

STATUTABLE HALF-YEARLY MEETING.- 8th MAY 1918.

The Statutable Half-Yearly Meeting of the Wexford County Council, was held in the Co. Council Chamber, Courthouse, Wexford, on 8th May 1918.

Present:- Mr John Bolger, (Chairman) Presiding.

Also:- Messrs W. Thorpe, M. Doyle, N. J. Cowman, M. Codd, A. Kinsella, P. Keating, P. O'Neill, J. J. Stafford, R. Scallan, J. Redmond, J. J. O'Byrne, James Codd, M. Cloney, J. A. Doyle, J. J. Kehoe.

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

Confirmation of Minutes.

The Minutes of last Meeting were read and confirmed.

The late Mr J. E. Redmond M. P.,

In connection with the vote of condolence to the family of the late Mr J. E. Redmond M. P., Mrs John Redmond and family wrote desiring to return their sincere thanks for the kind expression of sympathy submitted on behalf of the County Council.

Bannow County Division Co-option.

Under date 1st May 1918, the Clerk New Ross R. D. Council, wrote that his Council at their meeting on 27th ult., recommended Mr Patrick Quigley J. P., Faree, Foulksmills, for co-option for Bannow County Division in the room of the late Mr J. T. Mayler.

A largely signed Memorial from the Ratepayers of the County Division in favour of the co-option of Mr Quigley, was submitted to the Meeting.

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

"That Mr Patrick Quigley J. P., Faree, Foulksmills, be co-opted a member of this Council for Bannow County Division, vice Mr J. T. Mayler deceased."

Midwives (Ireland) Act 1918.

The following Circular letter under date 3rd May 1918, was read

from the Local Government Board:-

"I am directed by the Local Government Board for Ireland to state that under the Midwives (Ireland) Act, 1918, a Central Midwives Board for Ireland is to be formed, two of the Members of which are to be persons appointed by the Local Government Board after consultation with the county councils and borough councils to represent those bodies respectively on the new board.

I am, therefore, to state that the Local Government Board will be glad to be favoured with any views or suggestions which the Council may desire to offer as to who are fit and proper persons to be appointed for the purpose.

As it is necessary that the formation of the new Board should be proceeded with at once, I am to request that a special meeting of the Council may be convened to consider the matter, unless the Council have already fixed a meeting to be held during the present or early in the coming month."

On the motion of Mr O'Neill, seconded by Mr Cowman, the following resolution was adopted:-

"That in the opinion of this Council the local supervising authority under the Midwives (Ireland) Act should have been Boards of Guardians, and we consider that the Local Government Board should arrange that the powers of the Council in this matter be delegated to the various Boards of Guardians in County Wexford."

Mail Trains.

The following letter under date 30th April 1918, was read from the Secretary, General Post Office, Dublin:-

"With reference to your letter of the 20th instant, respecting the working of the Day Mail Trains on the Dublin & South Eastern Railway, I have to inform you that the Company have furnished the Department with a copy of the letter which they sent you in regard to the matter. In view of the reasons given therein it is regretted that the Post Office is not in a position to press for the earlier departure of the morning Trains from Dublin or the acceleration of the evening Train to Dublin, and I may state for the information of the Wexford County Council that the postal arrangements in the districts served by the Dublin & South Eastern Railway have been less disturbed

in connection with the recent train restrictions than in very many other parts of the Country."

Under date 25th April 1918, the following letter was read from the General Manager, D. & S. E. Railway Co:-

"In reply to your letter of the 20th inst., enclosing copy of resolution passed by the Wexford County Council, I beg to inform you that the reduced train service between Dublin and Wexford, as well as on other portions of the Line, has been rendered necessary in consequence of an Order issued by the Board of Trade that the Coal consumption should be materially reduced.

In order to put an engine at Wexford out of steam the Company were obliged to run one train from Wexford to Dublin in the mornings instead of the 6.40 a.m., and the 10. 15 a.m., trains, and an intermediate time for starting was selected. It was after much deliberation and consultation with the Post Office that the Company decided upon 8 a.m., as the most suitable time for departure from Westland Row having regard to (a) the working arrangements between Westland Row and Kingstown pier (b) the conveyance of Mails, and (c) the conveyance of the large number of passengers who formerly patronised the 10.15 a.m., train, and found the 6.40 train too early.

The Company has already re-considered the question of an earlier arrival of the train in Wexford, but an earlier arrival would mean a correspondingly earlier departure from Westland Row, and this would have the effect of rendering the train unsuitable for business purposes for passengers from Dublin and intermediate stations along the line. There would also be the further complications with regard to sending off the train to Kingstown Pier and the providing of a shunting engine to assist in hauling it from that place.

With regard to the 3 p.m., train from Wexford, owing to the earlier departure of the Mail Packet from Kingstown to Hollyhead, and the revised times of departure of the night Mails from Dublin, it is essential that the Wexford train be brought into Dublin correspondingly early. The present timing of the trains also provides for deceleration on the journey which is urged by the Railway Executive Committee and by which means a substantial saving in coal is effected.

