

The monthly meeting of the Wexford County Council was held in the County Council Chamber, Fortview, Wexford on 14th September, 1925.

Present - Mr Thomas Mc Carthy, Chairman, (presiding)
Also Col. C. M. Gibbon, Col. R. P. Wemyss Quin, Messrs William Boffan, Patrick Byrne, James Cline, Michael Cloney, Patrick Colfer, John Connors, Thomas Cooney, Richard Corish, Christopher Culleton, J. F. Darcy, Michael Doyle, James Gaul, James Hall, Patrick Hayes, Michael Jordan, David Kavanagh, Aidan Mernagh, Nicholas J. Murphy, John O'Byrne, M. M. O'Donoghue, James Shannon, William Thorpe, James E. Walsh and John Whyte.

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

The minutes of last meeting were read and signed.

Notice of Motion - County Council Workers and
Trades Union - Question of Disqualification of
Member of County Council.

The following motion of which he had given previous notice stood in the name of Mr D'Arcy:-

"That the resolution of the late Wexford County Council compelling all workers in the employment of the (Wexford) County Council to be members of a recognised trades union be rescinded, and that in future no conditions as to membership of any Union be imposed on any person employed by the County Council of Wexford."

Before Mr D'Arcy moved his motion, Mr Corish raised a point of order - to ask Mr Elgee, Solicitor, as to whether Mr D'Arcy was eligible to be a member of the County Council in view of the fact that he is directly or indirectly working for the County Council, his engine being employed drawing stones from Kerlofue Quarry by Edward Byrne, Clonmore Bree, who was engaged by the Council.

Mr Elgee said that a person was disqualified from being a member of the County Council if he "is concerned by himself or his partner in any bargain or contract entered into with the Council or participates by himself or his partner in the profit of any such bargain or contract or of any work done under the authority of the Council."

Mr D'Arcy held that the disqualification would only apply if it arose during his term of office.

Mr Elgee held that a man in the position which he had quoted from Article 12 of the Application of Enactments Order was disqualified if the bargain existed at the date of his nomination for election.

Mr D'Arcy - If that be the case there is more than myself disqualified. Mr Culleton, for instance, has done work for the Public Health Board.

After further discussion, Mr Elgee read Section 71 of the Local Government Act 1925.

Colonel Quin held that if Mr D'Arcy was disqualified as Mr Corish stated, it was up to whoever felt aggrieved in the matter to apply to the Court.

The Chairman held that it was not within the function of the Council to decide if any member was disqualified. If a person was concerned in any bargain or contract with the Council, it was open to any member of the Council or anyone else to bring the member to Court and to have the disqualification proved. Until this was done they should consider that Mr D'Arcy was qualified to sit.

Mr Elgee - If he is disqualified and acts, he is liable to a very heavy penalty.

Mr Culleton stated he was employed on repairs to labourers' cottages but did not continue this work after he had taken his seat on the County Council. The officials in charge of the work on which he had been engaged, had been notified by him verbally that in the event of his election on the County Council, he would not continue the work.

Mr D'Arcy said he could assure the Council that he had not done anything wrong knowingly. No agreement had been entered into as to the hire of his engine after the election.

Mr Elgee referred to note (d) in Vanston, Volume 1, page 179 as follows:- "A Trustee of a turnpike road let out his horses and carts for hire to a person who had contracted with the trustees to do work on the road. It was held that he was liable to a penalty as being concerned or having an interest in the contract."

After further discussion, the County Surveyor was asked to produce correspondence he had in the matter.

The County Surveyor produced the following letter from

Mr D'Arcy under date 17th July, 1925:-

"Would you be good enough to drop me a line and tell how N. Byrne's apc stands. (N. Byrne of Bree). Also if possible state date he started the last time to haul from Kerlogue. I think it was sometime in April last. My engine and waffons (2) are working since then for him, but he hasn't paid me any cash yet, but I'm sure he is honest, though he promised to pay me up to 30th June. Of course you would not be able to give the number of yards he has hauled to the two roads. I'd thank you for the above information. I have sent him on Bill Stamp to give the Secretary, so that I won't be getting into trouble or getting you into it."

The County Surveyor then read letter under date 25th July 1925 from Mr J. F. Birtchett, Assistant Surveyor, as follows:-

"With reference to Mr D'Arcy's inquiries, re E. Byrne's apc, the following are the figures:-

'Hauled from the 7th March to 11th July inclusive 2401 c.yds Kerlogue. Payments to 14th July £394-15-8. Balance due to Byrne. £29-4-4.'

Mr Thorpe referring to Mr Culleton said the latter had received money from the Board of Health for work on labourer's cottages since he became a member of the County Council.

Mr Culleton said this was for work carried out prior to his taking office as County Councillor. It was his belief that until he signed his declaration of office he was not a member of the County Council.

Mr D'Arcy mentioned that during his term of office as County Councillor he had received no payment directly or indirectly from Mr Byrne.

The County Surveyor pointed out that no agreement had been made with Mr D'Arcy directly or indirectly. He had made arrangements with Mr Edward Byrne, Clonmore to draw material by traction engine. As a large amount of material had to be hauled, Mr Byrne had to employ a second engine which he had obtained from Mr D'Arcy. He (County Surveyor) had no dealings directly or indirectly with Mr D'Arcy in regard to the matter.

Mr O'Byrne moved and Mr Gaul seconded:-

"That the question of qualification of Messrs D'Arcy and

Culleton as County Councillors, be referred to the Department of Local Government for their advice and decision, the Secretary to the Board of Health to be requested to furnish particulars of the payments made to Mr Culleton with the periods covered by same for submission to the Department."

Passed.

Mr D'Arcy stated that he would agree that his motion should be adjourned until the decision of the Department of Local Government in this matter was received.

Superannuation Officials Abolished County Infirmary.

Under date 20th August, 1925 (letter No P. 33371/25 Wexford County), the Minister for Local Government wrote forwarding copy of Order made by him, consenting to a superannuation allowance of £52-13-4 a year to Mr Thomas Hayes, in consideration of his services as Porter of the Wexford County Infirmary.

Under date 20th August 1925 (letter No P. 33370/25 Wexford County), the Minister for Local Government wrote, forwarding copy of Order made by him consenting to a superannuation allowance of £11 a year to Miss Mary Hayes in consideration of her services as Laundress in the County Infirmary, Wexford.

Auditor's Reports.

Reports of Auditor on his audit of the Accounts of the Wexford Rural District Council, Wexford County Board of Health, and Enniscorthy District Mental Hospital for the half-years ended 30th September 1925 and 31st March 1925 were submitted to the meeting.

Abolition of District Councils.

Under date 9th September 1925, (letter No G 42566/1925 Miscellaneous) the Minister for Local Government wrote that the County Board of Health should now formally lodge with the County Council a demand for the funds required to enable them to carry out the new duties imposed on them during the half-year ending 31st March next in consequence of the abolition of Rural District Councils. Such demand should

fall within the limits of the demands already made by the old Rural District Councils, due allowance being made for the discharge of existing liabilities by the County Council.

Appointment of Authorized Committees.

Under date 9th September, 1925, (letter no. G. 35/156/25, miscellaneous), the Minister for Local Government wrote, in reference to the appointment of Authorized Committees under Local Government Act, 1925, that, while he did not wish to hamper consideration of the question from local view points, he would not be disposed to agree to the payment of travelling expenses to a Committee consisting of more than five or six members unless very exceptional circumstances were explained to justify the selection of a larger number.

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

"We consider that as there are over 2000 miles of roads to be administered in County Wexford, a Committee of less than ten - the present number - would not be sufficient to deal effectively with this head of administration. We are also of opinion that it is essential that eight members should form the Finance Committee, two from each district of the County."

Meetings - Finance Committee.

On the motion of Mr Thorpe, seconded by Mr Hall, the following resolution was adopted:-

"That the general business of the Finance Committee be dealt with once a month, the remaining meeting of the month to deal only with payments out of Subsidiary Account."

Sheep Dipping.

Under date 21st August 1925, (letter no. L. 3056-25), the Department of Agriculture wrote enquiring whether it was the intention to put into operation during the current Autumn, period the Scheme of Sheep Dipping recommended by the County Executive Committee under the Diseases of Animals Act,

or what arrangements had been definitely made in the matter. As regards double dipping in the autumn period, the Department would not be prepared to waive this requirement as experience had shown that it made for greater effectiveness in carrying out the object aimed at under the Sheep Dipping Order.

It was decided to inform the Department of Agriculture that it was not the intention of the Council to enforce any Scheme of compulsory dipping during the present year. The arrangements which obtained for the summer dipping period would continue during the present dipping period.

In connection with the second dipping in the autumn period, Mr Thorpe mentioned that regulations had very recently been issued by the Ministry of Agriculture in England to provide for double dipping between the 15th July and 31st August; while the Sheep Dipping Order was not put in force in any county free from disease.

