

Statutable Half-yearly Meeting - 5th May 1908.

The Statutable Half-yearly meeting of the county council was held in the council chamber, Courthouse, Wexford on 5th May 1908.

Present:- Sir J. H. G. Esmonde, Bart. M.P. (Chairman) presiding.

Other members:- Messrs M. A. Ennis, Kinsella, Browne & Gore, C. H. Peacocke, John Cummins, J. J. Kehoe, J. Bolger, John Sinnott, J. E. Mayler, M. Doyle, M. Codd, Denis Kavanagh, N. E. Murphy, J. Asple, and J. Codd.

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

Confirmation of minutes
The minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed.

Death of Mr. D. Dempsey - Co. Councillor.
The Secretary reported that Mr. D. Dempsey, Co. Councillor died on the 4th May.

On the motion of the Chairman the following resolution was adopted:-

"That we the members of this Council desire to record our deep regret in the loss sustained by the demise of our esteemed colleague Mr. Daniel Dempsey, Killelan, Screen who has been a member since the inception of the Council, and offer our sincere condolence to Mr. Dempsey in her bereavement. That a copy of this vote be forwarded to Mr. Dempsey and Mr. R. Hanton, Mayor." Mr. Peacocke seconded the motion which was adopted."

Appointment of checkers - Rate collectors a/c.
On the motion of the Chairman, the following resolution was adopted:- "That we hereby appoint Mr. N. Kehoe, Clerk Wexford Rural District Council, Mr. Owen Connolly, Clerk Enniscorthy Rural District Council, Mr. R. Brighton, Clerk Gorey Rural District Council, and Mr. M. J. Finn, Town Clerk, New Ross, as deputy checkers of Rate collectors accounts for the Rural Districts of Wexford, Enniscorthy, Gorey, and

New Ross, respectively, at a remuneration of 5/- per 100 ratings, in respect of financial year ended 31st March 1909."

Payment of Contractors

On the motion of the Chairman, the following resolution was adopted:—"That the several proposals for payment sent up from the Rural District Councils of the county, and from the Proposal Committee of the County Council, and as recommended by the Finance Committee, be hereby approved subject to the modifications and other orders noted thereon and initialled by the Chairman."

New Works, etc.,

On the motion of the Chairman, the following resolution was adopted:—"That the several proposals for New Works, and for renewal of contracts, sent up from the Rural District Councils of the county, and from the Proposal Committee of the County Council be hereby approved, subject to the modifications and other orders noted thereon, and initialled by the Chairman."

In connection with various rulings on Road contracts and which are set out in detail on forms 20 the following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr. Ennis, seconded by Mr. Peacocke:-

"That Sir Thomas Esmonde Bart, M.P. and Mr. John Sinnott, be appointed the representatives of the Co. Council to negotiate with Mr. Doyle, Ballyfarrel, for the purpose of acquiring portion of quarry owned by Mr. Doyle. That the latter be asked to name a couple of representatives on his behalf to confer with Sir Thomas Esmonde and Mr. Sinnott, as to the proposed purchase of the quarry. That the representatives of the Co. Council report to next meeting."

On the motion of Mr. Ennis, seconded by Mr. Cummins the following resolution was adopted:- "That the Finance Committee be appointed to consider the cases of the various quarries that have been mentioned to this Council with a view to their purchase."

In Wexford Rural District contracts, Mr. O'Connor,

Solicitor on behalf of John Murphy, old contractor, objected to Andrew Walsh, Daniscastle, being accepted as contractor for Road No. 66a on the grounds that Walsh who was carrying out a contract for his brother (who had gone to America) had not given satisfaction, and that one of the securities John Murphy, Whittyskill was not sufficient as he held only four acres of land.

The Chairman moved that the work be given in charge of the County Surveyor for twelve months at £17:11:8.

A poll was taken with the following result:-

For confirming contract:- Messrs J. Codd, Peacocke, Ennis, John Sinnott, Maylor, M. Doyle, M. Codd, Cummins, & Browne - 9.

against:- Messrs Kinsella, Hore, the Chairman, Kehoe, J. Bolger, N. B. Murphy, and Aspley - 7.

The Chairman declared the contract carried.

In reference to No. 114 Enniscorthy - Richard James, Munfin, tendered at £22:10/- and Edmond Roche, Ballygillistown, Davidstown, tendered at £31:9/-. At the District Council meeting, James' employer Mr. Edward Kavanagh, St. John's Enniscorthy, tendered at £36 and was accepted but refused to sign bond. Mr. Roche had tendered at the District Council meeting at £40:13:9.

Mr. O'Connor, Solicitor, appeared for Roche, who was the old contractor, and contended that James' tender was not bona fide.

In reply to Mr. O'Connor, the County Surveyor stated, that the road could not possibly be done at the price.

The Chairman moved that James' tender be accepted as there was no objection to his sureties.

Mr. M. Doyle, moved, and Mr. Kehoe seconded the acceptance of Roche's tender.

A poll was taken with the following result:-

For Roche:- Messrs J. Codd, Kinsella, Browne, Ennis, Kehoe, J. Bolger, John Sinnott, J. Aspley, and M. Doyle - 9.
For James:- Messrs Hore, Peacocke, Murphy, Maylor, & the Chairman - 5.