I regret the inconvenience caused to the business communities of Wexford and New Ross, but cannot hold out any hope of the suggested

alterations being brought into operation in the existing circumstances."

"The Chairman said he had gone very fully into the question with Mr McMahon, Secretary to the Post Office, and Mr Coghlan, The Traffic Manager of the D. & S. E. Railway, and it was found impossible to modify the present service."

Wild Birds Eggs-Saltee and Keeragh Islands.

The following letter under date 30th April 1918, was read from the Under Secretary, Dublin Castle:-

"With reference to your letter of the 4th instant, intimating that the Wexford County Council had no objection to the proposed rescinding of the Order of the 22nd December 1915, as to the taking or destroying of the Eggs of Wild Birds in the Saltee and Keeragh Islands, I am directed by the Lords Justices to request you to inform the County Council that it is not proposed to proceed any further in the matter."

"No Order"

Bantry Commons Rating.

The following letter under date 9th April 1918 (No. 15760 : 1918, Wexford County) was read from the Local Government Board:-

"With reference to your letter of the 4th instant and enclosure relative to the proposed refund of £60. 17. 7d to Collector E. J. Murphy by the County Council of Wexford of certain arrears of rate for the half-years ended 30th September 1913 to 31st March 1917, on Bantry Commons, I am directed by the Local Government Board for Ireland, to state that with the information at present before them, they do not feel themselves to be in a position to concur in the County Council's recommendations in this case.

The Board desire to remind you that on the 6th December 1916, the County Council refused to refund to this Collector the sum of £45. 8. 2d arrears of rates on Bantry Commons, and on the 2nd May 1917, the Council again declined to refund to this Collector the amount claimed by him as irrecoverable on the Bantry Commons on the grounds that "he should have been able to collect said rates", a decision with which the Board concurred.

The Board observe that in the Minutes of Proceedings of the Co Council on the 6th February 1918, a letter was read from Collector Murphy applying for a refund of £60. 17. 7d being the amount of

uncollected rates lodged by him in respect of the above named Commons. The Collector alleged in this letter that he "could not proceed against the parties as they did not reside in my district and could find no cattle to sieze" an excuse, the former part of which, cannot be accepted as valid.

The Collector's letter was submitted by the County Council to the New Ross Rural District Council for their observations which were furnished in the Rural District Council's Clerk's letter of the 6th March 1918, and enclosed with your communication of the 4th instant, and were to the effect that the "Rate Collector is not to blame in this matter and it was unanimously decided to recommend the County Council to refund to him the amount in question.

The Board are unable to concur with the decision arrived at by the Rural District Council absolving the Collector from blame as the Collector's own statement, quoted above, that he could not proceed against the parties as they did not reside in his district would go to show that this officer does not possess a sufficient knowledge of, or was not prepared to exercise his powers of recovery as a Poor Rate Collector.

The Board have further had under review the report from Mr Elgee, Solicitor to the County Council, as contained in the Minutes of Proceedings of the County Council of the 2nd August 1916, of the appeal before the Right Honourable Mr Justice Kenny, in which it was stated that "as to Mr E. J. Murphy's part of the Commons he was unable or unwilling to swear who was in occupation of same and accordingly that part of the claim was struck out."

The above letter was considered by the Finance & Roads Committee which submitted the following recommendation:-

"That Mr E. J. Murphy, Rate Collector, New Ross, be furnished with copy of the letter of the Local Government Board under date 9th April 1918, refusing to agree to refund to him of arrears of Rate on Bantry Commons."

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

"That the recommendation of the Finance & Roads Committee be confirmed, and that this matter be further postponed pending the receipt of any further representations to be made by Mr E. J. Murphy.

Proposals for Payment.

Proposed by Mr Scallan,

Seconded by the Chairman:-

"That the several Proposals for payment submitted by the Proposal Committee and Rural District Councils as appearing on Forms 22, and for all matters dealing with general payments as submitted by the Secretary and recommended by the Finance & Roads Committee, also transfers to Public Bodies, be and are hereby approved subject to the modifications and other orders noted thereon and initialled by the Chairman."

"Passed"

Proposals for Works.

Proposed by Mr Scallan,

Seconded by the Chairman:-

"That the several Proposals for Works submitted by the Proposal Committee and the Rural District Councils of Enniscorthy, Gorey, and Wexford, and as appearing on Form 20, be and are hereby approved, subject to the modifications and other orders noted thereon and initialled by the Chairman."

"Passed"

Tenders for Roads.

The County Surveyor reported that out of 173 roads put up for tender at the recent District Council Meetings tenders had only been accepted for 21 in consequence of the absence of tenderers.

Mr John A. Ryan, Rate Collector.