A long discussion took place as to the manner in which sheep dipping Inspectors were performing their duties after which the following resolution was adopted on the motion of Colonel Gibbon seconded by Mr Doyle:-

"That the County Committee of Agriculture and Technical Instruction be requested to appoint a sub-committee to consider, with the Sheep Dipping Inspectors, the County Superintendent of the Civic Guard and a representative of the Sheep Breeders' Association, the best means of carrying out the Sheep Dipping Order."

Protection of Animals Act, 1911.

Under date 14th August, 1925 (letter No L.3079/25), the Department of Agriculture wrote, asking that the attention of the Veterinary Inspectors of the Council be drawn to the nature and extent of the powers conferred by the provisions of the Protection of Animals Act 1911, regarding animals (especially horses belonging to tinkers or strolling musicians, etc) which had been found in such a physical condition generally as the result of disease that, from the humane point of view they should be slaughtered.

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

"That copy of the Protection of Animals Act 1911 with copy of letter from the Department of Agriculture dealing with same be

furnished the County Superintendent of the Civic Guard and that he be requested to take the necessary steps to have the provisions of the Act enforced in this county."

Minutes of Meeting of Finance Committee.

Meeting 7th August, 1925.

Removal of Dangerous Corner.

The following letter was read from Mr Elgee to Mr Barry, County Surveyor, under date 8th August, 1925.:-

"In this case in order to settle the matter without going to Court. I suggested to Messrs John A. Sinnott & Co., Miss Sinnott's Solicitors, that they should accept £15 in settlement for the damages done and allow the work at straightening the corner to proceed. I have now heard from them that their client is prepared to accept this sum as compensation for trespass and the taking of her land provided they be paid £4-4-0 as their costs in the matter."

"In my opinion, I think it would be advisable to pay the £15 and the £4-4-0 costs and settle the matter and I will be glad if you bring it before the next meeting of the Finance Committee or Roads Committee whichever will deal with the matter."

"I enclose a copy of Messrs Sinnott & Company's letter."

"Letter from Messrs John A. Sinnott & Co. to Mr Elgee, Solicitor.:-

"With reference to your letter of 29th May last herein, and our reply thereto of the 30th, we have now received instructions to inform you that our client is prepared to accept the sum offered in your letter, viz., £15, as compensation for trespass and taking of her land and to have the fence properly and securely built up, but this is conditional on our client's costs, which we measure at £4-4-0 being also paid as Miss Sinnott stated she must get the sum offered as compensation clear."

"This is, of course, to be taken as strictly without prejudice; if not availed of, with a view to settle the matter amicably."

"After discussion it was decided, on the motion of the Chairman.:- "That in the special circumstances, the County Council be recommended to pay the £4-4-0 costs in addition to the £15 offered by Mr Elgee on behalf

of the Council."

"A further recommendation was adopted that in all cases in which land is required by the Council, the County Surveyor have agreement as to price etc., signed by owner as soon as it is decided that the land is required for widening of corners or making of new road, etc."

Considerable discussion took place in regard to the procedure adopted in this case, viz., sending a ganger to the occupier of the land in order to obtain the necessary permission to remove dangerous corners.

On the motion of Colonel Quin seconded by Mr Murphy, the following resolution was adopted:—

"That the recommendation of the Finance Committee relative to removal of dangerous corner on Miss Sinnott's land be confirmed."

"That in future, in cases of this description, permission to take the necessary land should be sought for by the responsible officers of the Council in the first instance."

"That in future, no work on roads involving compensation be commenced until a recognised legal agreement has been entered into between the occupier of the land and the Co. Council."

Rate Collection.

"The Finance Committee reported as to their interviews with Rate Collectors concerning the closing of the Rate for 1925 and submitted the following recommendations:—

"That the Sheriff be called upon to expedite the execution of decrees in the case of defaulters as the Council have been informed by their Rate Collectors that many decrees remain unexecuted, the amount of which could be realised if steps were taken to secure the amounts. The Committee consider that if the decrees in the hands of the Civic Guard and Sheriff were executed, the amounts outstanding would be very considerably reduced."

"That the Collectors be instructed to forward Supplemental Irrecoverable Rates Lists in respect of rates due by persons who, in the opinion of the Collectors, have insufficient means to pay or against whom decrees have already been obtained for a previous rate which have been returned, endorsed "No Goods,"

"That Mr Elgee, Solicitor be requested to instruct Rate Collectors in procedure regarding seizures under Collection of Rates Act and

that Collectors take full advantage of their powers under the said Act."

"The Committee consider that the Collector James Murphy should make strenuous efforts to reduce the arrears outstanding in his area which compares very unfavourably with other districts."

"That Collector P. O'Byrne be also instructed to make a determined effort to collect all the recoverable rate in his district as the Committee find, on examination of rate books, a number of defaulters who are in a good position to pay and no leniency should be shown to such."

"That particulars regarding the case of James Kavanagh Ballycourseybeg, Glenbrien, who had not paid any rates since 1921 and against whom Rate Collector W. Cummins had obtained decrees for every rate without being able to get anything owing to there being no goods to recover, be brought before the Local Government Department and also before the County Council."

"That solicitors having cash in hands in respect of rates collected on behalf of Rate Collectors be requested to lodge same to the Council's credit."

"That we point out to the Local Government Department that, owing to the absence of District Justice on holidays Courts will not again be held in most centres in the County until the middle of September and request them to extend the period for closing 1925 Rate to 30th September next, after which date drastic action will be taken against any Collector who fails to close his collection or to produce evidence that amount outstanding is irrecoverable or under decree."

The foregoing recommendations were confirmed on the motion of the Chairman seconded by Mr Cline.

With reference to the case of James Kavanagh, Ballycourseybeg, the Department of Local Government wrote under date 21st August 1925, (G.40646/1925 Wexford County) that the Council might consider the propriety of recommending proceedings under Part III of the Enforcement of Law, (Occasional Powers) Act, 1924.

It was decided that a copy of this letter be furnished Collector W. Cummins and that he be instructed to take

the steps suggested by the Department of Local Government
meeting 27th August 1925.

Alleged Wrongful Conversion of Paying Orders.

The following extract was submitted:-

"Robert Cahill, Loughnagar, Foulksmills and Vincent Furlong, Yoletown, Ballycullane, came before the meeting in connection with Pay Orders on Subsidiary Account which they stated they had never received."

"In the case of Robert Cahill, Pay Order 922 was issued to him on 9th April 1925, for £1-17-10. This was cashed by Mr. Cahill on the 18th of April through Mr John Moran, Ballybrack, Foulksmills."

"On the 26th March 1925, Pay Order 16060 for £3-11-8 was issued Mr Cahill. It was cashed on 3rd April 1925. It was endorsed "per pro H. A. G. Davis Ltd - Thomas Cooté." Mr Cahill denied having received the amount. Mr Cooté had explained to the County Surveyor that he had obtained the Pay Order from John Moran, Shopkeeper, Ballybrack, Foulksmills."

"The signatures on orders did not correspond. Mr Cahill stated that the signature on the Order 922 was genuine; the other one was not."

"In the case of Mr Furlong, Pay Order 923 (Subsidiary a/c) was issued to him on the 9th of April for £1-17-10. It was cashed on 28th April, and Mr Furlong stated he had received the money from Mr P. Power, Ballycullane to whom he had passed the order."

"In regard to Pay Order 929 (Sub a/c), £1-14-8 which was issued to ~~him on 9th April~~ Mr Furlong also on 9th April, he denied having obtained the money. The signatures on both orders were the same but Mr Furlong stated he generally brought his Pay Orders to Mr P. Powers where they were signed by John Blake, an Assistant in Mr Power's shop. The Pay Order was endorsed "Patrick Power" Ballycullane."

"After discussion it was decided that Messrs P. Hayes and J. Gaul with the County Surveyor investigate the matter and endeavour to interview all concerned."

Confirmed on the motion of the Chairman seconded by Mr Clinch.

Rates on Bellevue - Captain Cliffe.

The following extract was submitted:-

"In connection with arrears of Rates on Bellevue (late Capt Cliffe), a letter was read from Messrs O'Flaherty & Son, Solicitors, Wexford, pointing out that the greater portion of the demesne had been sold to the Land Commission and the buildings had been burned down. It was not reasonable to expect the Executors and Trustees of the Will to pay rates for buildings which were now existent and for land which was not in their possession.

"Under date 26th August 1925, Mr Elgee, Solicitor wrote that he had interviewed Mr O'Flaherty and the latter was prepared to pay the rates for 1924 and 1925 on the revised valuation. In view of the fact that the premises had been burned down in 1924 the valuation as it then stood was incorrect and he (Mr Elgee) was doubtful if the Rate then struck was collectible. This being so, he considered it would be advisable to agree to Mr O'Flaherty's proposal and accept the rates on the amended valuation."

"The following resolution was proposed by Mr Thorpe seconded by Mr O'Byrne and adopted:- "That as advised by Mr Elgee, our Solicitor, we agree to accept rates in the case of the estate of the late Captain Cliffe, Bellevue, based on the revised valuation of 1924."

