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WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL

MONTHLY MEETING - 9th MAY, 1938

MINUTES

County Hall,
WEXFORD.

N. J. FRIZELLE,
Secretary Wexford County Council.

The monthly meeting of Wexford County Council was held in County Council Chamber, County Hall, Wexford, on 9th May, 1938.

Present:- Mr. D. Allen, Chairman (presiding); also, Messrs. J. J. Bowe, P. Colfer, R. Corish, John Day, Raymond Doyle, W. P. Keegan, John P. Kelly, T. McCarthy, Sean O'Byrne, Miss N. O'Ryan, Col. R. P. Wemyss Quin, Michael Redmond, Thomas Redmond, Patrick Ronan, Myles Smyth and James E. Walsh.

(Mr. R. Doyle, new member, signed his declaration of office).

The Secretary, County Surveyor, County Solicitor and the following Assistant Surveyors were also in attendance:- Messrs. J. J. Birthistle, R. J. Ennis, P. O'Neill and T. Treanor.

The Minutes of last meeting were confirmed.

PAYMENTS

Treasurer's Advice Notes for £25347. 19. 9d Ordinary Account; £237. 0. 7d Enniscorthy Technical School Loan Account for transfer to County Wexford Vocational Education Committee; and £528. 7. 9d, Rosslare Road (Widening) Loan Account for transfer to Subsidiary Account, were examined and signed.

THANKS FOR ELECTION

Mr. Raymond Doyle thanked the members of the County Council for the privilege conferred on him by co-option as a County Councillor. He would co-operate with the Council for the welfare of the people of his native County in every way.

The Chairman said they were very glad to welcome Mr. Doyle to a seat on the Council. He hoped Mr. Doyle would have a pleasant time and would find himself in a position

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THE LATE MR. MICHAEL J. FURLONG, EX-COUNTY COUNCILLOR

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

"That letters from Rev. T. R. Furlong, C.C., Camolin, (son) and Mr. R. J. Ennis, Assistant County Surveyor (son-in-law) acknowledging vote of condolence by County Council in the death of Mr. Michael J. Furlong, Temple-scoby, Enniscorthy, a former member of their body, be inserted on the minutes of the day."

Fr. Furlong wrote:- "Please convey to the members of the County Council my appreciation of their kind motion of sympathy in the death of my father. I thank you for your personal expression."

Mr. R. J. Ennis wrote:- "Please convey to your Council on behalf of Mrs. Ennis and myself, our thanks for their kind vote of sympathy on the death of the late Mr. Furlong, Templescoby. We would also like to thank you for your own personal expression of regret."

THE LATE MR. MICHAEL KEEGAN

On the motion of Mr. O'Byrne seconded by Mr. Kelly, a vote of condolence was adopted to Mr. William P. Keegan, County Councillor, in the death of his brother, Mr. Michael Keegan, Goresbridge.

The Secretary added his personal condolence to Mr. Keegan in his bereavement.

ELECTION OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR

The following resolution was proposed by Miss O'Ryan:-

"That Mr. Sean Murphy, Tilladavins, Tomhaggard, be elected a member of this Council vice Councillor William Cullimore, resigned, and that Mr. Murphy's name be added to the Finance Committee."

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In proposing the motion, Miss O'Ryan said that Mr. Sean Murphy was a keen farmer and fluent Irish speaker. She could promise on his behalf that he would be an active and energetic member of the Council.

Col. Quin seconded the motion which passed nem. con.

CONGRATULATIONS TO AN CRAOIBHIN

Mr. M. Redmond, having spoken in Irish, proposed:-

"That the Wexford County Council congratulate the different Political Parties in the Dail on the unanimous selection of Dr. Douglas Hyde as President of Eire."

Dr. Hyde was the founder of the Gaelic League and had been associated with it for the whole course of his long life. He was deeply and vitally concerned for the welfare of Ireland and it was a matter of great pride to Irishmen to see his unanimous selection as first President of Ireland under the New Constitution.

Mr. O'Byrne seconded the motion and pointed out that Dr. Hyde had given his life to the revival of the Gaelic language, literature and culture. His selection had clearly proved that in this part of Ireland they were not influenced by a man's religion. If he was a good Irishman he was appreciated, and in the case of Dr. Hyde they had one who gave his life work to the cause of Irish Nationality. In his election, the country has acknowledged the great debt they owe to him and in addition, had proved that the cause of Ireland was above Creed or politics.

The resolution was adopted nem. con.

ECONOMIC AGREEMENT WITH ENGLAND

Col. Quin proposed the following resolution:-

"That we congratulate the Government as to the result of the negotiations with Britain on the conclusion of the Economic War."

This was most gratifying to every Irishman, irrespec-

tive of class or creed.

Mr. T. Redmond, in seconding, said they should congratulate the Taoiseach, and the members of the Irish Delegation which prepared the way for Agreement, and the Government and the Irish people generally. The Agreement settled all questions which had been in dispute between the two countries, for a number of years, with the exception of the vital one of Partition. The Settlement left the ground clear for tackling that question later to a successful issue. It never was intended that Ireland should belong to any other country. The People of Ireland offered to England and their brethren in the North co-operation and good fellowship which would, in his opinion, have the affect of not only wiping out the Border but would be the herald of a New Era for Ireland as a whole and for Great Britain.

The resolution was adopted nem. con.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

FINANCE COMMITTEE - MEETING 14th APRIL 1938: The Minutes of this meeting were submitted as follows:-

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The fortnightly meeting of Finance Committee was held in County Council Chamber, County Hall, Wexford, on 14th April, 1938.