The Chairman declared Roche's tender accepted.

In connection with No. 11 & 12 (Steam Rolling Irons Struts). Mr. Kehoe moved and Mr. Ennis seconded - "That the work be given in charge of the County Surveyor."

A poll was taken with the following result:-
 For the motion:- messrs J. Codd, Kinsella, Browne,
 Hore, Peacocke, Ennis, Kehoe, J. Bolger, J. Sinnott,
 Mayler, M. Doyle, M. Codd, and Kavanagh. 15.
 against:- messrs N. B. Murphy, and J. Aspley- 3.
 The chairman declared the motion carried.

Dates of meetings

For half-year ended September 30th 1908.
 New Ross District Council - Saturday October 31st 11 a.m.
 Gorey " " Thursday November 5th 11.30 "
 Wexford " " Saturday " 7th 10.30 "
 Enniscorthy " " Wednesday " 11th " "
 Proposal Committee Thursday " 12th 2.30 p.m.
 Co. Council meeting Tuesday December 1st 10.30 a.m.
 Quarterly meeting
 Co. Council meeting Tuesday August 4th 10.30 a.m.

Ford of Lyng

In connection with the flooding of the road at the Ford of Lyng the following resolution unanimously adopted by the Wexford Rural District Council on the 25th April was laid before the meeting:-

"That having had before us the resolution of the county council referring back to us the question of the flooding of the Ford of Lyng and the correspondence mentioned therein and having laid the whole matter before our solicitor, Mr. Bolger, for his opinion and advice as to our legal powers in the matter, that Mr. Bolger having attended this meeting to-day to confer with us and having reiterated the opinion given by him, in writing, to us over two years ago, and also verbally at a conference on the subject held at that time, at which several members of the county council, as well as their solicitor, Mr. Elger, attended, namely that the county council (and not the District Council) were the proper authority to take civil proceedings in this matter. We, therefore, again request the county council to have the goodness to give instructions to their solicitor, Mr. Elger, to take immediate proceedings to compel the present owners of the sloelands who are known, and all other

parties, (if any) who have neglected defaulted or refused to clean or drain the marsh, between the Ford of Lyng and the Slob Canal, by reason of the state of which the free passage of the water is impeded and consequently, floods the public roadway at the Ford of Lyng."

The Chairman proposed: "That provided the Wexford District Council will agree to contribute one-third of the cost of draining, the owners of the property another third; the county council will be prepared to contribute the remaining one third, subject to the sanction of the Local Government Board, and subject to a practical scheme for the necessary drainage being presented by the County Surveyor."

Mr. Murphy proposed: "That subject to the expense of the proceedings being paid for by Wexford Rural District Council, Mr. Elger be empowered to proceed."

Mr. Cummins seconded.

After a long discussion, Messrs Murphy, and Cummins withdrew the amendment, and the Chairman's motion was carried unanimously."

Coals for County Courthouse

Messrs Wallace & McCullagh, Wexford tendered to supply coals (Powell's Best Red Ash Newport) to the County Courthouse for one year at 23/- per ton.

On the motion of the Chairman the tender of Messrs Wallace & McCullagh was accepted.

"At the suggestion of Mr. Kehoe the Secretary was directed to lay before the next meeting of the Finance Committee the amount of coal used in the County Courthouse for the year ended 31st March 1908."

Sealing Contractors Bond

On the motion of the Chairman, the following resolution was adopted: "That the seal of the Co. Council be affixed to bonds, tenders, etc., of contractors in respect of contracts accepted at this meeting; and that Treasurer's advice note for payments agreed to at this meeting be duly signed."

Vacating a Suretyship

Under date 28th April 1908 the following letter was read

from Mr. John A. Sinnott, Solicitor, Enniscorthy:-

"Mr. Patrick O'Neill of this town is about to become a candidate for Co. Councillor and in view of this wishes to be freed from his present position as surety for a road contractor - Mr. Abraham, of Moycaddy, who has the contract for the road from Blohanon cross to Newtownbarry. Mr. Abraham will procure a substitute for Mr. O'Neill as surety, in the person of Mr. Aidan Doyle, Island Road, Enniscorthy, a perfectly confident man to fill the situation. and I shall feel obliged if you will bring this matter before the Co. Council at their next meeting and take the necessary measures to permit Mr. O'Neill to offer himself for election as aforesaid for a member of the Co. Council."

Under date 2nd May 1908 the following letter was read from Mr. John Barlow, Ballydonfin:-

"Kindly ask your Council to be good enough to remove my name from the Suretyship of Thomas Lambert's contract, and place Nicholas Barlow, Cooladine, to act in my place."

Under date 4th May 1908, the following letter was received from Mr. J. J. Stafford, Stonebridge Wexford:-

"Being security for William Barty, Airdownes, (Road Contractor) 81A, which expires next June, and Joseph Walsh, Danescastle, No 102, which expires March 1909 and being nominated a candidate for Co. Council. I shall thank you to have Mr. George Stafford's name substituted for mine as security in both cases."