Confirmed on the motion of the Chairman seconded by Mr Cline.

Holidays - Mr Elgee.

The following extract was submitted:-

~~Under date 9th September 1925 (miscellaneous)~~

"Mr Elgee, Solicitor, applied for and was granted a month's holidays."

Confirmed on the motion of the Chairman seconded by Mr Cline.

Meeting 10th September 1925.

Proposed Transfer of Officers.

The following extract was submitted:-

"Under date 9th September 1925 (miscellaneous) the Department of Local Government wrote asking for early intimation of

the proposals of the Council respecting the employment of transferred officers of Rural District Councils. While considering the cases of officers who through old age or for other reasonable causes, do not wish to continue in office there was imperative necessity to avoid unnecessary expenditure for new appointments with concurrent pensions of existing officials. It seemed clear that the bulk of the transferred officials would be required by the County Board of Health and should be transferred to them. So far as County Councils were concerned the main burden of administration will be connected with road work and the checking of the rate collection. The retention of one or two of the existing Clerks or Assistant Clerks of the old Rural Councils would seem sufficient for this purpose and the Board of Health should be at liberty to select from the remainder such officials as they may require for the conduct of the new duties devolving on them.

"The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr O'Byrne seconded by Mr Gaul:- "That we recommend the County Council to transfer to the County Council service messrs J. J. Rochford (Clerk New Ross R. D. Council) and Mr John J. Fanning (Clerk Gorey R. D. Council), for work in connection with the checking of the Rate Collection and for Road work respectively; that Mr Aidan A. Connolly (Clerk, Enniscorthy R. D. Council) and Mr Jasper Whitty (Assistant Clerk do.), and all the other officials of old Rural District Councils be transferred to the County Board of Health."

The recommendation of the Finance Committee was confirmed on the motion of Colonel Gibbon seconded by Mr Shannon.

Missing Pay Orders.

The following extract was submitted:-

"In connection with Pay Order 16060 (Sub apc) for £3-11-8 issued to Robert Cahill, Loughnakeer, Foulksmills on 26th March, 1925 and Pay Order 929 (Sub apc) for £1-14-8 issued to Vincent Furlong on 9th April 1925 and which apparently had not reached the Payees, a report was received from Messrs P. Hayes and J. Gaul County Councillors who investigated the matter with the County Surveyor. - "Cahill's Pay Order was cashed by John Moran Shopkeeper,

Ballybrack, Foulksmills and Furlong's at the premises of Mr P. Power, Ballycullane. These traders accepted full responsibility in the matter and had arranged that the amounts would be handed over to Cahill and Furlong. The Committee gave the traders to understand that if they could find any evidence to connect any persons with the presentation of these orders, the County Council would give all assistance by production of the orders and otherwise in any prosecution which may be instituted."

Confirmed on the motion of Colonel Gibbon seconded by Mr Shannon.

County Finances.

The following extract was submitted:-

"Colonel Gibbon proposed:- "That a statement of the receipts and expenditure of the County Council during the past year be laid before the next meeting of the Finance Committee. That the various bodies financed by the County Council be requested to furnish a similar account to the first meeting of the Finance Committee in November giving proposals and suggestions as to the direction in which curtailment of expenditure may be effected for the following year. The Finance Committee desire to be in a position from their second meeting in November to lay before the County Council meeting in December certain suggestions which will be prepared from the data supplied to the Committee and which will be discussed by the Council with a view to the preparation of the annual budget in January 1926." "Mr O'Byrne seconded the resolution which was adopted." Confirmed on the motion of Col Gibbon seconded by Mr Shannon.

Rate Collection

The following extract was submitted:-

"The state of the Rate Collection to the 31st August was under consideration and from which it appeared that a sum of £12310-14-0 had been collected out of a total of £13186-13-4 for first moiety of rate for 1925-26.

"The following resolution was proposed by Colonel Gibbon seconded by Mr O'Byrne and passed:-

"That while realising that the Rates in the County are necessarily high, we wish to bring under the notice of all ratepayers as strongly as possible that one of the principal factors which

leads to high rates is the non-payment of the rates at the due date. This involves obtaining accommodation from the Treasurer to enable the work of the Council to be carried on which involves the payment of Interest which has also to be raised by way of rate. We would strongly urge upon the ratepayers, and particularly the farmers, who desire to see reduced rates in the coming year, that this will rest with themselves by paying their rates without delay. We are much concerned to notice that within a month of the closing of the first moiety of the current rate that only £12310 has been collected out of £73131 or in other words less than 18 per cent. An overdraft to cover the deficit and to enable the work of the Council to be carried on will involve a considerable sum for interest and which ratepayers could save by paying their rates punctually."

"In connection with the rate collections, the following resolution was adopted on the motion of Colonel Gibbon seconded by Mr Sean O'Byrne:-

"That our Secretary be instructed to issue Circular letter to the Rate Collectors and their sureties, that unless they comply with the terms of their bonds as regards the close of the collection, the Finance Committee will be compelled to consider the advisability of recommending the County Council to apply for sanction to collect the rates through the Post Office as is being done in other counties. The Department of Local Government has written that the Collection must be closed for first moiety by the 30th September, and a month prior to that date we find only 18 per cent collected."

The foregoing recommendations were confirmed on the motion of Colonel Gibbon seconded by Mr Shannon.

Financing Public Bodies.

The following extract was submitted:-

"The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr John O'Byrne seconded by Mr Gaul:- "That our Secretary arrange to transfer what funds are available to the various public bodies which are financed by the County Council."

Confirmed on the motion of Col Gibbon seconded by Mr Shannon.

Loan for County Hospital.

The following extract was submitted:-

"Under date 9th September 1925, Mr J. D. Sinnott, Secretary County Board of Health wrote asking that the loan of £10,000 for County Hospital should be transferred to the account of the County Board of Health."

"The following resolution was adopted on the motion of the Chairman seconded by Colonel Gibbon:-" That the Finance Committee decline to recommend the transfer of the balance on County Hospital loan, viz, £8500 to the County Board of Health, but are prepared to have transfers of amounts actually certified to be due out of the loan made from time to time."

The foregoing recommendation was confirmed on the motion of ~~the Chairman~~ Colonel Gibbon seconded by Mr Shannon.

Damage to Property (Compensation) Act 1923.

The following extract was submitted:-

"Under date, 11th August 1925 a letter was read from the Ministry of Finance asking for payment of £14822-19-3 due on foot of the contribution payable by the County Council under the provisions of Section 14 (1) of the Damage to Property (Compensation) Act, 1923.

"It was decided to inform the Ministry of Finance that the amount in question would be remitted as soon as the funds of the Council allow."

The recommendation of the Finance Committee was confirmed on the motion of Colonel Gibbon seconded by Mr Shannon.

Rates on County Hall.

The following extract was submitted.

"Mr James Breen, Rate Collector for Wexford Urban District applied for payment of £23-8-0 amount of poor rates due out of County Hall, the property of the County Council."

"It was decided to inform Mr Breen that he should apply to the landlord of the premises for poor rates as a special agreement existed in this case under which the landlord was liable for all rates and taxes.

The recommendation of Finance was confirmed on the motion of Col Gibbon seconded by Mr Shannon.

Clough Branch Farmers' Union.

The following extract was submitted:-

"The following resolution was received from the Clough Branch of the County Wexford Farmers' Union:-

"That we, the members of the Clough Branch of the Farmers' Union, view with serious alarm the very heavy rates which farmers and all Ratepayers are at present called upon to pay, in many cases almost as high as their rent and in a few cases a little over the rent. We, therefore, with great confidence and every respect desire to impress on the members of the Wexford County Council the urgent necessity of carefully considering all estimates and items of expenditure which will be placed before them from time to time and see how and where a reduction may be made so as to give some reasonable relief to the ratepayers of the County.

"It was decided that the Clough Branch of the Farmers' Association be informed that the County Council are doing all in their power to reduce expenditure."

The recommendation of the Finance Committee was confirmed on the motion of Colonel Gibbon seconded by Mr Shannon.

District Court Office. Gorey.

The following extract was submitted:-

"An application was received from Mrs A. Byrne, The Avenue, Gorey asking for an increase of the rent of District Court office, Gorey from 7/6 to 10/- per week.

The following resolution was adopted:-

"That Mrs A. Byrne, The Avenue, Gorey be informed that the Finance Committee cannot see their way to recommend the County Council to make any increase in the present rent of Gorey District Court office."

The foregoing recommendation of the Finance Committee was confirmed on the motion of Colonel Gibbon seconded by Mr Shannon.

Minutes of meeting of Drainage Committee.

The minutes of meeting of Drainage Committee, held on 18th August 1925, were submitted as follows:-

"The first meeting of the above Committee was held on 18th August 1925, in County Council Chamber, Fortview, Wexford.

"Present: Colonel Gibbon, Vice Chairman, County Council presiding; also messrs H. J. Murphy, A. Mernagh, John O'Byrne, M. Doyle, and C. Culleton.