Present:- Mr. D. Allen (Chairman County Council) presiding; also, Messrs. P. Colfer, W. P. Keegan, John P. Kelly, Sean O'Byrne and Miss O'Ryan.

The Secretary, Assistant Secretary, County Surveyor, County Solicitor, Rates Inspector and Mr. Ennis, Assistant Surveyor, were also in attendance.

The Minutes of last meeting were confirmed.

VOTE OF CONDOLENCE

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

"That the sympathy of the Finance Committee be extended to Mr. J. J. Sinnott, Rate Collector, in the death of his mother, which is deeply regretted by her many friends."

The Secretary also expressed sympathy with Mr. Sinnott.

PAYMENTS

Treasurer's Advice Note for £8585. 16. 8d was examined and signed.

RATE COLLECTION

STATE OF: The following is the state of the Rate Collection to date:-

<u>Percentage of current warrant and of two years' arrears collected.</u>		
1.	J. Curtis	90.8
2.	E. Murphy	90.5
3.	S. Gannon	87.0
4.	J. Cummins	86.4
5.	D. Kenny	85.8
6.	J. J. O'Reilly	85.7
7.	M. Kehoe	84.9
8.	J. Deegan	83.4
9.	P. Nolan	82.2
10.	A. Dunne	80.5
11.	P. Doyle	80.0

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12.	J. Flood	79.7
13.	M. McCarthy	76.9
14.	P. Carty	76.7
15.	W. Cummins	75.1
16.	W. Doyle	74.6
17.	J. Quirke	74.3
18.	J. J. Sinnott	<u>74.0</u>

Average 81.4

The amount collected at the corresponding period last year was 72.9 per cent of current warrant and of total arrears..

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

"That the Minister for Local Government and Public Health be requested to sanction third interim payment of Poundage to 15 Rate Collectors who have lodged 75% of their 1937/38 Assessments and Arrears applicable to 1936/37 since 15th March last."

Payment has already been made to the three Collectors (Sean Gannon, J. Curtis and E. J. Murphy) who had the required amount lodged by the 15th March 1938.

Under date 8th April, 1938, the Department of Local Government and Public Health (No. G.3043/5/38 Loch Garman) wrote that as regards the deductions from Poundage of Collectors W. Cummins and J. J. Sinnott, the Minister was unable at present to reconsider his previous decision in the matter, but the question could be brought up in the light of the manner in which these Collectors closed their Warrants.

FLOODED LANDS: Letter was read from Mary Bolger, Coolback, Ballyanne, under date 31st March, 1938, in which she pointed out that the valuation of her holding was formerly £44. 5. 0 and the Valuation Department had now segregated £11. 15. 0 of this as being applied to land covered by water pro tem. Rates on this land worked out on a proportional basis, would be £2. 9. 11d and the

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applicant claimed she was entitled to a refund of this amount as she derived no benefit from the land since it was covered by water. Four other persons were affected similarly.

Miss O'Ryan proposed and Mr. Colfer seconded the following resolution which was adopted:-

"That the application of Mary Bolger, Coolback, Ballyanne, for remission of £2. 9. 11, rates assessed on valuation of £11. 15. 0d on land, which is returned by the Valuation Department to be covered by water pro tem be agreed to provided Mr. Elgee, County Council Solicitor, is satisfied that the County Council are empowered to grant the remission."

TEMPORARY RATE BOOK STAFF

The Sub-Committee appointed to deal with the above selected the following:-

Enniscorthy:

Michael Breen, St. Senan's, Old Church Rd., Enniscorthy.
Michael Kirwan, 49 St. John's Villas, Enniscorthy.
Daniel Kirwan, St. John's, Enniscorthy.
Francis McCoy, Oylegate, Enniscorthy.
Thomas O'Rourke, 16 John Street, Enniscorthy.

Gorey:

Michael Doyle, Bruce, Clonevan.
Thomas Byrne, The Avenue, Gorey.
Michael McGrath, Market Square, Gorey.
Christopher Redmond, 13 St. Michael's Place, Gorey.
John Bolger, Garden City, Gorey.

New Ross:

James Whelan, Nunnery Lane, New Ross.
James Brennan, Chapel Lane, New Ross.
Patrick Kehoe, Old Ross, Ballinaboola.
John Flanagan, Palace East, New Ross.

Wexford:

Timothy M. O'Leary, 4 Lower John Street, Wexford.

Patrick J. Furlong, 5 Pearse Street, Wexford.

Thomas Wafer, 7 St. Peter's Square, Wexford.

John Warner, 4 Michael Street, Wexford.

Patrick Sheehan, Green Street, Wexford.

RENT BALLYCULLANE COURTHOUSE

Application was received from Mr. P. Power, Merchant, Ballycullane, Co. Wexford, for payment of £2. 10. 0 rent at 5/- per week of Ballycullane Courthouse, his property, while utilised by Inspector of Weights and Measures.

The Secretary stated that the rent paid to Mr. Power for the use of the premises as a Courthouse was £12 per annum. A Court was held monthly at Ballycullane.

Miss O'Ryan proposed and Mr. O'Byrne seconded the following resolution which was adopted:-

"That consideration of claim of Mr. Power for £2. 10s. rent of Ballycullane Courthouse, be adjourned. In the meantime, our Secretary point out to Mr. Power that, in the opinion of the Finance Committee £12 per annum paid to him as rent for this Court should cover all use of the Hall for County Council purposes."