Under date 2nd May 1918, the Local Government Board wrote (letter No. 9003-1918, Wexford County) approving of the permanent appointment of Mr John A. Ryan as Rate Collector for No. 1 Collection District.

Parliamentary Registration.

Under date 2nd May 1918, the Local Government Board wrote (letter No. 15560 : 1918) that they noted that the County Council had resolved to make no change in the existing polling districts and polling places for the Parliamentary County of Wexford. The Board have approved of the inclusion of Rosbercon Urban District Electoral Division in New Ross Polling District as proposed by the County Council in pursuance of section 8 of the Redistribution of Seats (Ireland) Act 1918.

Road Limit of Expenditure.

The Local Government Board forwarded Sealed Orders No. 10216-1918, ^{23rd April 1918} extending the limit of Road Expenditure in Gorey Rural District to £7727. 16. 7d, for year ending March 1919, and in Wexford Rural District to £8500 for same period.

New Ross Rural District.-Roads & Works.

The following letter under date 7th May 1918, was read from Mr Elgee, Solicitor to the County Council:-

"With reference to your letter stating the District Council of the above had passed a Resolution declining to consider the Proposals for Road Maintenance and adjourning same. This state of affairs raises a very serious question to be considered and that is what is now to be done with the Roads that are out of Tender and for which no proposals were formulated and for which the County Council owing to the action of the District Council cannot now accept Tenders for same.

This now throws an onus on the Council which seems to me to raise great difficulties in discharging. Section 82 of the Local Government (Ireland) Act 1898 states it shall be the duty of every County and District Council according to their respective powers to keep all Public Works maintainable at the cost of their County or District in good condition and repair and to take all steps necessary for the purpose.

The District Council have in this instance refused to accept Proposals for such Maintenance and having done so the County Council have no machinery to work on except in my opinion a Sudden Damage Order and such Damage Orders are governed by Sec 11 of the Local Government (Ireland) Act 1898 or by Direct Labour Scheme.

The question of what remedy the general Public would have in this state of affairs also requires careful consideration. Even in a case where there is an existing Contract a County or District Council is bound to see that the Roads are kept in proper repair, and if allowed to go into disrepair while in contract the Council or district Council are liable to a Writ of Mandamus to do so.

See Rex (Westropp) v The County Council of Clare in the foot note of Vanston (2) Page 1336 especially the portion of the Judgment of Chief Baron Pallis therein set out.

If the Council is liable to a Writ of Mandamus where there is an existing Contract they would be a great deal more liable in a case where there is no contract taken and the roads are practically left derelict on their hands or those of the District Council.

I have gone very carefully through Mr Vanston's two Volumes on the Local Government Act and I can find nothing to show how a deadlock such as has now happened can be got over except as I stated before, that if the Roads got into a really dangerous state they could be repaired by Sudden Damage Order or else by adopting a Direct Labour Scheme.

There is also the question to be considered as to the liability of the Council for Damages in case of Accidents occurring and I am of opinion that the Council would be liable for any accident which would happen owing to the roads being in a dangerous state for the Public use."

The following Minute was submitted from the Finance & Roads Committee:-

"Under date 16th April 1918, a letter was read from the Clerk, New Ross Rural District Council, stating that he had called a special meeting for 13th April, to deal with proposals for roads and works. "The Council merely sanctioned County Surveyor's recommendations on form 22, but refused to renew contracts for roads and works as a protest against Conscription and consequently did not look at Form 20."

The County Surveyor mentioned that all the roads which he had brought forward for the abortive meeting in New Ross were from 30th June 1918.

The following recommendation was adopted:-

"That the Clerk of the New Ross R. D. Council be informed that the Finance & Roads Committee of the County Council having heard a statement from the County Surveyor as to the position of roads and works undealt with by New Ross R. D. Council at their meeting of 13th April would urge the R. D. Council to reconsider their action and adopt the various proposals for roads and works as otherwise these must remain derelict to the great injury of all their users and to the deterioration of the surface. If repaired under Sudden Damage Orders the cost will certainly be 50 per cent above the normal."

Under date 1st May 1918, the Clerk New Ross R. D. Council wrote

that in connection with above resolution the R. D. Council had adopted the following resolution:-

"That the consideration of the renewal of Road Contracts be adjourned."

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

"That a copy of Mr Elgee's letter under date 7th May 1918 relative to the position of the County Council and the New Ross R. D. Council as to the failure of the latter to formulate proposals for roads and works to the present, be furnished to the Clerk of the New Ross R. D. Council."

Wexford Bridge.-Strengthening of Same.

Mr H. A. Russell, Sec to the Commander in Chief Coast of Ireland wrote that the Commander in Chief was willing to propose to the Admiralty Civil Engineer that the improvement of the Wexford Bridge so as to carry 6 ton loads should be effected at the joint cost of the Council and the Admiralty. It was estimated that the cost of the whole project would be £2,500. Information was requested as to whether the County Council were willing to share in the expense and to allow the work to be put in hand.