The Chairman moved:- "That Mr. Aidan Doyle Island Road, Enniscorthy, be accepted as surety for Mr. Abraham, No. 4 in Enniscorthy, vice Mr. P. O'Neill Enniscorthy, whom we hereby release from his suretyship, that Mr. Nicholas Barlow, Cooladine, be accepted as Surety for Roads No 26, and No. 25A & 27, in Enniscorthy, vice Mr. John Barlow, Ballydonfin Glenbrien, whom we hereby release from his suretyship, and that Mr. George Stafford, John St Wexford be accepted as surety for roads No. 81A and 102 Wexford District, vice Mr. J. J. Stafford, Stonebridge, whom we hereby release from his suretyship."

Pay Order out of date

under date 18th April '08, the following letter was read from Miss Mary J. Ransom, Kilmuckridge:-

"Sorry to have to trouble you to let me have a money order for the enclosed. I cashed for the owner John Murphy, Road man, last May, and it got mixed up with some bills, I thought I had sent it paying a long ago, and now, when I found it I sent it in to Messrs Davis, Ennisecorthy; and they told me it was out of date, and that we should have to get a new one. If any signature or note is required from Murphy, I'll get him to send it, as I have been telling him of this, and he remembered me cashing it last May."

The Secretary stated that Murphy - the payer - in this case, had been written to on two occasions asking him to cash order. Ultimately he wrote that he had passed the order to a merchant, but could not remember the name. Owing to this the Order had been recredited to Gorey Rural District and it now appeared that the order had been given to Miss Ransom."

"Under date 29th April 1908, the Local Government Board wrote (letter no. 22418-08) that as the Order had been recredited to Gorey Rural District a new Order should be issued."

On the motion of the Chairman, the following resolution was adopted:- "That Paying Order no. 339 issued on 7th May 1907, to John Murphy for £4: 2/- be cancelled, as it is out of date, and a new one issued instead."

Payments to Public Bodies.

The following resolution was adopted; on the motion of the Chairman:- "That the Quarterly Instalments of the Demands for Board of Guardians, District Councils, and the District Lunatic Asylum be paid."

Adjournment.

As a mark of respect to the memory of the late Mr. Dempsey, the remainder of the business was adjourned to the 20th inst., at 10.30. a.m.

adjourned Statutable Half-yearly meeting.
20th May 1908.

The adjourned Statutable Half-yearly meeting of the County Council, was held in the Council Chamber, Courthouse, Wexford, on 20th May 1908.

Present :- Mr. M. A. Ennis, Vice-Chairman presiding.
 Other members :- Messrs John Bolger, Mr. Browne, James Codd, J. A. Doyle, Mr. Doyle, J. E. Mayler, John J. Kehoe, J. Aspley, Mr. Hickey, J. Cummins, and R. B. Murphy.

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

Notice of motion.

Mr. Cummins moved.

Mr. Browne seconded:-

"That Sir Thomas Esmonde, M. P., and Mr. Peter French, M. P., be requested to take steps to have the law limiting expenditure by a County Council on any new marine work to £800, amended, and to co-operate with Mr. J. W. Russell, M. P. Vice-President Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction in any Bill which he may introduce into the House of Commons for this purpose."

Passed.

Ballyhack Fishermen

Mr. Richard Gleeson, Hon Sec Fishermen's Association Ballyhack, forwarded the following resolutions which were adopted at a meeting of the Association on the 12th April 1908:-

Proposed by Mr. Richard Gleeson, Ballyhack, and seconded by Mr. Samuel Kearney:- "That we call upon the County Council to erect the Hulks that they promised, to protect against the north west gales, as suggested by the Committee appointed to go into the matter, namely- Mr. Ennis, and Mr. Peacocke."

Proposed by Mr. Patrick Foley, and seconded by Mr. William Barron:- "That we petition the Board of Trade

to erect at least two more lamps on the quay, as the present ones are not sufficient to ensure safe landing, and also to erect two protection gates, one on each gap, as some lives has been lost in this place not being sufficiently protected. One man, in this place, the first day of this year, (a poor stranger) walked out in one of those gaps, and was picked up and taken to New Ross Union where he died two days after."

Proposed by Mr. Thomas Walsh, and seconded by Mr. Michael Foley; "That having reference to the fact that the Department sent down here one of their fishery commissioners, Mr. Greene, to make investigations, and he promised that whatever the Docks would cost to repair, that the Department would subscribe half the amount, and provide us with a large boat, when the docks were put in order also to send down a man to take charge of her when going on deep fishing voyages, until we would be competent to do so ourselves. We now call on them to give us their assistance to enable us to carry out the project."

Proposed by Mr. Michael Walsh, and seconded by Mr. John O'Neill: - "That we call for an inquiry to change dates of opening season for fishing from 1st March to middle of September as the present time is too early, that is from 1st February to 16th August, and weekly close time extended to six o'clock on Saturday evening."

Proposed by Mr. Martin Kenny, R. D. C., and seconded by Mr. John Cahill: - "That we beg to call the attention of our members of Parliament to the great necessity of a reconstruction of Board of Conservators as constituted at present, they are in no way in sympathy with the fisherman; and have the law amended so that popular men shall be elected to such Boards."