SMALL DWELLINGS ACQUISITION ACTS

In connection with the following five cases submitted to last meeting of Finance Committee the following were approved:-

P. O'Byrne, Kilcavan, Gorey (approved on the recommendation of Mr. O'Byrne).

R. Murphy, Carrigabruise (approved on the recommendation of Mr. Kelly).

John Redmond, Ballyclemock (approved on the recommendation of Mr. Colfer), and

Daniel Sullivan, Ballyelland, Davidstown (approved

on the recommendation of Mr. Kelly)

The case of Mrs. Wallace, Coleman, Arthurstown, had been adjourned for further consideration.

The Secretary stated that Mr. Kennedy, County Councillor, informed him that Mrs. Wallace would be a sure pay of loan instalments.

The following, under date 13th April 1938, was read from Mr. O'Neill, Assistant Surveyor for the district:-

"I have been making some inquiries about Mrs. Wallace. Her brother is Manager of the Shelbourne Co-op, and is prepared to act as security for her, if necessary. She has three children working and they earn up to £7 per week. Personally I believe she is quite safe and is as well able to meet the loan charges as the majority of borrowers under the Act."

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr. Kelly seconded by Mr. Keegan:-

"That, in view of letter of Mr. O'Neill, Assistant Surveyor, under date 13th April, 1938, the Finance Committee are of opinion that Mrs. Wallace, Coleman, Arthurstown, will have no difficulty in meeting the instalments of loan under Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts."

With reference to the application of Joseph Kavanagh, Cronecribbon, Inch, Mr. Warren, Solicitor, Gorey, wrote under date 8th April 1938, that Mr. Kavanagh applied some time ago for a labourer's cottage, but was not selected for a cottage which was vacant for the previous twelve months. When this application was not successful he bought the site for the dwelling house for which he applied for a loan under Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts.

According to return made by Mr. Kavanagh he stated he was in permanent employment and that his annual income was £71. 10. 0.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr. Keegan seconded by Mr. Kelly:-

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"That the County Council be recommended to advance loan not exceeding £205, maximum for house valued at £300, to Joseph Kavanagh, Cronecribbon, Inch."

James Dempsey, Small Farmer, Piercestown, Drinagh, applied for loan of £185, maximum for house valued at £275 under Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts. He stated he had no income. His valuation is £4. 5. 0.

It was decided that Mr. Martin Kelly, Home Assistance Officer, County Board of Health, be asked to state if Dempsey was - in his opinion - in a position to pay 4s. 6d weekly instalment to repay loan applied for.

James Kent, Rochestown, Foulksmills, whose application for loan of £170 under Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts was adjourned for further consideration at a recent meeting of the Finance Committee, holds 43 acres 2 roods, valuation £29.

On the motion of Mr. Colfer, seconded by Mr. Kelly, the Committee agreed to recommend the advance in this instance.

Matthew J. McDonagh, Factory Worker, Main Street, Gorey, applied for advance of £225 in respect of house valued at £300 to be erected in Rafter Street, Gorey. Applicant stated his income was £124. 16. 0d.

The application was provisionally approved on the motion of the Chairman seconded by Mr. O'Byrne.

In the case of application of Miss Mollie Fortune, Mental Hospital Attendant, Mr. Kelly said that the site selected by applicant was not a mile outside the Urban boundary at Enniscorthy.

Miss O'Ryan proposed and the Chairman seconded the following resolution, which was adopted:-

"The Finance Committee will not agree to recommend advance to Miss Mollie Fortune, Mental Hospital Attendant, unless she procures a site for house which complies with

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County Council regulations."

Mr. Elgee said that the title of Mrs. Kate Granger, Raheen, Clonroche, who applied for advance under Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts was not in order as the Agricultural Credit Corporation held a mortgage from her for loan.

In connection with the cases of Thomas Kenny, 7 Grattan Terrace, Gorey; Thomas Sheehan, Ballyminane, Gorey, and Sean Butler, Courtown Harbour, Mr. Elgee, County Solicitor, wrote under date 7th April 1938 that when he heard from County Surveyor that the latter was satisfied as regards locations, sites, etc. he would write to applicants for their Title to plots on which they proposed building.

APPLICATION FOR QUARRY MATERIAL

The following under date 14th April 1938, was read from Miss Bridget Sinnott, Ballymotey, Enniscorthy:-

"I beg to make application to your Council for a few loads of rough stones to repair the laneway leading to my house. I am willing to draw the stones myself.

The laneway is in a very bad state, and there is no material available on my lands or convenient.

Trusting the Council will oblige."

The County Surveyor said, in his opinion, to agree to the application would establish a very bad precedent. If it had been in respect of a "through" lane used by a number of people, the application would be worthy of consideration, but he would not be in favour of agreeing to Miss Sinnott's request.

The meeting adopted the County Surveyor's recommendation, and it was decided that the County Surveyor notify Miss Sinnott that her application could not be acceded to.

MOBILE SHOPS

The following, under date 9th April, 1938, was read from Mr. J. O'Dempsey, Hon. Secretary, Town Improvement Committee, Buncclody:-

"By directions of my Committee I am to inquire if the County Council have power to make a levy on street traders who frequent the town on Market and Fair days competing with the traders of the town. These people coming from outside the County and paying neither rent nor rates do great injury to the shopkeepers who have to pay both. The Committee understand that a levy is made on street traders in other towns."

Under date 12th April, 1938, the following was read from Mr. Elgee, County Solicitor:-

"I am in receipt of your letter of the 11th instant as to the above.

As far as I am aware the County Council have no power to charge rates or make any levy against street traders. Some of the towns, no doubt, have power to charge fees and make regulations with regard to street traders, but in order to enable them to do this the Corporations have to make certain Bye Laws, as to the fees and the County Council have not the powers that the Corporations have in the matter."

It was decided to ask the County Councils General Council to consider at their next meeting the general position as regards street traders.