Mr J. A. Doyle proposed, Mr Scallan seconded and it was passed:-

"That as recommended by the Finance & Roads Committee, the County Council inform the Secretary to the Commander in chief, Coast of Ireland, that the Council would be pleased to appoint a Committee to meet the authorities and go fully into the question of the condition of the Bridge.

That should the Authorities see their way to receive the Committee the following be appointed to act on behalf of the Council and report to next meeting of the Council:- Messrs Stafford, Keating, Kehoe, Scallan, and the Chairman. The County Surveyor was directed to act with the Committee."

Irrecoverable Rates.

Under date 29th April 1918, the Local Government Board wrote, (letter No. 19296-1918, Wexford County) calling attention to the irregularities in the submission of claims for refund of arrears of rate, and asking the County Council to give such instructions in the matter as will ensure that hence forward the lists are submitted in

a proper manner.

On the motion of Mr O'Neill, seconded by Mr Scallan, :-

"That the Rate Collectors be directed to submit in future their claims for refunds of irrecoverable rates in the manner required by the Local Government Board."

"Passed"

The following recommendation of Finance & Roads Committee was confirmed on the motion of Mr O'Neill, seconded by Mr Scallan: -

"That the claims for refunds of irrecoverable rates as furnished by the various Rate Collectors and submitted to this meeting, be approved and reported to the Local Government Board for sanction to payment."

Mr M. Tobin, Rate Collector.

Under date 30th April 1918, the Local Government Board wrote (letter No. 19279-1918, Wexford County) approving of the permanent appointment of Mr Matthew Tobin as Rate Collector for No. 12 Collection District.

Poisons & Pharmacy Act 1908.

On the motion of Mr Scallan, seconded by Mr Cowman, the following resolution was adopted: -

"That licence under Poisons & Pharmacy Act 1908 be issued to Mr Richard Breen, Commercial Quay, Wexford."

"The Secretary stated that Mr Breen had a licence under this Act but had forgotten to have it renewed within the stipulated period."

Waterford Joint Bridge Committee.

The following Minute was submitted from the Finance & Roads Committee: -

"Under date 2nd April a letter was read from Mr William Friel, Chamber of Commerce Buildings, Waterford, Sec., Waterford Joint Bridge Committee, asking for payment of £37. 10/- being 15 per cent of £250, the estimated sum required to complete the erection of the Waterford Bridge in pursuance of the Contract and Specification.

The following recommendation was adopted: -

That the claim of Waterford Joint Bridge Committee for payment of £37. 10/- in connection with the maintenance of

Waterford Bridge be adjourned to allow Mr Elgee, Solicitor to the Council, to look into the liability of the County Council."

The following letter under date 30th April, was read from Mr Elgee:-

"I have now got the copy of the specification of the above from Mr P. A. Murphy, Solicitor, Waterford, and by Clause 10 of same, the Contractor was for two years from the completion of the work to maintain the Bridge in perfect condition to the satisfaction of the Engineer without any charge for such maintenance.

The Clause goes on then to state that the Contractor shall be bound at the option of the Committee to be exercised at least two months before the expiration of the period of two years free maintenance to maintain the whole structure in perfect order to the satisfaction of the Engineer for a further period of Four years in consideration of a payment to him for such maintenance of a definite sum per annum set out in his Tender.

The Contract was not to be considered fulfilled until the entire completion of all works and until the expiration of the time during which all works are to be maintained and kept in repair.

The funds in the hands of the Committee being inadequate to meet the cost of this maintenance for the Four years and for incidental expenses it is now proposed to levy from the contributing Counties the sum of £250 to make up such deficiency the proportion of which is payable by this County would be 15% or £37. 10/- outside the money paid

This sum includes all incidental expenses outside the money paid to the Contractors for maintenance, and under the circumstances the Wexford County Council would be liable for the £37. 10/- which sum will clear all their liabilities for the Bridge."

On the motion of Mr Cowman, seconded by Mr Scallan, the following resolution was adopted:-

"That Pay Order for £37. 10/- the portion of contribution of the County Wexford towards erection of Waterford Bridge be issued to the Joint Secretaries of said Bridge Committee."

Mountgarrett-New Ross Road.

Under date 7th May 1918, the following letter was read from Dr

Hearn, Solicitor, New Ross:-

"I desire to call your attention to the present state of road surface between New Ross and entrance to Mountgarrett Bridge and have to add that the County Surveyor admits that it is in urgent need of material which of the proper kind and properly broken can be spread on it even at this Season. As I am constantly using this road I am bound to inform you that if the needed work be not at once done or an assurance given that it will receive attention at once, I will apply to the Court for an Order of Mandamus.