The Secretary directed the attention of the Council to a letter received from the Under Secretary Dublin Castle, under date 2nd October and no. 21,364, from which the following is an extract: - I am directed by the Lord Justices to inform you that their Excellencies are advised that the duty of maintaining

and controlling the piers of Arthurstown and Duncannon, rests on the Wexford County Council but that Ballyhack harbour appears to be the property of the Waterford Harbour Commissioners."

The Chairman pointed out that from the letter of the Lord Justice it appeared that Ballyhack Harbour was vested in the Waterford Harbour Commissioners, and if the County Council spent money on it they would run the risk of surcharge.

Mr. Elger stated that he had at the suggestion of the Council taken counsel's opinion and he advised that the County Council had no legal power to carry out any works at Ballyhack.

On the motion of Mr. Cummins, seconded by Mr. Browne the following resolution was adopted:-
 "That this Council request Mr. French, M.P. for South Wexford, to put a question in the House of Commons as to whether it was not correct that this Council were willing to expend a reasonable sum of money to establish some protection for the boats of the poor fishermen at Ballyhack Harbour, and were advised that this harbour is under the control of the Waterford Harbour Commissioners, who will not carry out the necessary work at this Harbour, or facilitate anyone else to do so. That Mr. French ask what redress the fishermen have in these circumstances, to compel the Waterford Harbour Commissioners to put the harbour into a condition that will allow them to prosecute their industry, as they are debarred from obtaining help from their own Co. Council, in consequence of this Harbour being vested in the Waterford Harbour Commissioners. That this Council also desire to call the attention of Mr. French to the anomalous position regarding the Harbours of Arthurstown and Duncannon, at which the Waterford Harbour Commissioners levy and collect dues, while the piers have to be maintained by the Wexford Co. Council."

That a copy of this resolution be forwarded Mr. Richard Gleeson."

Diverted Roads.

The following recommendation of the Finance Committee came up for consideration:-

Mr. Elger reported that he had taken Council's opinion in connection with the Railway diverted roads in the county. Council had advised that where the roads had been passed by two justices the County Council, under the act, must take them over, but they are not bound to take over fences, nor are they bound to keep the fences in repair."

"It was ordered that Mr. Elger request the Railway Company to send him copy of justices certificates in the cases of these diverted roads."

"Mr. Murphy moved and Mr. Hore seconded the confirmation of the recommendation directing Mr. Elger to apply to the Railway Co., for a copy of the justices certificate stating that the diverted roads in question were in good order."

St. S. & W. Railway Co.'s, interference with Roads.

Mr. Elger reported that as directed by the Co. Council he had prosecuted at Wexford petty sessions the St. S. & W. Railway Co., for breaking up roads at Kilbane, to lay down waterpipes, altho' the Co. Council had refused their sanction to an application of the Railway Co., to lay these pipes. Mr. Elger said he issued two summonses one for each road, and the magistrates held that in the circumstances there was a technical offence, and fined the Railway Co., 1/- and costs of court in each case."

Gorey Town Commissioners & Tara Hill Quarry.

Under date 16th May 1908, the following was read from Mr. Denis Murphy, Town Clerk, Gorey:-

"At the meeting of my commissioners held on 13th inst., the following Resolution from Gorey Trade & Labour League; was unanimously adopted:-

Resolved- that we protest in no measured terms against the action of the Wexford County Council, in specifying for stones from the Tara Hill Quarry to be used on the roads adjacent to the Town recently taken over by Mr. Denis Murphy, thereby failing to keep faith with the

Gorey Stonebreakers, who memorialised them some time since. We believe their order if persisted in will do an immensity of harm to the Town of Gorey, by depriving a large number of its residents of some useful and remunerative employment."

I am also to quote your Council's Resolution on this subject, under date 23rd May 1906. Viz:-

"That our Secretary be directed to inform the memorialists of Gorey Hill Quarry, that the County Council have decided to purchase the Tara Hill Quarry, and that they are of opinion their action will not in anyway interfere with the existing utility of the Gorey Hill Quarry or the people employed there."

It is unnecessary to point out that the Gorey Hill Quarries are seriously interfered with. I may say that the recent specifications confining the material to be taken from Tara Hill quarry for roads in and around Gorey, amounts to a peremptory decree to completely close up the Gorey Hill Quarries, so far as employment by stonebreaking is concerned, and this means depriving 6 to 10 families of employment during the winter months.

at a meeting of some members of your Council held here 23rd January last, touching the matter of direct labour. I am sure you will remember that I endeavoured to draw attention to this very question of interfering with the working of the Gorey Hill Quarries, by giving the monopoly for road material required in and around Gorey to Tara Hill Quarry.

Gorey Hill stones were always considered good road metalling. The main street of Gorey is a fair test of their quality. It is not desired to increase the output more than formerly from Gorey Hill. But is expected at least, that your Council will not be a party to deprive several working families of Gorey of the means of support, even if they never passed a Resolution on behalf of this very question, and it is to be hoped that the Resolution referred to will be observed."

Kindly bring this communication before the next meeting of your Council.

Mr. Webster said that Gorey Hill Quarry stones were not in his opinion, particularly good and were not to be compared with the material at Tara Hill Quarry. If the people round Gorey wanted good roads, they must give up using Gorey Hill Quarry, and use instead the stones from Tara Hill.