NEXT MEETING OF GENERAL COUNCIL OF COUNTY COUNCILS

Notification was received from the Secretary, County Councils General Council, that the next meeting would take place in Dublin in Spring Show Week from May 3rd to 7th. Notice of any matters that the Council may desire to place on the agenda should reach him on or before Friday, 22nd

EMPLOYMENT SCHEMES VOTE 1938 ROADS (RURAL)

Under date 11th April 1938 the Department of Local Government and Public Health (Roads) wrote RU/205/32 that the Minister had approved of the Scheme for Road Works on an expenditure of £917 on which Government Grant would be £688 and local contribution £229.

The Secretary stated that the County Council had already agreed to provide out of revenue the local contribution referred to.

EMPLOYMENT SCHEMES VOTE ROADS (URBAN)

Under date 11th April 1938, the Department of Local Government and Public Health (Roads) wrote RU/205/109, that the Minister had approved of the Scheme for Road Works in New Ross Urban District entailing an expenditure of £990 to which the State would contribute £870 subject to a local contribution of £120.

The Secretary stated that copy of the Department's communication had been furnished the Town Clerk, New Ross Urban Council.

GOREY COURTHOUSE

The following under date 9th April, 1938, (G.11570-38 Loch Garman) was read from the Department of Local Government and Public Health:-

"With reference to your letter of 4th instant relative to the proposed payment of 7/6d per week to Mr. T. Dwyer, Caretaker, Gorey Courthouse, in respect of travelling pending a decision on the question of the possession of the caretaker's premises, I am directed by the Minister for Local Government and Public Health to state his sanction does not appear to be necessary to this proposal."

It was decided that rooms in Gorey Courthouse Building which were under the direct control of the Council should be allowed to be used for local purposes such as meetings

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of Agricultural Society, Gaelic League Branch, etc., and be let at 1/- per night up to two hours with an extra 1/- per night for meetings covering a period beyond two hours, half of these fees to be paid over to the caretaker.

CURRACLOE HANDBALL COURT

Under date 10th April 1938, the following was read from the Chairman and Hon. Secretary Curracloe Handball Club:-

"On behalf of the above Committee we write to state that the floor of the Alley was damaged to a great extent by the Tractor and Trailer in your employment when they drove in on it to load 2 tar steam boilers off the bank. In our estimation, it is damaged to such an extent that it will require a new floor. The damage was done on the 28th day of March 1938. We would like that some of your Engineers would come and inspect it and have the damage made good as soon as possible."

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

"That the County Surveyor be directed to repair the damage done to floor of Curracloe Handball Court by Tractor and Trailer employed by the County Council."

COUNTY SOLICITOR'S OUT-OF-POCKET EXPENSES

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr. Kelly seconded by Mr. Keegan:-

"That the out-of-pocket expenses of County Council Solicitor, Mr. J. Elgee, for financial year 1937-38 and amounting to £81. 4. 1d be recommended for payment to the County Council."

COMPLAINT OF CARTER

At the meeting of County Council on 11th April 1938 complaint was considered from Edward Anglim, Carter, Saltmills, as to his non-employment while farmers with large farms were working for the County Council, the following was read from Mr. O'Neill, Assistant Surveyor for the district:-

"Two carters working on Poulfur-Saltmills Road are small farmers, one having 7 Irish acres and the other 9-10 acres.

Anglim worked as a carter on an Improvement job in this locality from 23rd August to 30th October 1937. He had a small pony and was not very efficient as the animal was shying from the roller. He is at present working as a labourer on the job but was anxious to get on his brother as a carter. If the brother had a suitable animal there would not be any trouble in starting him.

I believe that although the job is a Relief Scheme it is necessary to get a certain amount of work done, and that it is unreasonable to ask us to slow up work by employing unsuitable carters."

Mr. Colfer said that Philip Kennedy, Gurteens, Saltmills, and Andrew Power, Boley Hill, were farmers and had been employed.

It was decided that County Surveyor should visit the area, investigate all the circumstances as to Anglim's complaint and report to the Finance Committee.

KILTREA QUARRY

Mr. Ennis, Assistant Surveyor, said that at the last meeting of the County Council, Daniel Brien stated he and other men had been employed in Kiltrea quarry up to the previous twelve months. He (Mr. Ennis) stated then he believed that neither Brien nor any of the men mentioned

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by him had been employed in the quarry for the past four years. Since the meeting he had looked up the records and found that Aidan Redmond had not worked in the quarry since 1930; Jeremiah Freeman since 19th December 1932; Patrick Buckley since 30th December 1933; William Cooper since 6th January 1934 and Brien himself since 30th June 1934. It also appeared from the records that work in this quarry was of an intermittent nature - sometimes only for a quarter of a year.

The meeting accepted Mr. Ennis's statement.

INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL APPLICATION

Notification under date 5th April 1938, was received from the District Court Clerk, New Ross, as to application for the committal to St. Aidan's Industrial School, New Ross, of Mary Teresa Cullen (4 years old), illegitimate child of Elizabeth Cullen, at present an inmate of the County Home, Enniscorthy.

Referred to Mr. Elgee.

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The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr. Kelly seconded by Miss O'Ryan:-

"That Minutes of Finance Committee in respect of meeting held on 14th April and as now submitted to this meeting be received and considered."

APPLICATION FOR ROAD MATERIAL: Mr. McCarthy asked if it would be possible to meet the application of Miss Sinnott and Mr. Kelly pointed out that the lane was so bad that a lorry could not use it, while Miss Sinnott was unable to obtain any material except from a County Council quarry.

