to preserve these memorials of the past which were so intimately bound up with the history of our country.

After some discussion, it was decided that the Co. Surveyor submit for consideration to next meeting of the Roads Committee particulars of ancient monuments which he had obtained some time ago.

Heavy Lories.

On the motion of Mr. Hope seconded by Col. Quinn, the following resolution was adopted:— "That in view of the injury caused to a large number of roads in this county by heavy lorry traffic, we request the Government to limit same to six tons 'all in', and that no trailers be allowed."

Public Bodies' Insurance

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

"That we approve of the proposed scheme of Co-operative Fire Insurance by Public Bodies as formulated by the County Council's General Council and will pledge our support to same when scheme has been finally approved."

Thom Barry