You will pardon me for making a suggestion that will meet the situation. Stones properly broken and of the best material can be obtained at the Parnell Quarry at 5/8 per ton F.O.R. freight 4/- making cost of 9/8 per ton at New Ross Railway Station which is close to the Road in question. The distance to be covered with stones is 2540 yards and to put a strip of 3 yards wide in the centre of the road, would represent about 630 tons subject to a deduction for a non-continuous spread. The cost would be £315 at 10/- per ton, plus the cartage which can be arranged locally at a reasonable sum.

Therefore, it is fully within the power of the Council through their County Surveyor to have the work done.

Awaiting your reply."

On the motion of Mr Kinsella, seconded by Mr Stafford, the following recommendation of Finance & Roads Committee was confirmed:-

"That Dr Hearn, Solicitor, New Ross, be informed that in view of the failure of the New Ross R. D. Council to adopt proposals for Roads and Works, the County Council are not in a position to deal with the Mountgarrett-New Ross Road of which he complains.

That a copy of the letter of Dr Hearn be furnished New Ross R.D. Council."

Printing Parliamentary Register.

The Finance & Roads Committee submitted the following for confirmation:-

"That the tenders of Messrs W. Hanrahan, John English & Co., The Free Press, and the People, all of Wexford, be submitted to The Superintendent, H. M. Stationery Office, Custom House, Dublin, and that he be recommended to divide the work amongst the tenderers as per the figures of their tenders.

"Confirmed on the motion of Mr Scallan, seconded by Mr Kehoe."

Diseases of Animals-Liability of County Council.

The following Minute was submitted from the Finance & Roads Committee:-

"With reference to claim of Mr Walter Kehoe, Harbour Master, Kilmore, for payment of 25/- for burial of 100 parcels of bacon washed ashore, and the liability of the County Council for same, a question referred to Mr Elgee, Solicitor to the Council, the latter wrote pointing out that the Council was liable for payment of cost of burial of carcases under Sec 46 of the Act of 1894, but the Council could recover the expense from the owner of the vessel from which the carcase was thrown or washed over. In the present case it was not possible to identify the vessel from which the parcel of meat had been washed."

On the motion of Mr Scallan, seconded by Mr J. A. Doyle, the following resolution was adopted:-

"That payment for 25/- be made to Mr W. Kehoe, Harbour Master, Kilmore, for burial of 100 parcels of bacon."

Rate Collectors Fidelity Guarantee Bonds.

The following Minute was submitted from Finance & Roads Committee:-

"Under date 20th April 1918, the fourteen Rate Collectors of the County Council who provide security through Guarantee Society, wrote pointing out that the premium had been increased from 7/6 to £1 per cent, and asking the County Council to be responsible for 10/- per cent, half cost of present rate."

"The application of the Collectors was referred to the Meeting of the County Council to be held on 8th May 1918."

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr Scallan, seconded by Mr Cowman:-

"That the application of the Rate Collectors supplying security through Guarantee Societies for a payment towards cost of guarantee fidelity bond be refused."

New Ross R.D.School Attendance Committee.

A letter under date 26th April 1918, was read from the Commissioners of National Education, that the following constituted

the New Ross R. D. School Attendance Committee to serve for three years from 1st May 1918:-

Appointed by Local Authority (County Council):-

Messrs Thorpe, Denis Cummins, Michael Doyle, Philip Kehoe, and M. J. Kenny.

Appointed by Commissioners of National Education:-

Rev M. Hickey P. P., Rev James Redmond P. P., Rev Thomas Cloney P. P., Rev E. Doyle C. C., Rev J. O'Connor C. C.,"

Application for Building Stones.

The following recommendation was submitted from Finance & Roads Committee:-

"The Finance & Roads Committee regret they are not in a position to comply with the application of Mr P. Hughes, Clonsilla, Gorey, for building Stones as they have no legal power to supply any material from County Council Quarries, except what will be utilised for the purpose of repair of roads and other public works."

"Confirmed on the motion of Mr O'Neill, seconded by Mr Scallan."

Kerlogue Quarry.

An application for increase in rate of 3/- per cubic yard for supply of material from Kerlogue Quarry was received from Mr Moses Power, Kerlogue, Contractor.

The Finance & Roads Committee submitted the following recommendation:- "Referred to County Council."

Mr O'Neill proposed, Mr Kinsella seconded, :- "That the present Contract with Moses Power for supply of material from Kerlogue be determined as from this date, on condition that he enters into a new contract to supply at 4/6 per cubic yard 2000 cubic yards of material."

As an amendment, Mr J. A. Doyle proposed:- "That the contract of Moses Power for supply of material from Kerlogue Quarry be determined as from this date, and that advertisements issue for new contract."

Mr James Codd seconded.

On a show of hands 4 voted in favour of the amendment and 7 against.

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

Weights & Measures and Food & Drugs Acts.