The County Surveyor said that on a couple of occasions some material had been given for the repair of private laneways, but these were used by several farmers and by the general public and furnished ~~a~~ through routes. If the Council were to deal with all possible claims of this nature road material for the purpose could not be provided. As a matter of fact, their stock of material in quarries was almost run out and it was difficult at present to meet the actual requirements of the County Council. If they agreed to the present application they would be establishing a precedent which would lead to general confusion and which the Council would find impossible to continue in practice. He would not be against the supply of some material in the case of "Through" lanes which were of suitable general utility.

Mr. McCarthy asked if the County Council could stretch a point in this case. The Council would not be at a penny of a loss because the material would be taken out by Miss Sinnott's men.

The County Surveyor said if there was any secondary material which the Council could not deal with economically he might be able to allow Miss Sinnott to obtain some

of it. It could be easily understood that if inexperienced persons were allowed to work the face of a quarry they might easily spoil it.

Mr. Kelly agreed with Mr. McCarthy's observations in the matter and said that Clonhaston Quarry would be most convenient for the supply of any material required by Miss Sinnott.

It was decided to leave the matter in the hands of the County Surveyor.

MOBILE SHOPS: Mr. Elgee said it might be possible to prosecute the owners of travelling shops if they were causing obstruction but this was very difficult to prove.

Mr. McCarthy said the towns could ^{not} make a charge on street taders; if they could they would.

Mr. T. Redmond - These people should leave the site or station, where they carry on business, in the same condition as they found it, and that power should be available.

Mr. Corish - You can prosecute them for that.

Chairman - For creating a nuisance.

Mr. T. Redmond - But they are gone out of the town then.

Chairman - They have some address.

Mr. McCarthy - Where they have established rights I don't think the Gardai can interfere.

The Chairman said that the Street Trading Act could be adopted and bye-laws adopted.

The Secretary said the General Council of County Councils was getting information on the matter.

It was decided to await communication from the General Council of County Councils in the matter.

CURRACLOE BALL ALLEY: The County Surveyor said he would go into the matter of the damage done at Curracloe Ball Alley with Mr. Cullen, Assistant Surveyor for the district. He could not accept the claim of the Committee that in consequence of the amount of damage done by the trailer and tractor, it was necessary for the Council to put in a new floor.

KILTREA QUARRY: Mr. Kelly asked if apart from working in the quarry, did the men in regard to whom complaint of disemployment had been made, work on the roads in the ordinary way.

The County Surveyor said that some of them did work on Relief Grants but they never were members of the ordinary staff of the Council.

It was decided on the motion of Mr. Corish, seconded by Chairman:-

"That extract from Minutes of Finance Committee in the matter of Kiltrea quarry be forwarded Mr. D. Brien, who voiced the complaint of disemployment before the last meeting of the Council."

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

"That the Minutes of Finance Committee in respect of meeting held on 14th April 1938 be and the same are hereby confirmed and approved."

FINANCE COMMITTEE - MEETING HELD ON 29th APRIL 1938: The minutes of this meeting as follows were submitted:-

The fortnightly meeting of Finance Committee was held in County Council Chamber, County Hall, Wexford, on 29th April, 1938.

Present:- Mr. D. Allen (Chairman County Council) presiding; also, Messrs. P. Colfer, W. P. Keegan, John P. Kelly and Sean O'Byrne.

The Secretary, Assistant Secretary, County Surveyor, County Solicitor and Rates Inspector were in attendance.

The Minutes of last meeting were confirmed.

PAYMENTS

Treasurer's Advice Note for £4158. 15. 1d was examined and signed.

THE LATE MRS. SINNOTT, PARK ANNESLEY

It was decided on the motion of Mr. Colfer seconded by Mr. Keegan that the following reply to vote of condolence to Mr. J. J. Sinnott, Rate Collector, in the death of his mother, be inserted on the minutes of the day:-

"I would be grateful if you would convey my sincere thanks to the members of the Finance Committee for their vote of sympathy to me in the death of my mother.

I also thank you sincerely for your sympathy. I am deeply grateful to you all."

RATE COLLECTION

STATE OF: The following shows the state of the Rate Collection to date:-

	<u>Name of</u> <u>Collector.</u>	<u>Current Warrant and</u> <u>two years' arrears.</u>
1.	J. Curtis	93.8
2.	E. J. Murphy	93.3
3.	J. J. O'Reilly	90.9
4.	J. Cummins	90.2
5.	D. Kenny	89.4
6.	M. Kehoe	89.4
7.	S. Gannon	88.8
8.	J. Deegan	86.5
9.	P. Nolan	85.6

10.	P. Doyle	84.6
11.	P. Carty	84.5
12.	J. Flood	83.9
13.	A. Dunne	83.4
14.	M. McCarthy	82.9
15.	W. Doyle	78.8
16.	W. Cummins	78.6
17.	J. Quirke	78.2
18.	J. J. Sinnott	<u>75.5</u>

Average 85.2

The percentage collected last year at corresponding period of current warrant and of all arrears was 77.9%.

It was decided that the Collection close on Tuesday, 31st May 1938.

The Chairman said that comparing the lists of outstanding rates last year and lists of previous years, there appeared to be a big increase in the number of half yearly amounts carried over.

The Rates Inspector said the amount carried forward was no guide to the number of ratepayers in arrear. It happened often that the same ratepayers held several holdings on which the rates were in arrear.

The Chairman said that where rates were not being paid on holdings the Council should see they were not utilized for grazing.

In the course of further discussion it was mentioned that in the District Electoral Division of Ballygarrett no rates had been received for 500 or 600 acres of land which were being continually grazed.

It was decided that the Rate Inspector and Rate Collectors should lose no opportunity of watching for stock on farms which were stated to be derelict or semi-derelict and take all possible steps by seizure or otherwise to realise amount of rates outstanding.