"It was agreed to postpone the matter until Mr. A. Kinsella, the councillor for the District, would be able to be present."

Baxter Stonebreaker

Mr. Browne moved, and Mr. Asple seconded, confirmation of the following recommendation of the Finance Committee:-

"That the Secretary be directed to write to Messrs Baxter & Co., makers of the Stonebreaker at Tara Hill, saying that the County Council consider that their quotation for "jaws" are too high, and point out that before going elsewhere for "jaws" they would be glad to know if the makers could not give them a lower quotation."

Passed.

"On the motion of Mr. Hore, seconded by Mr. Cummins a hearty vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Ennis, and Mr. Bolger for their kindness in paying a surprise visit to Tara Hill Quarry, and examining so closely into its working."

Mr. Ennis, and Mr. Bolger replied suitably.

New Quarries

Mr. Cummins moved, and Mr. Murphy seconded the following recommendation of the Finance Committee:- "That the County Surveyor be directed to report as to the best quarries which he can find in the four Rural Districts with a view to a committee being appointed to inspect these quarries, and report to the Council."

Embankment Great Island

Under date 21st April 1908 the following letter was read from Mr. Pope, Clerk New Ross Rural District Council:- "I am directed to inform you that at the

half-yearly meeting of the New Ross District Council held on 11th April, the following order was made with reference to Road No. 75. (660 perches between Priesthaggard crossroads and the junction of the Great Island and Ballinlaw Road; viz:-

"That the County Council's attention be drawn to the embankment at this point, and that we request them to take legal proceedings against the owners to have said embankment put into proper repair immediately."

"Mr. Webster said that he had received a letter from Mr. H. G. Wallace, that he had been employed by Mr. Syndall, to carry out the necessary work at the embankment."

The Secretary was directed to inform the New Ross District Council that Mr. Syndall was having the work carried out.

Courtown Harbour.

Under date 16th April 1908, the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, wrote letter No. 2116-08, J. B. relative to dredging of Courtown Harbour:-

"I have to acquaint you, for the information of the Wexford Co. Council, that the fishermen of Courtown have drawn the attention of the Department to the fact that the mouth of the Harbour at the place, is choked with siltage; and to state that the Department have found by experience that their Dredger "Fag an- Bealach" is too large and draws too much water to enable it to remove the obstruction. Inquiries are in progress with regard to securing the services of a smaller Dredger which, if the County Council were prepared to co-operate in providing part of the expenses incurred might be utilised to clear the Bar; but up to the present no suitable vessel has been discovered. In the meantime, the Department would be glad to know whether the County Council would be willing to assist in such a project."

Under date 29th April 1908 (letter No. 2501-'08 J. B.) the Department in response to a resolution from the Proposal Committee of the County Council wrote as follows:-

"Adverting to your letter of the 17th instant, I have to state, for the information of the Wexford Co. Council that the Department are not prepared to contribute towards the cost of carrying out the ordinary work of repair and maintenance of the Piers at Courtown."

"On the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr. Hore, the Secretary was directed to ask the Department if they would, as their contribution to the scheme provide a small dredger, for the Wexford Co. Council for the upkeep of the harbours along this coast, if the Co. Council would undertake to maintain the craft. The County Council are quite willing to co-operate with the Department with regard to the improvement of Courtown Harbour."

That as we understand a deputation is being arranged by the Co. Committee of Agriculture, to wait upon Mr. J. W. Russell, M. P. Vice-President, Department of Agriculture, with regard to the establishment of an Agricultural School in the Co. Wexford, that the Co. Council members of this deputation be requested to take the opportunity of interviewing the Vice President of the Department on the subject of providing a dredger for the Wexford Harbours."

"On the motion of the Chairman the recommendation of the Finance Committee agreeing to the request of Courtown Harbour Committee that 100 Coal Bags be procured at a cost not exceeding £5 was confirmed."

Sheep Dipping Order.

Under date 28th April 1908 (letter no 1710-08) the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction wrote as follows:-

"I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 17th instant, and to express hereby the Department's approval of the temporary appointments made by the Wexford County Council at their meeting on the 15th instant; of W. Stafford, R. McDonald, A. Leary, and J. J. Shortall, as Sheep Dipping Inspectors during the forthcoming sheep dipping period for the districts of Wexford, Enniscorthy, Gorey, and

New Ross, respectively, with remuneration at the rate of £14 each for period, lasting from 15th June to 31st August inclusive.

The desired supply of 120 sheep dipping posters is being forwarded to you separately.
marked "Read."

Gorey Road Contractors meeting

The following addressed to the Gorey Rural District Council was forwarded to the County Council, by directions of the Gorey District Council:-

"Mr. Chairman & Gentlemen,

I have been requested by a number of road contractors who attended a meeting on the 8th inst., to forward the following resolution adopted at said meeting.

Personally I don't think much about it, however, when I was asked to write something I was loath to refuse, as I am tired of the whole business. The Presiding Chairman at your last meeting suggested a strong resolution, yet I fail to see who the resolution should condemn, surely not your Council, as you have stood by the contractors in voting against direct labour. And it is my opinion that we can scarcely blame Mr. Webster when he was acting under definite instructions from the County Council.