On the motion of Mr O'Neill, seconded by Mr Scallan, the following resolution was adopted:-

"That Sergeant John Bourke, R. I. C., be appointed Ex-officio Inspector under Food & Drugs Act for the petty sessions district of New Ross; and Sergeant Michael Flynn, R. I. C., as Ex-officio Inspector under Weights & Measures Acts also for the petty sessions district of New Ross. That they be empowered to prosecute before Courts of Summary Jurisdiction of Justices any information complaint or proceeding arising under the Food & Drugs and Weights & Measures Acts, or in the discharge of their duties as such Inspectors."

Official Checkers.- Rate Collectors' Accounts.

On the motion of Mr Cowman, seconded by Mr Scallan, the following resolution was adopted:-

"That Messrs N. Kehoe, R. Creighton, and M. J. Finn, be appointed deputy Checkers of the Rate Collectors' Accounts for the districts of Wexford, Gorey, and New Ross, respectively, in respect of the financial year to 31st March 1919, at a remuneration of 5/- per 100 ratings.

That Mr Jasper Whitty, be appointed deputy checker for the accounts of the Collectors in Enniscorthy District, at a salary of £30 per annum, in respect of financial year ending 31st March 1919."

Dates of Meetings of Councils.

On the motion of Mr Kehoe, seconded by Mr Scallan, the following dates of meetings of Councils were agreed to:-

Enniscorthy R. D. Council.-	Wednesday 30th October 1918.-	11 0'C.,
Gorey	" Monday 4th November 1918.-	11.30 0'C.,
New Ross	" Monday, 28th October 1918.-	11.30 0'C.,
Wexford	" Saturday, 2nd November 1918.-	11 0'C.,
Proposal Committee,-	Wednesday, 7th August 1918,-	12.30 0'C.,
Co Council Meeting (Quarterly)	"	One 0'C.,
Proposal Committee, -	Wednesday, 6th November 1918-	12.30 p.m.,
Co Council Meeting,	"	One 0'C.,
Proposal Committee Adjourned Meeting,-	Wednesday, 4th Decr 1918,-	12.30
Co Council Meeting (Half-yearly).-	"	One 0'C.

RESOLUTIONS.Venereal Diseases.

The following resolution was received from the Kerry County Council

"That we protest against the proposed use of Poor Law Infirmeries and Union Hospitals now, or at the end of the War, as Institutions for the treatment of Soldiers suffering from venereal disease, and that we further protest against the proposed taxing of Irish ratepayers for the upkeep of Institutions for such purposes."

"Adopted on the motion of Mr Stafford, seconded by Mr Scallan."

Protest against Conscription.

A resolution was read from the Tralee Rural District Council, protesting against the application of Conscription to Ireland without the consent of her people, calling upon Magistrates to resign their positions, the Irish M. P's to return in a body and take their place in Ireland with their people, advising the farmers to decline to pay any further annuities to the Government, and calling on every public body in Ireland to cease to administer Local Government until the Conscription Bill was withdrawn.

A resolution was read from the Tralee Board of Guardians refusing to transact any business-urgent or otherwise- as a protest against the application of the Conscription Bill to Ireland.

"No Order."

The following resolution was read from the Dunshanghlin Board of Guardians:-

"That we abstain from attending meetings of either the Board of Guardians or District Councils of this Union until the menace of Conscription of Irishmen is abandoned by the Government, and that each member of the Board and Council be notified of this decision."

"No Order"

Supply of Explosives for Quarries.

The following is an extract from the report of the Co. Surveyor to the Finance & Roads Committee:-

"I have already reported to you regarding the gelignite which was taken from my custody on the way to Ryland Quarry and since then the Police Authorities have taken up all the Co Council gelignite from the County

Magazine in Wexford and also from the Magazine in Tara Hill. I have interviewed the Police Authorities in regard to further blasting work, but as their action in taking up the gelignite is by Orders from Headquarters no local arrangement can be made. I suggest that the Co. Council make direct application to the Police and Military headquarters that some arrangement may be made so as not to hold up the whole quarry work of the County."

The following recommendation of the Finance & Roads Committee was confirmed on the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr Scallan:-

"That the police and military headquarters be requested to make such arrangements with regard to explosives as will allow blasting work in quarries necessary for road maintenance. The County Council wish to bring under the notice of these authorities that the withholding of explosives at the present time is holding up the whole work of road maintenance. Therefore we request that the County Surveyor be provided with what gelignite is necessary for the purpose."

Working of Rock Drills.

The following is an extract from the report of the County Surveyor to the Finance & Roads Committee:-

"Pending some arrangement regarding blasting I ask for direction as to the employment of the Rock Drills, I do not consider it would be advisable to continue working these to any large extent unless there is some prospect of being enabled to blast within a reasonable period of time."

On the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr Scallan, the following recommendation of Finance & Roads Committee was confirmed:-

"That in the event of being unable to procure explosives for blasting, no further Rock Drill work be carried out in County Council Quarries."

Foreman-Tara Hill Quarry.