COLLECTORS' POUNDAGE: The following under date 27th April 1938 was read from Mr. J. M. Curtis, Hon. Secretary to County Rate Collectors' Association:-

"I have been instructed by Rate Collectors to ask your Council to get sanction for poundage immediately so that Collectors may be paid same immediately they close their collections, as last year they were not paid until the 30th June."

The Secretary stated that the Minister had been requested to approve of payment of third interim to all Collectors. When sanction to this was received application for payment of the balance of poundage could be made in the cases of all Collectors who had satisfactorily closed their collections.

RATE COLLECTORS' EXPENSES - ATTENDING INTERVIEW WITH INSPECTOR OF DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC

HEALTH: In connection with decision of the Finance Committee (sanctioned by the Department of Local Government and Public Health) to pay train or bus fare to Collectors who attended interview with Mr. Seumas Murphy, Inspector of the Department, on the 16th February, 1938, Rate Collector Sinnott wrote that no bus or train was available at the time he had to travel to Wexford and he cycled the whole distance.

It was decided that Mr. Sinnott be allowed the return bus fare from Clonevan to Wexford.

Rate Collector W. Cummins wrote that the distance from his home to Wexford was eight miles and he travelled in his own motor car.

It was decided he be allowed 4d per mile, the mileage allowed to Instructors under the County Wexford Committee of Agriculture. Total amount for 16 miles 5s. 4d.

RATE BOOK STAFF: The name of Michael Ffrench, Garrycullen, Ballycullane, was added to temporary Rate Book staff as recommended by Messrs. Colfer and Thomas Redmond, members of the Selection Committee for New Ross District.

CONFERENCE WITH COUNTY SURVEYORS - DEPARTMENT OF
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC HEALTH

Under date 21st April, 1938, the following (IR/113) was read from the Department of Local Government and Public Health (Roads):-

"I am directed by the Minister for Local Government and Public Health to refer to this Department's circular letter of the 26th April, 1937, in regard to the holding of a Conference of County Surveyors in Dublin and I am to state that it is proposed to make similar arrangements for a Conference this year to be held in the Engineers' Hall, Dawson Street, Dublin, from the 3rd to the 6th May (inclusive) to enable the Surveyors to confer with the Department's officials on matters relating to their work and to exchange views with one another on these matters.

The Minister is anxious that County Councils will afford facilities to their Surveyors to attend the Conference and, as was done last year, arrange for some of the Assistants to attend if the County Surveyor is satisfied that suitable arrangements can be made for carrying on local services in their absence. It is suggested that Assistants who did not have the opportunity to attend last year's Conference might be specially considered this year."

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

"The Finance Committee approves of the attendance of the County Surveyor at Conference with Department of Local Government and Public Health (Roads) from 3rd to 6th May 1938 (inclusive). That the County Surveyor be empowered to make suitable arrangements for the attendance of Assistant Surveyors. And that Railway return fare and subsistence allowance of 15/- to cover absence from headquarters of 24 hours, and 5/- for day allowance be allowed."

SMALL DWELLINGS ACQUISITION ACTS

APPLICATIONS FOR LOANS: On the motion of Mr. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Colfer, it was decided to advance to Samuel Bryan, Curratubbin, Killenagh, a loan not exceeding £200, on house estimated to cost £300, subject to compliance with the regulations of the County Council.

Patrick Martin, Moneyhore, Enniscorthy, applied for loan of £250 on house valued at £400.

The Secretary stated that according to the Regulations

£200 was the maximum amount which could be advanced in this case.

Mr. Kelly proposed and Mr. Colfer seconded the following resolution which was adopted:-

"That provided regulations governing advances under the Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts are complied with, the County Council be recommended to advance ^{loan} not exceeding £200 to Patrick Martin, Moneyhore, Enniscorthy."

WITHDRAWAL OF APPLICATION: The Secretary stated that William Furlong, Tullibards, Bridgetown, who made application for loan at the last meeting of the Finance Committee had called to the County Council and withdrawn same. In this case the house had been erected.

INSPECTION FEES: Under date 27th April 1938, the Department of Local Government and Public Health wrote (H.7987/2/38 Loch Garman) as follows:-

"With reference to previous correspondence regarding the proposal of the Wexford County Council to increase the fees to Assistant Surveyors who act as Valuers for the Council under the Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts, from one guinea to two guineas in respect of each house valued, I am directed by the Minister for Local Government and Public Health to state that he will not raise any objection to this proposal."

It was decided that the increased fee of £2. 2. 0d be paid for houses valued from 1st April 1938 onwards.

ROAD MATTERS

DANGEROUS CORNERS: Under date 18th April, 1938, Thomas Mullaly, Efferogue, Ferns, Hon. Secretary, Monageer Branch of the Irish Labour Party, wrote calling attention to dangerous corners at Knockduff, Ferns and at Garnduff, Clondaw.

The County Surveyor stated that the County Council had turned down at their roads meeting all proposals for the repair of dangerous corners and it was only where money could be saved in regard to road proposals that a few corners here and there were dealt with. He believed, however, that there were corners which were more dangerous than those referred to by Mr. Mulally.

Mr. Kelly said he would like a statement as to the policy of the County Council in relation to dangerous corners, to which the Chairman replied for the present year, at all events, the County Council had decided to put all the money at their disposal to maintain the surface of the roads and to leave the corners as they were for better times.