Now Sir, as well as I can gather from what they complain of is this; the usual rule was to defer a certain amount of money in November, and afford the contractors a chance of pulling up by April. But last year the County Surveyor proposed striking off a sum of money equal to the amount of material that he found the contractor short of i.e. 6^d. per cubic yard. It was then believed that unfortunate contractors would receive their full pay for the last half of the year, a thing I am sorry is not the case. It is just like a magistrate fining a man twice for one offence

Respectfully yours
Patrick O'Neill

Resolution of Gorey Road Contractors

Resolved: - That we, the Road Contractors, working within the Gorey Rural District; express our surprise and dissatisfaction in the strongest manner possible; at the action of the County Council, in giving instructions to the Co. Surveyor, to strike off sums of money, at the recent meeting of your Council, when the said officer had already struck off sufficient money in November 1907, to meet the shortage in the specified quantity. That we understood then from Mr. Webster that we would receive the full amount of our half year's pay in May; provided we spread the stones and cleaned the roads, water tables, etc, this we contend many contractors have done. And we submit with great respect that it is manifestly unjust, unfair, and unreasonable, to do so, and we are supported in this view by a majority of your Council.

Signed Patrick Fortune
Seconded. John Byrne.

Now Sir, as you are aware I have not been associated with the contractors as an organised body for the past two years, nor would I meddle now, only to oblige them. I neither agree nor disagree with the foregoing resolution. What you are to do with the resolution I do not know; I assume you will send it to the Co. Council.

I have the honour to remain respectfully yours.
P. O'Neill

In connection with the Council's dealings with Road Contractors the following recommendation from the Finance Committee (meeting 7th March '08).

"That where a specification is varied and Mr. Webster gives permission to a contractor to use gravel or anything else not distinctly set out in the specification, he should communicate in writing with the assistant Surveyor concerned, distinctly specifying the alteration in the contract which he sanctions."

That in the opinion of the Finance Committee the County Council would be well advised to adopt a resolution

tion directing the County Surveyor after next measurement of road metalling to either strike off from road contractors payments the full value of the quantity of metalling deficient, or, for permission to prosecute in every case in which a shortage is found."

Mr. Howe moved, and Mr. Bolger seconded the recommendation of the Finance Committee.

Mr. Cummins proposed:—"That the recommendation be adjourned till next meeting of the Council, and put on agenda paper, so that councillors will have an opportunity of studying its terms."

No one seconded the amendment.

The resolution was then put and passed, Mr. Cummins dissenting.

Mr. Webster said that he had intended carrying out the suggestions of the Finance Committee whether or not the Council had adopted the recommendation, and he had given notice to this effect to the contractors at the District Council meeting.

In connection with the Resolution received from the Gorey Road Contractors, no order was made.

Hulk at Duncannon

Under date 20th April the following letter was read from Mr. W. Green, Duncannon:-

"Your letter to hand of the 17th inst., referring to the caring of the Hulk and lighting of the lamps on Duncannon at £12 per annum. I will take the caring of Hulk and the lighting of the lamps for the sum mentioned namely £12 per annum.

There is one thing I would like to bring under your notice from the time the W. S. S. Co., handed the hulk to the Co. Council on March 3rd up to now, I have been caring the hulk and keeping a light on hulk every night, and during that time I had plenty to do owing to N. W. gales of wind, which is most heaviest on the hulk. I will be thankful to you if you will have my time to commence from that date when the hulk was handed over, the W. S. S. Co., stopped my pay."

"On the motion of the Chairman, the following recommendation of the Finance Committee was confirmed:-

"That the Secretary inform Mr. Breen that the Council paid him on his own bill, and that it is too late now to enter into the matter."

Recoupment Diseases of animals acts.

Under date 24th April the Department of Agriculture, wrote that £130 : 4 : 8, recoupment under Diseases of animals acts, to 31st December 1907, had been lodged with the Treasurer of the Council."

marked "Read"

Recommendations from Diseases of animals acts committee

The following recommendation from the Diseases of animals acts committee of 14th September 1907.

"That in consequence of loss inflicted on sheep owners by the killing and worrying of sheep by dogs the Council be requested to make an Order by which the owners of all dogs would be compelled to keep them inside their houses or premises between sunset and sunrise for the whole year."

"It was decided that the matter be postponed for the consideration of the incoming County Council."

Lights at Harbours.

Under date 16th April 1908, the following letter No. 320 was read from the Secretary of the Irish Lights Office, Dublin :-

"It has been reported that two lights have been established in Slade Harbour by the Wexford County Council, and I have to call your attention to the fact that by the terms of the Merchant Shipping Act (sec 658. (3) the sanction of the Commissioners of Irish Lights must be obtained to the erection of any lighthouse, buoy, or beacon, on the coast of Ireland."

I have therefore to request that you will be good enough to forward an application for sanction to the exhibition of these lights stating particulars of their candle power, height above high water, distance visible all round, or only in certain directions, colour, whether fixed or flashing and nature of building or apparatus, and also furnish a chart showing their position and cuts, if any."

The Secretary said he had referred this letter to the County Surveyor.