"The Secretary and County Surveyor were in attendance.

"Correspondence was read from the Board of Public Works in connection with Drainage systems of Kilmannock, the Low and Cahore.

"The Chairman explained that in regard to old drainage systems, the Board of Works sent down at different periods an Engineer to inspect the manner in which the drains were being maintained. His reports were regarded as confidential and were never communicated to the Drainage Boards concerned. This led to very great difficulties. To take Ballyteigue drainage scheme as an example, - this was constructed in the seventies. The place was at that time drained by a sluice through Cull Bank at the Inish, and the Board of Works cut a channel which ran into Kilmore Quay past Ballyteigue Castle and which goes out through the Inish sluice. It was about 1½ miles in length with an approximate fall of about two feet. In the course of time, weeds grew in the channel and blocked the water. The farmers on the Drainage Board had no technical adviser and when they found a leak in the door of the sluice they closed the latter. Within three years the whole of the Inish land became flooded. This formerly gave immense crops of corn but in consequence of the flooding no corn could be grown on it since. The Board considered the old sluices should be re-opened and that the scour would clear the channel. Last year the Board of Works sent their engineer, Mr Olley, and by sheer luck some members of the Drainage Board were enabled to have a talk with him. Apparently his report was regarded as confidential as the Board of Works refused to supply the Drainage Board with a copy of the report of Mr Olley or that of his subordinates who had made a survey of the place.

Notwithstanding the fact that the Drainage Board understood that the proposed alterations would let them in for an expenditure of thousands of pounds. The two men on whom practically all the expenditure of the system fell were Mr Boxwell and Mr P. White. A single drainage rate was just sufficient to pay the incidental and working expenses: a double rate would be capable of cleaning about a quarter of the drains in a normal year. Mr Boxwell would have to pay £27 per annum for a single rate; £54 for a double rate and £72 for a treble rate which the Drainage Board would be loathe to strike but which might be necessary in a year like 1924. This rate would be struck on land which was supposed to be improved by the system but which had actually gone out of cultivation. The Board of Public Works had the reports of the various systems while the County Council who were now supposed to take them over had no information. They were in the dark as to how the schemes stood at present or as to what works the Board of Works proposed to carry out. Before the present Committee could give any advice to the Council it was necessary they should have before them the required information, viz:- the various reports of the Engineers of the Board of Works, maps, estimates, the names of those ~~benefitting~~ ^{benefiting} and some idea as to what steps had been taken to put before the ratepayers concerned the proposals for improvement contemplated by the Board of Works.

As regards Kilmannock system, the sluices on the Power property had been always maintained by the landlord. It would appear from the communication received from the Board of Works that the latter were about to include this work as portion of their proposed scheme. He considered the County Council should be informed if the Board of Works intended to relieve the landlords in this case of their liability. Incidentally he mentioned that the people of the district were not aware that a Drainage Scheme was in existence.

After some further discussion the following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr Culliton seconded by Mr O'Byrne
 "That Professor O'Sullivan of the Board of Works be requested to arrange for interview with the following sub-committee of the Drainage Committee to ascertain from him all particulars in connection with existing drainage schemes in County Wexford,

including maps, reports of Engineers etc, detailed statements of proposed improvements etc. viz: Messrs Doyle J.D. Corish J.D. O'Donoghue and Colonel Gibbon with the Secretary and County Surveyor. That Professor O'Sullivan be asked to arrange for interview on Wednesday 2nd September at 11 o'clock or on Tuesday 8th September at 11 o'clock.

"That sub-committee arrange for next meeting of Drainage Committee after their interview with Professor O'Sullivan."

On the motion of the Chairman seconded by Colonel Gibbon the following resolution was adopted:-

"That the report of the Drainage Committee be received and adopted."

In connection with the proposed interview with Professor O'Sullivan, a letter was read from the Office of Public Works under date 27th August 1925, that Professor O'Sullivan was away from Dublin and was not expected to return before the middle of September. The question of the deputation would be put before him immediately on his return.

It was decided that the Secretary again communicate with Professor O'Sullivan and ask him to name a date for the reception of the deputation. Wednesday, 30th September was suggested as a suitable date at 11 o'clock a.m.

Detailed reports were received from the Boards of Works in connection with Kilmannock, River Low and Cahore Drainage Districts.

It was decided that no action be taken thereon pending report of deputation to Professor O'Sullivan.

Protests were received from a number of ratepayers concerned with the Low Drainage Scheme against the expenditure of any money which would entail payment of additional rates by them. They considered if the Government carried out the restoration as a free grant, it would charge the situation for the land referred to was not at any time worth the rates not to mention the rent.

Mr Corish proposed and Mr Gaul seconded:-

"That in view of the exceptional circumstances in connection with the condition of the Low Drainage, the amount of rate never having been sufficient to cover the necessary work and keep the Drainage Scheme in working order, we request the Minister for Finance to make a grant of 50% towards cost of the work instead of the promised 25%."

Passed. Colonel Quin dissenting.

Slaney Navigation.

Minutes of meeting of Slaney Navigation Committee held on 7th September, 1925, were submitted. These contained the following resolution:-

"That in view of the urgent necessity for maintaining Wexford port in an efficient manner and for the general development of the trade of the County, we request the Department of Industry and Commerce to provide the services of an expert Engineer to prepare a full survey of the river Slaney and Wexford Harbour and estimate the cost. The present financial position of the bodies concerned does not permit of this work being carried out at the expense of local funds. In view of the number of people concerned the Conference is convinced that the Government should help to have a proper survey of the port and river Slaney carried out."

On the motion of the Chairman seconded by Mr Corish, the minutes of the Slaney Navigation Committee were confirmed.

Rate Collection.

The state of the Rate Collection was considered but no action was taken beyond approval of the recommendations of 10th September of Finance Committee already set out.

The Secretary stated that since the return had been submitted to the Finance Committee a further sum of £6930 had been collected.

University Scholarship Scheme.

In connection with the applications for University Scholarships received from

Honoria Bolger, Victoria Place, New Ross.

Donald Mc Auliffe, Johnstown, Clonegal.

Aidan Timmons, 53 Irish Street, Enniscorthy.

the results of the Leaving Certificate Examination, received from University College, Dublin, were submitted to the meeting.

The Academic Council of University College recommended the award of Scholarships to Honoria Bolger and Donald Mc Auliffe.

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

"That University Scholarship be awarded to Miss Honoria Bolger, Victoria Place New Ross."

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

"That University Scholarship be awarded to Mr Donald McAuliffe Johnstown, Clonegal."

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

"That continuing University Scholarships be granted to:-

Thomas Keegan, 6 Frances Street Wexford.

Thomas Malone 3 Rose Terrace, Francis Street, Wexford

Patrick Whelan, Island Road, Enniscorthy.

Kathleen M. Bolger, Henry Street, New Ross.

Christopher J. Hall, Cornmarket, Wexford.

John Mooney, Killanne, Enniscorthy.

M. J. Howlett, Shelbaffan, Arthuretoun.

Christopher Whelan, Creywell, New Ross.

Patrick J. Murphy, Station House, Ennis.

In connection with the award of University Scholarships the following letter was read from ex-Head Constable P. J. White, Carcass House, Wexford:-

"In reply to your letter intimating that the County Council desired a statement as to my means, I must say I admire their great solicitude for the ratepayers' interest; it is just what is required. I think, however, they would impress the public more favourably if they extended their request to the parents of all the candidates for Scholarships instead of singling out ~~out~~ one.

"I may be told that the member from Dunfulph knows all about the financial circumstances of the candidate from Clonegal and that the member from the Wicklow Gap possesses similar knowledge with regard to the candidate from New Ross district. I don't believe it and neither will any other person. Still there is not a question asked as to the means of the others. I did not observe that there was much noise made as to the means of the late Mr John Ryan of Taphmon when his son, Dr James Ryan J.D. was a successful candidate for Scholarships-

not in other cases much more recent where both parents were in receipt of substantial salaries, amounting in the aggregate to something more than four times the amount of my pension. Some of the members who are now very loquacious as to my son's application were members then, and did not appear to be any way alarmed as to the result to the ratepayers.

I am quite willing to give a statement as to my means when the parents of all the other candidates are called on to do the same.

Secondary Scholarships Scheme.

Under date 26th August, 1925, a letter was read from the Intermediate Education Commissioners stating that Scholarships under the County Council in Secondary Schools might be renewed in the following cases:-

<u>Name.</u>	<u>School.</u>
Cullen Margaret	Loreto Convent Wexford.
Dunne Statia	" " "
Frayne Margaret	" " "
Harte Laurence	St Peter's College, Wexford
Kenny John Joseph	" " "
Larrissey Thomas B.	" " "
Breen Edward.	" " "
Dillon John Gall	" " "
Hunt John Joseph	" " "
Stafford John	Christian Schools, Wexford.
Berney Margaret	Loreto College, North Great George's Street, Dublin.