PIER AT ST. HELEN'S: The following under date 14th April, 1938, was read from Mr. Richard Leary, Secretary of the St. Helen's Branch of the Sea Fisheries Association:-

"I am instructed by the St. Helen's Branch of the Sea Fisheries Association to request the Council to make a grant towards the necessary repairs to St. Helen's Harbour as it is in a very bad state since the big storms of the Winter.

I hope you will be good enough to put this application before your Council at the earliest possible date."

The County Surveyor said the old debris of the breakwater had been a bit flattened out by storms. Beyond that the Pier was the same as it had been for a number of years. He had applied for a State Grant several times, but the matter was not disposed of. It was listed for consideration when money was available, as an Inspector from the Office of Public Works had seen it.

It was decided that copy of the County Surveyor's observations be furnished to Mr. Leary.

ROAD - TACUMSHANE TO KILLINICK: Under date 20th April 1938, Mr. William O'Leary, Hon. Secretary, Ballymore Fianna Fail Club wrote calling attention to the poor condition of the road from Tacumshane to Killinick and the necessity for the erection of a danger post at Montfield National School.

The County Surveyor said with regard to the road he was doing the best he could with the money available. He would, however, erect a danger signal at Montfield National School.

Mr. Colfer called attention to the amount of traffic at the village of Wellingtonbridge and said it would be advisable if a sign with the words "Drive slowly" was erected on the road approaching the village. There were a number of children living in the village and the fathers of some of them would be prepared to put up the sign if they were supplied with it.

The County Surveyor stated he would look into the matter.

Mr. Colfer also called attention to the dangerous cross at Carrig-on-Bannow, where Mr. White, Farmhouse, had met with an accident recently. He (Mr. Colfer) understood that it would be possible for the County Surveyor to secure without cost, the necessary land for the easement of this corner.

The County Surveyor said he would see what could be done, but in his opinion, the easement of this corner would cost from £30 to £40.

ROAD RANDALSTOWN - TOMHAGGARD: Under date 27th April, 1938 Mr. Sean Murphy, Tilladavins, Tomhaggard, wrote:-

"The members of my Cumann (Tomhaggard Fianna Fail) desire me to request that the attention of your Council and of the County Surveyor be drawn to the very bad

condition of the roads in this district, with special reference to the road from Randalstown turn (on Wexford-Kilmore road) to Tomhaggard and also the Lingstown road.

They would also point out the urgency of removing dangerous corners on the road leading to the sea at Tilladavins and of widening a portion of the same road (about 150 yards). These corners are certainly nothing short of deathtraps."

The County Surveyor said there was no real through traffic on the road referred to and he was doing what was possible with the money at his disposal. A number of roads maintained by sea-gravel were ravelling owing to the abnormally dry weather. As for the corners no money was available. In view of the many applications received for easement of corners, in various parts of the county, the County Council could decide at their roads meeting to be held in Autumn whether they would provide funds for this purpose. It was not possible for him to deal with these matters unless money was provided.

APPLICATION COMPENSATION CRIMINAL INJURY

Application for £6. 15. 0 claimed for the breaking of glass in two houses in Ram Street, Wexford, the property of Mrs. Mary McAlister, 1 Fortfield Terrace, Rathmines, Dublin, was referred to Mr. Elgee, County Solicitor.

NEW ROAD MACHINERY

Under date 29th April 1938, the following was read from the County Surveyor:-

"I shall be obliged if you will bring before the Finance Committee Meeting on to-day the matter of purchasing further Machinery. Last Autumn we purchased two new rollers which have given entire satisfaction, but we have also been obliged to hire two further rollers in order to carry on the work. Furthermore, our breaking plant is insufficient to keep up with the work we have on hands. When this increased work (owing to Employment Scheme Grants) was first taken up we had a fairly large stock in nearly all our quarries, and this enabled us to carry on up to the present. Now, we have arrived at the stage

when this stock is depleted, and in a number of our quarries we have no material at present. At this period we should be drawing out material for the coming year, and we have to await preparation of it in a great number of cases.

Under these circumstances, I consider that the Council should purchase two further rollers, and also two stone-breakers. It will not be necessary to purchase an engine to run the breakers, as generally speaking, these are available on hire. I estimate cost of this plant at £3,600, and the annual charge for a loan for ten years would be in or about £450. There will be no difficulty in meeting this charge out of the Machinery Account, and I strongly recommend the Council to agree to my suggestion."

The County Surveyor said that during the past two years through grants and loans they had a total expenditure of £62,000 added to the normal amount provided for in the Road Works Scheme. With the extra machinery which he now requisitioned it would be possible to carry on their road maintenance programme with efficiency.

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

"That the County Council be recommended to agree to the provision of road machinery in accordance with letter from County Surveyor under date 29th April 1938."

Passed.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES - BALLYCULLANE COURTHOUSE

At the meeting of the Finance Committee, under date 14th April 1938, the Finance Committee pointed out that as regards the claim of Mr. Patrick Power, Landlord, Ballycullane Courthouse, for £2. 10. 0, rent of the premises, while occupied by Weights and Measures Inspector, the Committee were of opinion that the £12 per annum paid to Mr. Power for rent of this Courthouse should cover all use for County Council purposes.

Under date 23rd April, 1938, letter was read from Mr. Power, that if the usual rent was not paid for the hall, for the Weights and Measures Inspector, he would not allow it to be used by that official in future.

Mr. Colfer proposed and Mr. O'Byrne seconded the

following resolution which was adopted:-

"That in view of Mr. Power's letter of 23rd April, the County Council be recommended to pay £2. 10. 0, demanded by him as rent for Ballycullane Court, while utilised by Inspector for Weights and Measures, this amount to cover a full year's work by the Weights and Measures Inspector, carried out at Ballycullane."