The following letter under date 18th May 1908, was read from the County Surveyor:-

"With reference to the copy of a letter from the Irish Lights Board, which you forwarded to me on the 17th ult., I beg to inform you, that these lights are two in number, and are ordinary paraffin lamps enclosed in lanterns about 5 feet above quay level, and about 8 feet above H.W.S.T. they are about 15 to 20 candle power each, and are so situated that cannot be seen from the sea except from the edge of the sea at the rocks in the immediate vicinity of the harbour.

I may remind you that these lights were erected by orders of the Home Office.

I have marked on enclosed map the position of the lights."

"On the motion of the Chairman, the Secretary was directed to communicate with the Secretary Commissioners of Irish Lights, and state that with reference to the letter of the County Surveyor as to the lights of Slade harbour, copy of which has been already sent him, that the lights in question are not visible from the sea and were erected at the instance of the Home Office for the purpose - as is the case with all other lights on quays - of affording protection to people using the quays at night, and to ask the Commissioners of Irish Lights, did they contend that the Co. Council are bound to obtain their sanction for the erection of lights which are not visible from the sea."

Proposed Direct Labour Experiment.

Mr. Webster submitted the details of an experiment for direct labour in the four Rural Districts of the County, but it was decided that the matter be referred to the incoming Co. Council for their consideration.

Postal Arrangements in South Wexford

The following was read from Rev P. J. Kehoe, C. C., The Moor, Mulbrankin, relative to postal arrangements:-

I observe by the local papers that the Wexford District Council passed a resolution on Saturday approving of the proposed postal alterations for portion of South Wexford. In case a similar resolution is brought before your Council at its meeting to-morrow, will you kindly inform the members - the vast majority of whom can know nothing whatever of the merits of the case - that we are circulating for signature copies of the enclosed memorial against the adoption of this scheme. I think it speaks on behalf at least of a majority of the clergy, the medical men, the teachers, and the people generally of the districts interested.

The postmaster of Wexford informed me more than two years ago that his authorities were even then considering how they might improve the postal arrangements here and utilise to best advantage the new railway service which was then about to come into operation. After years of study of the problem they have succeeded in designing a plan in many respects inferior to the present one.

Apparently from his letter the Postmaster General is prepared to increase the expenditure, and if so, and if there is any serious demand for it, why not avail of the excess to send postal matter from England by the 12.15 p.m. train from Wexford to the different offices where those who might be interested could call for it, as they would have to do in any case for the mid-day mail if the projected scheme were authorised."

Father Kehoe attended and explained the proposals of the Post Office.

"On the motion of the Chairman the following resolution was adopted: - That in any reconstruction arrangements for the delivery of the mails from and to South Wexford, this Council are of opinion that these should be accompanied by a delay in the evening delivery in ^{the town of} Wexford not exceeding 15 minutes, in order to allow incoming letters from South Wexford to be delivered

in Wexford the same night. That we consider the morning mail should be carried by the Boat Express, or in the alternative, that the train leaving Wexford for Waterford at 7.45 a.m. at present, be changed to 7 a.m."

That a copy of this resolution be forwarded the Postmaster General, and the Secretary Gt. S. & W. Railway Co."

Arbour Day.

The following letter under date 18th May 1908, was received from the Hon Sec., Sinn Fein, Wexford Co. Committee:-

"At the last meeting of the Wexford Sinn Fein Co. Committee, the following resolution was passed unanimously.- That we respectfully request the County Council to consider the advisability of appointing a General Arbour Day for the County Wexford."

"On the motion of Mr. Browne, seconded by the Chairman, the following resolution was adopted:- That the Secretary point out that in the opinion of this Council the "Arbour Day" appointed by the North Agricultural & Industrial Association has been found most suitable, and the Council would be pleased to see this day the established "Arbour Day" for the County."

Vote of Condolence - Mr. D. Dempsey.

The following letter, under date 17th May 1908, from Mrs. Dempsey, Killelan, Screen; was read for the meeting.

"I would ask you to convey to the Chairman and members of the Co. Council my sincere thanks for their kind vote of condolence on the death of my husband, it is a great consolation to me in my bereavement to know the esteem and respect in which he was held by his colleagues, with whom he was associated for so many years, most of them being old personal friends."

Under date 8th May 1908, the following letter from Mr. Robert Stanton, Mayor of Wexford; was also read:-

"I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the

6th inst., containing a copy of a resolution adopted by the Wexford County Council at their last meeting on the death of the late Mr Daniel Dempsey:

This resolution coming from a Body representative of the entire county, will, in a measure, help to assuage the grief which his relatives feel at his loss, and on their behalf I would be glad if you would convey their thanks to the County Council as well as to the proposer and seconder for their touching remarks."

"On the motion of the Chairman, it was decided that the letters from Mr Dempsey and Mr R. Hanton be inserted on the minutes."

New University & Irish

The following resolution was received for adoption from the County Committee of the Gaelic League:-
"Resolved - considering that a new University is about to be established in Ireland. We, the County Committee of the Wexford Gaelic League, demand for the National Language, a due recognition in the curriculum."

The foregoing resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr Browne, seconded by the Chairman."

Maintenance of Roads.