Under date 20th August, 1925, a letter was read from the Office of National Education forwarding statement showing the result of the examination held in July last for award of Secondary Scholarships, and giving full particulars as to (I) one candidate who passed the examination and (II) those who have failed. The former was eligible for the award of a Scholarship subject to the other conditions being complied with; the latter were not eligible for Scholarships:-

Table of Marks.

Obligatory Subjects

Optional Subjects.

Name.	Irish	English	Arith- metic	History Geography	Total <small>(marks in obligatory sub.)</small>	Algebra	Geo- metry	Draw- ing	Nature Study	needle work	Total marks	Order marks
(I) Candidate who passed the Examination												
Patrick Joseph O'Keilly	80	133	130	131	474	80	35				589	1.
II Candidates who failed at the Examination.												
Eva Cullen	121	161	120	126	528	0				33	561.	
Elizabeth McLiff	56	90	81	92	319	0				27	346.	
Patrick Murphy	49	90	40	60	239	0	5				244.	
Thomas Murphy	74	120	40	65	299	45	20				364	
Katie O'Brien	111	98	19	77	305				88	21	414.	
Mary M. O'Hanlon	113	145	180	97	535	5				53	593.	

Under date 11th September, 1925, a letter was read from the Intermediate Education Commissioners stating that the Scholarship held by Bridget Doyle, Loreto Abbey, Gorey might be renewed for a further year, and that the progress of the undermentioned pupils was not such as to justify a renewal of the Scholarships held by them:-

Name	School.
Berney Bernadette	Loreto Convent Wexford
O'Keefe Kathleen	" " "

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

"That Secondary Scholarship be awarded to Patrick Joseph O'Keilly, Killanne, Enniscorthy."

On the motion of Mr Culleton seconded by Mr John O'Syone the following resolution was adopted:-

"That continuing Secondary Scholarships be granted to:-

Name.	School.
Cullen Margaret	Loreto Convent Wexford.
Dunne Statia	" " "
Frayne Margaret	" " "

Name	School.
Harte Laurence	St Peter's College, Wexford.
Kenny John Joseph	" " "
Larrissey Thomas B.	" " "
Breen Edward	" " "
Dillon John Gall	" " "
Hunt John Joseph	" " "
Stafford John	Christian Schools, Wexford.
Berney Margaret	Loreto College, North Great George's Street, Dublin.
Doyle Bridget	Loreto Abbey, Gorey.

Overdraft.

Under date 3rd September 1925, the Manager, National Bank Ltd, Wexford wrote that his Directors had sanctioned overdraft of £40000 on Subsidiary Account to 30th September 1925.

On the motion of Mr Shannon seconded by Mr Clince, the following resolution was adopted:-

"That we request the Directors of the National Bank to extend the period for repayment of Overdraft of £40,000 on Subsidiary Account to 31st December 1925, and also request the Department of Local Government to agree to this extension. We would point out to the Directors of the National Bank that every effort will be taken to reduce the amount of this overdraft between now and the end of December 1925.

Income Tax - Courtown Harbour.

A letter was read from the Revenue Commissioners, demanding payment of Income Tax, amounting to £12-14-5 for years 1919 to 1925 inclusive.

Under date 3rd September 1925, Mr R. W. Elgee, Solicitor wrote forwarding second letter from the Revenue Commissioners pointing out that proceedings would be instituted unless the tax was paid at once.

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

"That the amount be paid provided same is not statute barred according to Local Government Order."

Discharging Boats - Courtown Harbour.

The following extract from minutes of meeting of Courtown Harbour Committee of 4th September 1925 was submitted:-

"As there is no expectation of any person getting coals loaded here at present, we, the members of the Courtown Harbour Committee do not see the necessity of getting any discharging boat at present."

Approved.

Courtown Life-Boat House.

Under date 21st August 1925, a letter was read from Royal National Life-Boat Institution stating that the Courtown Station was only closed after the most careful consideration. No objections were raised locally and the Local Committee of the Institution's Branch were unanimously of the opinion that the station had outlived its usefulness. No order.

No 4 Old Age Pension Sub-Committee.

Under date 12th September 1925, a letter was read from Mr John J. Fanning, Clerk, No 4 Old Age Pension Sub-Committee stating that his Committee had unanimously recommended the appointment of Rev William Fortune, C.C. Kilanerin, as a member of the Committee vice Rev Owen Keogh C.C. who had resigned owing to his being transferred to Raheen.

On the motion of Col Quin seconded by Mr Clince, the following resolution was adopted:-

"That Rev William Fortune C.C. Kilanerin be appointed a member of No 4 Old Age Pension Sub-Committee vice Rev. O. Kehoe, C.C. resigned."

Gorey Rural District School Attendance Committee.

Under date 8th August 1925, a resolution was received from the Gorey Rural District School Attendance Committee recommending the appointment on the Committee of Mr Patrick Doyle, Ballytefan to fill the vacancy caused by the disqualification of Mr Michael Kinsella Ballyfad, who had been absent from the meetings of the Committee for over six months.

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

"That Mr Patrick Doyle, Ballytegan, be appointed a member of Gorey Rural District School Attendance Committee, vice, Mr Michael Kinsella, Ballyfad, disqualified for non attendance.

Welfare of the Blind.

Consideration of Scheme for the Welfare of the Blind, received from the Irish National League of the Blind, was postponed to next meeting.

Coastguard Station Bannow.

In connection with the proposal of the Board of Works that the Council should take over the Coastguard Station Buildings at Bannow for the purpose of housing the working class Messrs Whyte and Hayes, to whom the matter had been referred, reported that they did not consider it advisable for the Council to take over these buildings.

On the motion of Colonel Quin seconded by Mr Doyle, the following resolution was adopted:-

"That the report of Messrs Whyte and Hayes, the Committee who had inspected the Coastguard Station Building at Bannow be received and adopted."

Nurse O'Brien, Gorey.

Under date 30th July 1925, Miss K. N. Price, Secretary, the Irish Nurses' Union, wrote asking that pension of £6-5-0 per annum as claimed in her letters of 20th February and 2nd June be granted to Nurse O'Brien for loss of office in Gorey Workhouse.

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

"That in view of the decision already given by the Department of Local Government that Nurse O'Brien is not entitled to compensation in connection with the Amalgamation of Unions' Scheme, this Council cannot see their way to make any recommendation as suggested by the Secretary of The Irish Nurses' Union."

Midwives' Act.

Under date 24th July 1925, Miss K. N. Price, Secretary, The Irish Nurses' Union wrote that Miss Johanna Browne, Bewley Street, New Ross was still practising without a doctor, though unregistered, and asked the Council to see that this woman complied with the law.

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

"That our Secretary communicate with Miss Johanna Browne and point out to her that if she acts as a midwife without having a doctor in attendance, she renders herself liable to prosecution."

Poisons and Pharmacy Act

On the motion of Mr Cline seconded by Mr Hall, new licence under Poisons and Pharmacy Act, was granted to Alexander Kinsella, Gorey and renewal of licence to R. Rackard Killanne.

National School Programme.

Under date 12th August 1925, Mr Keogh-Nolan, Secretary County Councils' General Council, wrote, (~~submitting list of queries in connection~~) asking for the views of the Council regarding the present programme of Primary Instruction.

The Secretary was requested to submit statement in connection with the matter to the next meeting of Finance Committee.

Relief of the Poor and Insane.

Under date 12th August, 1925, Mr Keogh-Nolan, Secretary, County Councils' General Council wrote, submitting list of queries in connection with evidence to be given by a Special Committee of the General Council before the Commissioner on the Relief of the Poor and Insane and asking for copy of the replies of the Wexford County Council thereon.

The Chairman mentioned that this matter was being dealt with by the Board of Health, and he, as one of the representatives of the Board intended to give evidence in Dublin on 24th September in connection with the matter.

Drinagh Cement Works.

Under date 25th August 1925, Mr W.A. Browne, Town Clerk, Wexford wrote that the Wexford Corporation had approached the Minister of Trade and Commerce urging him to take up the question of the reopening of the Drinagh Cement Works in the interests of the unemployed. The Corporation asked for the support of the County Council in the matter.

A resolution was received from the Committee representing the unemployment section of Drinagh asking the County Council to use their influence with the Government to have Drinagh Cement Works opened as soon as possible.

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

"That we call upon the Associated Portland Cement Manufacturing Company Ltd., to open Drinagh Cement Works or sell them; that in the event of their refusing to do so, we request the Ministry of Industry and Commerce to take measures to force this Company to relinquish their claim upon these works.

Salaries - Government Officials.

The following resolution from the Meath County Council was adopted on the motion of Mr Thorpe seconded by Mr Walsh:- "That we, the members of the Meath County Council, in view of the abnormal depression and serious financial position of the County, call upon the Government to forthwith set up an enquiry (as has been done in England) and appoint three independent men to enquire into the salaries paid to its Officials and their number and expenditure generally."

Housing Acts.