Mr P. Byrne, temporary foreman Tara Hill Quarry, applied for permanent sanction as foreman. At present he was in receipt of an extra 2/6 per week for the increased work, but of course would require a helper at blacksmiths work during the busy season.

On the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr Scallan, the following recommendation of the Finance & Roads Committee was adopted:-

"That the question of appointment of permanent foreman at Tara Hill Quarry be adjourned pending the reply of Military and Constabulary headquarters as to application for explosives."

Application-Weekly Payments to Workmen on Roads.

"In his report to the Finance & Roads Committee the County Surveyor mentioned that the road gang working on Road Board Work had already asked to have their payments made weekly and there was an increasing tendency on the part of the workmen to require very prompt payment."

On the motion of Mr M. Doyle, seconded by Mr Scallan, the following recommendation of the Finance & Roads Committee was confirmed:

"That no steps be taken as regards the application of steam rolling gang at Ballycarney road for weekly payments, until the County Council are in a position to ascertain if they can obtain gelignite for road maintenance."

Ballyconnick & Ballingly Quarries.

"In his report to the Finance & Roads Committee, the County Surveyor mentioned that Mr Richard O'Connor, the Contractor who had been working the two quarries at Ballyconnick and Ballingly had informed him that he could not continue the work this year at the same rate as formerly. His agreement terminated some time ago but he had continued working at the old rate to the present.

"The above application was adjourned pending the success of the application of the County Council to the Authorities for permission to secure a supply of explosives."

Duncannon Hulk.

In his report to the Finance & Roads Committee the County Surveyor mentioned that he had been informed by Mr Jones, Assistant Surveyor, that the Waterford-Duncannon Steamer had been removed, and accordingly it would appear that for the present there would be no necessity for the Hulk at Duncannon.

The following recommendation of the Finance & Roads Committee was confirmed on the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr Scallan--

"That the matter of withdrawing the Hulk from Duncannon station

be adjourned pending the return of steamer to Duncannon."

Application Courtkeeper, New Ross.

The Secretary presented a bill from Mr W. Fretton, Courtkeeper New Ross, for 4/6 for blocks obtained by him for fuel.

On the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr Scallan, the following recommendation was confirmed:-

"That the County Council be recommended to refuse payment of 4/6 for blocks obtained as fuel by Mr Fretton, Courtkeeper, New Ross, as we consider his allowance for Coal is ample for the needs of the Courthouse."

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(Signed)

John Bolger
Presiding Chairman.

Dated this

17

day of

June

1918.

SPECIAL MEETING.- 27th MAY 1918.

By directions of the Chairman of the County Council, a special meeting was held on Monday 27th May 1918, for the purpose of considering the Reports of the Wexford Bridge Committee.

Present:- Mr John Bolger (Chairman) presiding.

Also:- Messrs M. Doyle, J. J. Stafford, J. J. Kehoe, N. J. Cowman, M. Maddock, Mark Codd, James Codd, J. Redmond, R. Scallan.

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

Wexford Bridge.

The following Reports were submitted:-

"At the meeting of the Wexford County Council on 8th May 1918, a Committee, consisting of Messrs J. J. Stafford, P. Keating, John J. Kehoe, R. Scallan, and the Chairman (Mr John Bolger), were appointed to meet the Naval Authorities in connection with their proposal to strengthen Wexford Bridge and also to go fully, with the Authorities, into the condition of the Bridge.

The Committee met on Tuesday, 21st May 1918, Mr J. Bolger, (Chairman) presiding; also present:- Messrs John J. Kehoe, Philip Keating, and R. Scallan.

The County Surveyor and the Secretary were also in attendance.

Mr Stafford was absent owing to being from home.

Commander Herbester, U.S. Navy; Mr Morgan of the Admiralty; and Mr Hildebrand, Engineer's Representative at Seaplane Construction Station, were also in attendance.

Commander Herbester stated that he wished to have the bridge strengthened so as to take six-ton loads.

Mr Morgan pointed out that the tie-rods were originally designed for 6.5 ton loads, and they were now no more than half that, in view of the tie-rods being so reduced in strength, the bridge was not safe. He considered that 25 per cent of the timber would have to be renewed. There would be great difficulty in getting tie-rods now, but, with first class priority certificate, it might be arranged.

Commander Herbester said that the proposal he had in his mind was to fix up the draw-bridge and pay up to 25 per cent of the cost of the rest of the bridge repairs.

The Chairman said he would be prepared to recommend the County Council to pay 50 per cent of the entire cost.

After some discussion, Commander Herbester stated he would recommend his Authorities to close with this offer.

It was then decided that Mr Morgan of the Admiralty, Mr Copeland, Board of Works Officer, U. S., Mr W. F. Barry, County Surveyor, and Mr Hildebrand, arrange to draft specification and estimate on 25th May 1918.

It was also the opinion of the members that the work should be carried out on a percentage basis as it is feared no contract could be taken by tender at a satisfactory price.