The following resolution was received from the Limerick Co. Council:-

"That the Government be requested to appoint a commission to enquire into the cost of the roads of this country, with a view to having the expense of maintenance more equitably distributed, and the said roads repaired and re-made where required from heavy traffic such as traction engines and motor trains, and as the total present and increased future outlay for annual maintenance would be too great a burthen to be met by way of local taxation we think it would be advisable to meet the whole of such expenditure on main roads, out of the Imperial Fund (or Income Tax and thereby throw the cost of upkeep on the chief users of the highways) and relieve the poorer classes from

most of their present contributions for such purpose which we consider undesirable and inequitable."

"Mr. Murphy proposed the adoption of this resolution deleting the words (or Income Tax and thereby throw the cost of upkeep on the chief users of the highways) and adding - "That a copy be sent to Sir J. Esmonde, M.P., Mr. Peter J. French, M.P., and the Chief Secretary for Ireland."

Mr. Broune seconded the resolution in its amended form, and it was passed.

Railway Gates at Level Crossings

The following letter under date 12th May 1908, from J. Bagenal Boyd, Kiltrea House, was read for the meeting:-

"I wish to draw the Co. Council's notice to the Railway Gates at the level crossings at Wellington bridge. It is perfectly disgraceful the way the public are treated, these gates are frequently locked from 15 to 45 minutes. The Railway officials hardly ever open them, as they can unlock the gates from the signal box 200 yards away from the gates.

Strangers who come there don't know what to do, and some unfortunate people wait there till some local person comes along and opens them.

It is very difficult for a man with a horse and car to open these heavy gates, and mind his horse. I have frequently opened them and held my horse with one hand not an easy matter.

Is it possible nothing can be done?

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

In view of the repeated complaints which this Co. Council have received from many districts in South Wexford with regard to the public being inconvenienced and delayed at level crossings, we would point out to the Gt. S. & W. Railway Co., that the proper method of dealing with such crossings is to have the gates open to the public road and closed against the Railway line except when a train is signalled on entering the station or leaving.

That we request the Railway Co., to refer us to the section of the Railways Consolidated Clauses Act or their special act which empowers them to keep gates at level crossings locked against the public."

Fowl markets

In consequence of complaints as to annoyance caused to the public by the hours at which fowl markets are held at Oulart and Kilmuckridge the following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr. J. Bolger seconded by Mr. Browne:-

"That posters be put up at Kilmuckridge, Oulart, and Kilmore, that fowl markets be held in these places at eight o'clock a.m. during the year. That if these instructions be not carried out the County Council will probably adopt a by-law and prosecute under same."

Audit Public Bodies.

Under date 27th April, (letters No. 21482 & 21483) the Local Government Board forwarded abstracts of accounts and copy of report of auditor, in connection with audit of accounts of Gorey Union and District Council; and Enniscorthy Union and District Council, in respect of the half-year ended 30th September 1907.

Land acts. - Deduction Estate Duty Grant.

Under date 27th April, the following letter (No. D. 19880-08) from the Irish Land Commission was read:-

"I am directed by the Irish Land Commissioners to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated the 17th instant, appending resolution of the Wexford County Council as to the deduction of a sum of £1,388 : 5 : 4, from the Estate Duty Grant, in regard to arrears of annuities etc., by tenant purchasers, as the commissioners' accounts are closed monthly, it will not be convenient to supply the required particulars until after the 30th instant."

"Under date 6th May the following letter was received from the Irish Land Commission (No. D. 19980-08):-

With further reference to your letter of the 17th ultimo, I am directed by the Irish Land Commissioners to inform you that of the total amount deducted from the Estate Duty Grant in respect of arrears of

annuities by tenant purchasers in the county Wexford under the Land Purchase Acts 1891, 1896, and 1903, the sum of £680:14:2, remained unrecovered on the 30th April 1908."

marked "Read."

Enniscorthy '98. Memorial

Circular letter was received from the Hon Secs, Enniscorthy 1798 Memorial Committee, asking the county council to appoint delegates to attend the unveiling ceremony of the monument which is to take place on 31st May 1908.

The following delegation were appointed to represent the Co. Council :- Messrs John Bolger, J. Bolger, J. Aspley, John Sinnott, A. Kinsella, and James Donohoe;

Ford of Lyng.

Under date 11th May, the following letter was received from the Clerk Wexford Rural District Council :-

"The proposal of the county council as set forth in their resolution of the 5th inst., with regard to the Ford of Lyng was approved of by the District Council at their meeting on Saturday last."

"On the motion of the chairman the following resolution was adopted :- That we instruct our Secretary to write to the Local Government Board and point out to them that this is a difficult and complicated question, and the council have been advised that if they enter into law it would probably mean the expenditure of a very large sum of money without result. The council have adopted the arrangement of agreeing to a contribution of one third the cost of clearing the place to prevent the flooding of the road as the most economical method of procedure, and they request the sanction of the Local Government Board to this proposal."

That the county Surveyor be requested to prepare an estimate of the necessary cost of the work"

Hay & Straw Order.

The Department of Agriculture, forwarded Order cancelling previously existing restrictions on the movement of hay and straw from Great Britain to Ireland.

William Edward.

13 June 1905.