The following resolution from Galway Co. Council was adopted on the motion of Mr Cline seconded by Mr Corish:-

"That the Trade Department be requested to move the Government in the interest of Irish Trade, to require that Irish cement and Irish slates be used in the construction of houses for which grants or loans are given under the Housing Act."

House Adjoining Road.

An application was received from Mr James Shortle, Castlebridge in connection with the erection of a house at Castlebridge, which was not the specified distance from the centre of the road.

The County Surveyor stated that no interference with traffic would be caused if the Council agreed to the application as a matter of fact the building would be farther from the road than adjoining houses.

On the motion of Mr Kavanagh seconded by Mr Murphy the following resolution was adopted:-

"That subject to the sanction of the County Surveyor, the County Council will raise no objection to erection of building by Mr James Shortle, in Castlebridge and which is not the requisite distance from the centre of the public road according to Statute."

Roads Committee.

The Minutes of meeting of Roads Committee of 24th August 1925 were submitted:-

Roads in Clonfeen District.

"Colonel Gibbon read letter under date 12th April 1925, which had been addressed to him by Rev M. Hickey P.P. Clonfeen. Father Hickey complained that there was an excess of road material for road from Wellingtonbridge passing Rosefarland farmyard to Roseshill Cross roads amounting to 120 cubic yards. There were still yards of last year's material apparent with grass growing through the stones. He also complained of the wretched condition of some other roads in the district, criticised the manner in which potholes were repaired and made suggestions for improvement."

"Colonel Gibbon proposed:- "That letter from Rev M. Hickey P.P. Clonfeen, under date 12th August 1925, relative to road repair be referred to Roads Inspection Committee."

Road Grants.

Under date 13th August 1925, the Department of Local Government (Roads) wrote (LR/93) forwarding copy of letter which they had stating that £2700 was being paid over

to the Council on foot of grant of £15660.

Grant for £121-16-11 on behalf of British Board of Trade to pay off claims for damage done by extraordinary timber traffic during the European war was also received."

Petrol Pumps.

"Under date 14th August, 1925, the Department of Local Government (Roads) wrote (LH/93) forwarding copy of letter which they had addressed to the Town Clerk Wexford in connection with Petrol pumps.

"This communication referred to report of meeting of Wexford Harbour Board from which it appeared that the Board had granted permission to Nicholas Browne, Harbour Garage, Custom House Quay, Wexford, to erect a petrol pump and had refused the application of Messrs Cullimore and Moran to place a tank beneath the petrol pump outside South End Garage, King Street, Wexford. If the pumps had not been licensed in accordance with the regulations, the Department wished to know whether the roads on which the pumps had been erected were public roads and if any Council was charged directly or indirectly with their maintenance.
no order."

County Surveyor's Report.

Under date 21st August, 1925, the following report was read from the County Surveyor:-

"Under Section 24 of the Local Government Act 1925 it is necessary that arrangements be made between the County Council and the Urban Councils for the maintenance of County and main Roads within the Urban areas.

"I think it will be advisable, at any rate for the present, that the Urban Councils should continue the maintenance of these roads within their areas, of course subject to Financial Agreement as may be necessary."

"On the 20th inst. I visited New Ross and have now the work in hands of fixing the mooring chain on the fourth buoy at New Ross Bridge. The diving work is being carried out by the Waterford Harbour Commissioners who are hiring their plant as was done on previous occasion when fixing other buoys, and this fourth one temporarily."

I have made agreement with Mr George Sinnott for the repair of Edermine Bridge at a sum of £65. This work was

put in my charge by the County Council some time ago."

I have noted that some of the rolling work on the Gorey-Arklow Road is becoming "wavy," and I have asked Mr Lelanor, Assistant Surveyor, to make special examination of this and to report to me. I understand from other Surveyors that this sometimes happens in rolling work under present conditions, and I do not think it is of serious consequence."

"As ordered by the Council, I directed Mr Ennis, Assistant Surveyor to have the necessary repairs carried out in Bunclody Courthouse, and to provide the furniture as requested by the District Justice."

"The Wexford Courthouse Committee met on the 18th inst, and I was directed to communicate with Messrs Delap and Orpen in regard to waiving travelling expenses in case they were appointed Architects. I submit copy of Mr Delap's reply."

The road from Wexford to Rosslare is subject to very considerable motor traffic and is now becoming very much pot holed and uneven. The quantity of material available under the Direct Labour proposals and existing Contracts for the upkeep of this road is far short of what the road will require in the future. From time to time I am having the holes filled but without extra material for the continuous surfacing of the road it will be impossible to maintain it in anything like fair condition. I have a lengthened report from the Assistant Surveyor."

"The road from Wexford to Enniscorthy which was so very badly cut up last Spring has been bottomed for almost its entire length and portions of it have been surfaced. The quantity of rubble stone necessary to be put in was so considerable under the Road Grant that the money was insufficient to complete the whole length. I have at present in hands the surfacing of the length from the Wexford Urban District to Ferrycarig, but at present the work is held up for lack of material in Kerlofae Quarry, and I have to knock off the roller for a fortnight. During the recent dry weather I had bitumen spraying work in progress but with the present break this must cease. Under the Direct Labour Proposals I am getting out material which I am having placed along the road where I expect it will be most necessary for

winter repairs and I now wish to note that it is quite possible that sections of this road may cut if we have continuous wet weather at any time, but that the provision of material closely available will help to control this. In the event of the Local Government's large proposal for the reconstruction of Trunk Roads being adopted it is expected that a large amount will be allocated for the surfacing of this road with tar macadam, and until this can be done the road will always be a source of trouble and expense to maintain, even in passable condition."

"I have received from the Great Southern Railway, plan for the suggested siding at Sparrowsland, with an estimate of the cost - £1047. This expenditure at the present time I consider inadvisable, until we know exactly how we can develop and use Ballybrennan quarry."

"In connection with our claims for delapidations for the old jail premises, Mr Elgee has received from the Board of Works a set off claim amounting to £48 for the new range erected by the military authorities. I visited the jail to-day with Mr Elgee, and found no new range on the premises, but there was the appearance of such range having been removed. When the premises were handed over to us, I recommended that a caretaker should be put in charge of them, and I now have to report that the old jail has evidently been broken into from time to time and possibly looted. It will be necessary to have a caretaker, or else to have all the lower part of the building secured against trespass, and this will be an expensive item."

"I submit list of machinery at present owned by the Council. At the present time owing to last year's grant approaching completion and the current year's not being in full swing, some of the machinery is, at present, or will shortly be idle. In the course of a couple of months I shall be able to use all the roller plant either on grant work or in consolidating the ordinary maintenance material, and shall keep most of the breakers at work. In going carefully into the question of this County machinery I believe it will be inadvisable to purchase any further at present, though next year it may be advisable to get a new rock drill, and also to purchase boilers for working with the tar spraying machines."

"I believe it will be necessary in the near future to erect a breaker at Ballybrennan quarry that can deal with 3" to 4" material for bottoming and also provide chippings for using with the Tar Spraying plant."

"As directed by the Council I have arranged with the Assistant Surveyors so that the gangers will not be taken from their work of supervision on Monday mornings. A general uniform system of dealing with Pay Sheets cannot be laid down as each Assistant Surveyor must be allowed discretion owing to the difference of work in his area. In some cases, the Assistant Surveyor meets the ganger on Saturday afternoon, otherwise by appointment on Monday. Each Assistant will be able to explain to the Committee the exact system which he adopts but I should note that the absence of gangers at start of work on any date is exceptional."

"In connection with Gorey-Arklow road, Mr Treanor, Assistant Surveyor explained that the waviness had been caused by the drifting of the screenings owing to strong wind. He had given instructions to the men to square up the screenings and the wave had now disappeared. It was a purely surface difficulty."

"In connection with Buncloody Courthouse, Mr Ennis mentioned that he had an interview with Mr Doran, Clerk of the Court and the latter wanted a great deal more work done than was understood at last meeting of Roads Committee."

"It was decided that Mr Ennis present report to next meeting of Roads Committee."

"In connection with proposed reconstruction of Wexford Courthouse the following report of Sub-Committee was read for the meeting:-

"The following Committee appointed to consider the appointment of Architect in connection with the reconstruction of Wexford Courthouse met in County Council Chamber, Fortview, Wexford on 18th August, 1925."

"Present, Colonel Gibbon, Vice Chairman, County Council, presiding; also Messrs J. O'Byrne, W. Boffan, and R. Corish.

"The Secretary and County Surveyor were in attendance.

"The County Surveyor submitted applications from the following:-

"Messrs Foley and O'Sullivan, Grafton Chambers 102-103 Grafton Street, Dublin, Architects fees 5% on entire contract, first class travelling and Hotel expenses (actual cost). Quantity

Surveyor's fees at $2\frac{1}{2}\%$ on entire contract, together with cost of printing Bills of Quantities."

"George P. Sheridan, 1 Suffolk Street, Dublin, Architects fees 5% and £6-6-0 for preliminary survey; also £18 to cover travelling expenses; quantity surveyor's fees $1\frac{1}{2}\%$."