The specification and estimate will be considered at a special meeting of the County Council to be held at One O'Clock, p.m., on Monday 27th May 1918, the Bridge Committee to meet at 12 noon, on same day.

An approximate figure of £10,000 was taken as the basis for the cost of the repairs."

The following recommendation from the Finance & Roads Committee meeting of 22nd May, was submitted:-

"That the report of Wexford Bridge Committee be received and it be ordered that said report be submitted to the Special Meeting of the County Council to be held on 27th May 1918."

The second meeting of the Committee was held on 27th May 1918.

Mr John Bolger (Chairman) presiding. Also:- Messrs J. J. Kehoe, James J. Stafford, and R. Scallan.

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

Commander Herbester, U. S. Flying Station, Ferrybank, and Mr Hildebrand, Engineer's Representative at Flying Station, were also present.

Capt Herbester stated that he had received a telegram from the United States Government that as the Bridge would take such a large amount of money to repair in order to bring motor lorries of 6 tons his Government were unwilling to contribute anything towards the cost

of repair.

The County Surveyor stated that as the cost of strengthening the bridge to bear a six ton lorry was found to be considerably over £10,000 Mr Stitt of the United States Air Service and he, (County Surveyor) had confined their attentions to the proposal to strengthen the bridge to carry two ton motor lorries and in order to do this effectively it would be necessary to spend £3865.

In reply to the Chairman, Commander Herbester stated that he had asked his Government to contribute 50 per cent of the cost of such repairs but they could not see their way to agree as the amount of such traffic would be limited and unless the bridge would bear six ton loads he would be compelled to try transport by water and stop using the bridge and the railroad.

In order to get the Station into Commission he had had an investigation made as to the cost of transport and figured out that water transport from Queenstown and Dublin would be more economical than contributing towards the cost of the repairs to the Wexford Bridge.

The Committee then decided to refer their Reports to the Council Meeting.

At the Meeting of the County Council the following resolution was adopted on the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr Scallan:-

"That the reports of the Wexford Bridge Committee be received and considered at this meeting, also the recommendation of the Finance & Roads Committee in this matter be confirmed."

A long discussion took place as to what steps should be taken in regard to the County Council having to carry out the entire repairs from their own funds.

The County Surveyor considered that some of the £3685 would have to be spent at once, and all of it within a very short period, probably three years.

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

"That the County Surveyor be instructed to expend amount he has on hands for repair of the bascule of Wexford Bridge for that purpose, as

soon as possible, and that he bring in a proposal for the sum necessary to replace any defective beams in order to make the structure safe for ordinary traffic. That owing to the condition of the bridge steps be taken to strictly enforce the by-laws of the Council as regards the use of the bridge by motor lorry traffic in the future, and that the speed of all motor vehicles using the bridge be limited to eight miles per hour."

Proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Mr Scallan, and adopted:-

"That in view of the necessity of having the Wexford Bridge repaired in order to ensure to safety of the travelling public, the Co. Surveyor be directed to apply to the Ministry of Munitions for a priority certificate in order to procure the necessary timber for the purposes of repair."

Coal Consumption.

Under date 11th May 1918, Mr H. G. Burgess, Director of Cross-Channel Transportation etc., 19 Westmoreland Street, Dublin, wrote asking what steps the Council had taken to effect economies in the use of coal and to bring this matter prominently under the notice of the public, and to reduce to the absolute minimum the consumption of any Coal over which they have any direct control. Since his previous letter the position had been extremely acute in consequence of reduced output at the Collieries, and he could not too strongly emphasise the urgent and vital necessity of economising the use of Coal to the utmost limit.

Under date 22nd May 1918, Mr Burgess wrote that three Committees of Coal Merchants and others interested in the Coal business have been appointed for Ireland, and at a Meeting held in Dublin on 16th May, a resolution was adopted asking the County Councils to have meetings called at once for the purpose of formulating schemes whereby the labour employed by the County Councils could be made available for the purpose of procuring an adequate supply of turf which it was hoped could be arranged to be distributed by the County Councils during the Winter. Mr Burgess suggested that this resolution should be considered at the next meeting of the Council as the meeting in Dublin strongly felt that the action suggested by them would be most effective and that if prompt steps were taken the use of coal could be largely replaced

by the use of turf, and in this way the public, and particularly the poor, would not be deprived of fuel during the coming winter.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr Kehoe:—

"That no order be made on the second communication received from Mr Burgess, Director of Cross-Channel Transportation, as no turf is raised in this County. In connection with the general question of the Coal supply we would point out to the public that it has been announced that the supply for next winter will be only 60 per cent of what was received in 1917, and as a consequence it will be absolutely necessary to have the greatest economy exercised in coal usage from now on, as otherwise grave hardship will be inflicted in the poor of all Irish Cities and towns."

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(Signed)

John Bolger

Presiding Chairman.

Dated this 17 day of

June 1918.