"Messrs Kaye, Parry and Ross, 48 Kildare Street, Dublin, Architects fees 5% plus actual cost of out-of-pocket expenses, Quantity Surveyor $1\frac{1}{2}\%$."

"Vincent Kelly, Manfield Chambers, 43 and 44 Lower O'Connell Street, Dublin. Architects and Quantity Surveyor's fees $6\frac{1}{2}\%$ inclusive."

"Orpen and Delap, Northern Bank Chambers, 115 Grafton Street Dublin. Architects fees 5% and actual out of pocket expenses incurred. Quantity Surveyor $1\frac{1}{2}\%$."

"Robinson and O'Keeffe 8 Merrion Square Dublin, Architects fees 5%, and on lowest tender should the work be abandoned 3%. Quantity Surveyor $1\frac{1}{2}\%$."

"Donnelly and Moore 14 Lower O'Connell Street Dublin, Architects fees 5%; Quantity Surveyor."

"D. M. Turner, 4 Rathmines Park, Rathmines, Dublin £175 inclusive fee or £135 exclusive of Quantity Surveyor."

"George O'Connor, Mansion House Chambers 27 Dawson St, Dublin Architects fees 5 per cent; Quantity Surveyor $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Notes for preliminary plans £10-10-0. If tenders invited and Scheme be abandoned 3% on amount of lowest tender and 1 per cent for quantities. If Scheme be abandoned and no tenders invited $2\frac{1}{2}\%$ on approximate cost of building. First class travelling expenses to be paid."

"F. J. McCauley, 24 Nassau Street, Dublin - inclusive fee of £150 and if further expenditure be incurred an extra fee of £50."

"John L. O'Hanlon, Parknasilla, Dublin Road, Malahide, Dublin 10% on total cost of the work."

"J. F. Sleavin 23 Stephen's Green Dublin, Quantity Surveyor offered his services in that capacity but did not name a fee."

"John J. O'Hare 6 Cavendish Row, Parnell Square, Dublin: Architects fees 5% and Quantity Surveyor $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent."

"After considerable discussion the following resolution was adopted on the motion of the Chairman seconded by Mr Corish:-

"That Messrs Orpen and Delap be appointed Architects in connection with reconstruction of Wexford Courthouse on the terms and conditions set out in their letter of 21st July 1925,

to County Surveyor provided that they are prepared to carry out the work for $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent on amount of tender; this amount to cover travelling expenses."

"The County Surveyor submitted letter from Messrs Orpen & Delap under date 20th August 1925, in which it was stated that Mr Orpen would agree to waive the question of travelling expenses and would accept the terms proposed by the Courthouse Committee."

"The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Colonel Gibbon seconded by Mr O'Byrne:- "That the report of Committee appointed to deal with the matter of the appointment of Architect, County Courthouse, Wexford, be received and approved."

"Bearing on this matter the following report of Committee appointed to provide suggestions as to use of County Hall premises was read:-

"The County Hall premises were inspected on 18th inst. by the following Committee:- Colonel Gibbon, Messrs R. Corish, Wm. Boffan and John O'Byrne with the Secretary and Co. Surveyor."

It was decided that the Co. Surveyor prepare rough sketch of the premises in order that the Committee could carefully consider the manner in which they could be allocated for.

1. County Council Chamber and Offices
2. Wexford Corporation Offices
3. Courthouses and Offices
4. Civic Guard Barracks
5. Portion at rear which could be let to tenants"

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Col. Gibbon, seconded by Col. Quinn:-

"That this meeting approves of the recommendations of the sub-committee which inspected County Hall."

"As regards Wexford Rossloe Road the County Surveyor stated there were two sections under contracts which would not expire until 1927 and two under direct labour. It would cost about £300 to bring the road to a proper condition."

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

"That the Roads Inspection Committee be requested to inspect the four sections of Wexford Rossloe road and that the Co. Surveyor arrange for the attendance of the two road contractors concerned on the occasion of the inspection."

"Regarding Ennisconny Wexford road it was decided that the Co. Surveyor

pay particular attention to the portion between Lady Gray's gate and Edmunt as it was beginning to show signs of disintegration.

"In connection with proposed railway siding at Sparrowland the following resolution was adopted on the motion of Col. Quinn seconded by Col. Gibbon:-

"That the question of having a railway siding provided at Sparrowland be postponed for the present."

"In respect of claim for £48 from Office of Public Works as to stove erected by the military in County Hall a letter was read from Mr. Elger, solicitor, under date 22nd August, 1925, pointing out that the damage estimated to have been done to County Hall premises while in occupation of National Army was, according to County Surveyor's estimate £354:16:0 and the Board of Works offered £299:1:0. He (Mr. Elger) had gone into details with the Co. Surveyor and found that, in the main, the difference was in the cost of glazing. The Co. Surveyor charged 4/- per superficial foot for this and the Board of Works had allowed 2/-. The Co. Surveyor was satisfied that the latter is now the correct price, and, this being so, the Co. Surveyor believed that the sum of £299:1:0 was fair and should be agreed to. The Board of Works, however, propose to deduct £48 in respect of a six foot range which they allege was installed by the military. He had gone over the premises with the Co. Surveyor and could not find any such range tho' there was a space in the front kitchen where it could have been and from which a range had evidently been removed. The County officials had no knowledge of a range having been removed since the premises were taken over by the military. He (Mr. Elger) had accordingly written to the Board of Works for further information on the subject.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Col. Gibbon, seconded by Col. Quinn:- "That the Board of Works be informed that Wexford County Council have no knowledge of the range in County Hall for which the Board have made a claim of £48 and that there was nothing to show that there was a new range in the premises when they were taken over by the County Council."

"As regards machinery Col. Gibbon mentioned that if any arrangements could be made relative to road tax on engines used for haulage it might be possible to get a cheaper hireage rate so that they could be used in the "rush" period in the summer months when horses were being used on the land."

"The County Surveyor said that arrangements were made for haulage where possible by engines. The cost per yard mile was from 10d to 1/- by engines and from 1/- to 1/4d. for horses. He required for the machinery yard in Enniscorthy a punching and shearing machine costing £37:10:10 and a handmill costing a similar amount.

Col. Gibbon proposed the following resolution which was seconded by Mr. Shannon and adopted:-

"That a sum of £75 be set aside (subject to the sanction of the County Council) for the purchase of punch and shearing machine and also a handmill for machinery yard Ennisceochy."

"In connection with proposed electric light installation for machinery yard Ennisceochy the County Surveyor was instructed to procure quotations for submission to next meeting."

"The proposal of Co. Surveyor to procure stonebreakers for Ballybrannigan Quarry was adjourned."

"Regarding the arrangements for examination of time sheets of gangers by Assistant Surveyors the following resolution was adopted on the motion of Col. Gibbon, seconded by Mr. Sean O'Byrne:-

"That we approve of the arrangements which have been made by Co. Surveyor for examination of gangers' pay sheets by Assistant Surveyors."

"In connection with roads in his district Mr. Shannon called attention to various matters."

"The following were referred to the Co. Surveyor:- Condition of gullies leading into field Clonroche; footbridge on road 72 R; Co. Surveyor to submit estimate of cost at first available meeting in connection with bridge on 225 E."

"Col. Gibbon called attention to conditions of Ballymartin Hill near Castlebridge; potholes on road from Derr to Duncannon; liability of County Council for accidents which might be caused by allowing heaps of stones to remain on the travelling surface. In regard to this matter Mr. Elgee said that the Co. Council was clearly liable, and it was decided that the Co. Surveyor should direct Assistant Surveyors to see that material was not placed on the roads in such a manner as to cause danger to the public."

"The necessity of having hedges cut at dangerous points was also referred to by Colonel Gibbon."

"It was also decided, on the suggestion of Col. Gibbon, that the Co. Surveyor should prepare a coloured map of the Trunk Roads of the County."

"Col. Gibbon stated that when annual estimates of expenditure were being considered he would press for a coherent plan to show not only what road policy would be for a year but for the life of the present County Council."

"Col. Quinn mentioned that in India, road contracts were arranged for 40 or 50 miles at a time and ten or twelve miles were completed thoroughly in every detail each year."

"It was decided that Mr. Elgee take proceedings in connection with the flooding of the road at Newtown between Haggards Quarry and Duncannon on Road No. 46 R. The persons concerned were notified to take the necessary steps to abate the flooding over six weeks ago."

Farm Workers and Employment on Roads.

"Under date 22nd August, 1925, the following letter was read from Mr Alfred Haughton, Rockspring, Terns." :-

"I see by the Guardian newspaper, dated August 15th that at your Council meeting, one of the members, Mr S. O'Byrne, is reported as having said "There was a definite order made that no man was to be given work who left a former for the purpose of getting work on the roads. In the face of that one of the Council's gangers John Burke, came to one of my men, Michael Ryan on Monday 10th August and called to him over the fence from the road to go work in Carrigeen Quarry the next day."

"To notice whatever was given me. John Burke some time ago asked one of my other men to leave but he did not go. It is a most extraordinary state of affairs that men can be called off in the harvest to work on the roads."

"I wish you to bring this before the next meeting and have it sifted to the bottom."

"Mr Haughton, (who was in attendance) said that Ryan had been in his employment for about a year."

"Mr Emmis said that at the last meeting of the Roads Committee Ryan and a man named Kearns came before the meeting asking for employment. He decided to employ Ryan as he had experience of quarry work. If he had known that Ryan was in permanent employment he (Mr Emmis) would not have taken him on."

"Mr. Boggan considered it was the duty of Mr. Emmis to have found out if Ryan was in employment before giving him a job in the quarry."

"Col. Gibbon proposed: - That Michael Ryan, at present employed by the County Council, be informed that he must return to his work with Mr. Haughton and that unless he remains for the necessary harvest work that he be not further employed by the Council."

"Mr Hall seconded."

"Col. Gibbon pointed out that Burke, the ganger, must have known that Ryan was in Mr. Haughton's employment."

"Mr O'Byrne proposed that Ryan should be discharged unconditional and told to return to Mr. Haughton."

"Col. Gibbon withdrew his resolution in favour of this proposal which was seconded by Mr. Hall. The latter said that it was probable rather the ganger than Mr. Emmis took Mr. Haughton as they did other people. They appeared to have some spleen against Mr. Haughton."

"Mr Emmis denied absolutely that he had any spleen against Mr. Haughton."

"The resolution of Mr. O'Byrne was then put and passed."

"Mr Boggan considered that Burke, ganger, should be dismissed."

"Mr Emmis said that Burke had to carry out his instructions, and in view

of the statements which had been made at last Roads Committee meeting he (Mr. Ennis) had decided Burke to employ Ryan."

"Col. Sibson proposed: "That the Chairman, Messrs. Shannon and Hall, be appointed a sub-committee to take an explanation from Burke as to his action in this matter. If this sub-committee be satisfied that Burke wilfully took Ryan from Mr. Haughton's employment his services are to be dispensed with."

"Col. Quinn seconded the resolution which was adopted, Mr. Peggan dissenting as he considered, in view of how Burke acted on the occasion, he was quite cognizant that Ryan was in the employment of Mr. Haughton."

The Chairman stated that he and Mr. Hall had interviewed the ganger in connection with the man who had been taken from Mr. Haughton's employment. The ganger stated that Mr. Ennis, Assistant Surveyor met him on the road and told him to employ this man Ryan. He happened to be passing by Mr. Haughton's nest day, saw the man in the field, called him over, and told him he had got instructions to employ him on the roads. Ryan stated he would not leave Mr. Haughton, but that night he went to the ganger and told him he was willing to work for the County Council. The ganger held he was working under the orders of his superior, Mr. Ennis, and, in the circumstances, he (Chairman) and Mr. Hall did not consider it desirable to recommend any definite action but cautioned him to exercise more care in future."

Superannuation Mr. Jones, Assistant Surveyor.

"It was decided that the Secretary again communicate with the Department of Local Government in connection with the proposed superannuation of Mr. Jones, Assistant Surveyor, and should a favourable reply be received, the Co. Surveyor be instructed to arrange for Mr. F. O'Neill, B.E., to take up duty in new Ross District."

New Road Crosslough - Wexford

"The Co. Surveyor submitted letter received from Mr. Meldon, owner of the South Slob, under date 9th August 1925, stating that, when he visited the South Slob on 8th August, he was surprised to find men working on the new road. He wished to know if any written guarantee had been given to build wall to protect farmyards and to make up all fences along the road to the satisfaction of Mr. Joyce Manager of the Slob. Until this was done Mr. Meldon did not think the Co. Surveyor should proceed with the work. He did not want to stand in the way of the construction of the new road but he was bound to look after his own interest and not to have a Commons made of the land."

"Under date 8th August, 1925, Mr. Joyce, Manager for Mr. Meldon wrote that the latter required the Council to fence 6 acres 0 rods 2 perches statute."

"Mr. Elger, Solicitor, submitted further letter from Meldon & Co. Meldon."

Square North, Dublin, under date 14th August, 1925, stating they naturally expected when the County Council had matured their plans, the latter with specification and tracing, would have been submitted with an agreement. The County Council without permission or authority had entered on the land and proceeded with the building of the road. This was irregular and the Council were trespassers. They asked for details to enable them to see what was exactly proposed and also for the necessary agreement."

"Mr. Elgee said that he had a letter from Messrs. Teldon & Co., under date 8th June that he could take it the Scheme had the approval of the Teldon Estate."

"It was decided that the Co. Surveyor arrange with the Manager of Mr. Teldon for the necessary fencing."

Under date 25th August, 1925, (letter No. R/24/32) the Department of Local Government wrote asking whether the Council had been advised that there was a public right of way for wheeled traffic across the railway line at Drinagh accommodation crossing. In the absence of such a right it might not be possible to compel the Company to allow the new road to cross their permanent way.

The Co. Surveyor stated that he had furnished the Department with evidence that wheeled traffic had been using the level crossing for some time.

Mr. Culliton complained he had submitted names of men for employment on this road to the Co. Surveyor. Eight men were to be employed on the road and seven men in Kerlogue Quarry. Five men were only employed on the road and no man employed in the quarry, and the most necessitous cases were not selected according to the list which had been submitted to the Co. Surveyor by him (Mr. Culliton).

The Co. Surveyor stated he was employing as many men as possible and would have inquiries made as to the statements made by Mr. Culliton.

Wages on Grant Work.

"Under date 19th August, 1925, the Department of Local Government wrote (R/1463/32) as follows:-

"With reference to your letter of the 14th instant and enclosure relative to the rate of wages payable to workmen under the above mentioned grant (£450,000 Lunk Road Grant), I am directed by the Minister for Local Government and Public Health to state that the rate of 28/- per week already authorised represents the average rate payable on grant work and no sufficient reason has been advanced to warrant an increase in this amount. The Minister is therefore unable to sanction the proposal of the Wexford Co. Council that the rate of wages be increased to 30/- per week."

"No order"

Bradford Bridge

"At the meeting of the County Council on 10th August, 1925, Mr. Connor complained of house being flooded in the vicinity of this bridge which is between Lemo and Camolin, and considered that the necessary permanent repairs of the structure should be carried out."

"It was decided that the matter be dealt with when the steam rolling work in the neighbourhood of the bridge had been completed."

New Ross Courthouse.

"Under date 22nd August, 1925, Mr. Elgee, wrote that he was making arrangements for interview with Mr. Hamilton, agent to the Tottenham Estate, in connection with resuming possession of New Ross Courthouse."

Telegraphic Line Kingsbridge - Cullenstown.

"The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr. Gibbons, seconded by Mr. O'Byrne:—That the Roads Committee on behalf of Wexford Co. Council hereby consent to the erection of over-head telegraphic line on the road from the existing line at Camig-on-Bannow to existing line at Kingsbridge and from a point on the existing line near Kingsbridge to the Mr. 1. man's residence near Cullenstown."

On the motion of Mr. Clince, seconded by Mr. Gibbons, the minutes of the Roads Committee were confirmed, Mr. Boggan dissenting from the confirmation of the recommendation relative to Mr. Haughton's case.

Matters - Re Roads and Quaries

Mr. Thorpe complained that three months had been spent by men hand-drilling in Longarrow and Camig-byme Quaries last year. The rock drill came afterwards and bored independent holes with the result that the money paid for hand drilling was wasted.

The Co. Surveyor stated that some of the hand drilled holes had not been used.

Mr. Conry raised the question as to the Co. Surveyor having dispensed with the services of men in Ballinabola Quarry.

The Co. Surveyor explained that these men were not on the permanent staff and had received notice because he had no work for them. He would take them on again when blasting would be carried out.

Mr. P. Byrne asked when work at Tara Hill Quarry would re-open.

The Co. Surveyor mentioned that there was a large quantity of material in this quarry and Camiganeagh was covering a large portion of the work done in the past by Tara Hill. The men usually employed in the latter would be absorbed on road work later on.

Mr. Havanagh called attention to the manner in which heaps of road material had been allowed to remain on the roads particularly at dangerous corners.

The Co. Surveyor stated he would inquire into the matter.

The attention of the Co. Surveyor was directed to minor matters in connection with

road administration.

Supernumeration of Mr. W. H. Jones, Assistant Surveyor.

Under date 3rd September, 1925, letter to R/R 1/32 was read from the minutes for Local Government, stating that he had consented to payment of supernumeration allowance to Mr. W. H. Jones, Assistant Surveyor at the rate of £133:6:8 per annum.

Erection of Railing at Camolin.

Under date 21st August, 1925, Mr. M. O'Sullivan K.J., Camolin, wrote, asking the Council to grant him permission to erect a railing opposite his house in Camolin.

Referred to Roads Committee.

Thos McCarthy