WARBLE FLY (TREATMENT OF CATTLE) ORDER 1936

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

"That Inspectors under Warble Fly Order be authorised (after having notified County Secretary to this effect) to serve Detention Notices on farmers, who are not dressing their cattle under the Warble Fly (Treatment of Cattle) Order 1936."

OVERDRAFT

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

"That overdraft accommodation at an amount not exceeding £35,000 be obtained, according as it may be required, from the Council's Treasurer, The National Bank Ltd., Wexford, for a period of 6 months from 20th May 1938.

That the Minister for Local Government and Public Health be requested to sanction the proposal."

Mr. Colfer proposed and Mr. Kelly seconded the following resolution which was adopted:-

"That the Minutes of Finance Committee meeting of 29th April 1938 be received and considered."

SMALL DWELLINGS ACQUISITION ACTS: The following resolution was proposed by Mr. O'Byrne, seconded by Mr. Ronan and adopted:-

"That the Seal of the Council be affixed to Deed of Conveyance by Mr. John Fortune and Mrs. Mary Ellen Fortune to Mr. Michael Kearns, of part of the Lands of Gorey Corporation Lands containing Five perches statute measure, on which the County Council hold a charge for £180, in order that the said Lands may be released from the said charge, which is now being paid off."

DANGEROUS CORNERS: Under date 7th May, 1938, Mr. J. Birthistle, Assistant Surveyor, wrote that the corners complained of on the road to Mountpill at Montfield (Road No. 953) were very bad. The road was subject only to local traffic but even with that a couple of the corners were veritable deathtraps. No money, however, was available for their easement.

Mr. M. Redmond referred to corner at Oldcourt on the Templeshelin - Adamstown Road and pointed out that a number of serious accidents had occurred there.

The County Surveyor pointed out that in the past County Council had trouble in securing permission from the owners of land adjoining bad corners and who sometimes asked prohibitive prices for the small amount required. At the Conference the Surveyors had with the Local Government Department during the past week, the matter was mentioned and it was stated a Bill was being prepared which would simplify the procedure.

The Chairman said they had had a fairly full discussion on corners at the annual roads meeting of the Council, when the necessity to keep within the estimate for the actual maintenance of the roads was stressed. If the Council wished they could allocate money for the repair of dangerous corners at their Roads Meeting to be held next November and in the meantime, it would facilitate everybody concerned if the members would supply the County Surveyor with a list of what each member considered were dangerous corners in his area.

Mr. Walsh said at their Roads Meeting in November they should list the most dangerous corners irrespective of the classification of roads. Continuing, Mr. Walsh referred to a dangerous corner at Mount Hanover, near New Ross, regarding which the County Surveyor said he would examine the place and if possible, carry out some improvement.

ST. HELEN'S HARBOUR: Mr. Corish said it was a great pity that the Council were unable, owing to the present condition of the law, to take advantage of the Grant which the Minister of Agriculture was prepared to give for the improvement of this Harbour. There were a number of boats operating there and more would be put on if the place was made available.

The Chairman said the real difficulty in this matter was that St. Helen's was not a scheduled Pier, and owing to that fact the Council were not empowered to spend money on its repair. It was, to his mind, a border-line case and it was possible that no objection would be made to any expenditure which the Council might make in order to re-inforce the Grant from the Department.

Mr. Doyle asked could the Council take up this matter of the repair of St. Helen's in the near future. Facilities

at the place were now so bad that five boats gave up fishing there last year and were now operating from Carne. The lobster fishing would begin immediately.

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

"That the County Surveyor communicate immediately with the Department of Fisheries in connection with Grant for repair of Pier at St. Helen's and inform the Department that the Wexford County Council are prepared to make a substantial contribution towards the cost of repair, and to instruct the County Surveyor to carry out the work as expeditiously as possible."

ROADS - TACUMSHANE - KILLINICK, RANDALSTOWN, TOMHAGGARD:

The following under date 7th May 1938, was read from Mr. Birthistle, Assistant Surveyor for the district:-

"With reference to recent complaints re above roads, I wish to report I made a special inspection of the area on the 28th April 1938. The roads in this area are maintained with sea gravel and some stretches with pit gravel. Due to the continued fine weather the gravel is in a loose condition. Otherwise, I saw no cause for complaint. As a matter of fact, I consider the roads to be quite good considering the prevailing weather conditions.

Mr. Doyle said there was a good deal of discontent regarding the condition of the road to Tacumshane.

NEW ROAD MACHINERY: The County Surveyor said that at the Conference of the County Surveyors with the Department of Local Government and Public Health a great deal of discussion centred round the question of providing road machinery. There would be no difficulty in obtaining sanction to the loan. He had inspected at the Dublin Show a facsimile Diesel-engined roller to the two the Council had obtained some time ago and made by Messrs.

Marshall, Gainsborough, England. It was erected to the same specification and he had tentatively agreed to the purchase at the same price as the two already supplied, viz., £1033. The existing price was £1187. He had received a 'phone message that morning that his offer would be accepted.

It was decided on the motion of Col. Quin, seconded by the Chairman, that the Council approve of the purchase of the roller at £1033 as arranged by the County Surveyor and also the two stone breakers requisitioned by him at a price to be considered later.

Mr. T. Redmond asked if the purchase of this machinery would curtail employment of the men on the roads.

The County Surveyor said it would have the opposite effect as they could not employ men without the machinery. The money for the purchase of the machinery will not come out of the ordinary allocation for the maintenance of the roads.

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

"That the minutes of Finance Committee meeting of 29th April 1938 be and the same are hereby confirmed and approved."

SCHOLARSHIP SCHEMES

REPORT OF COMMITTEE: The following report of Scholarship Committee was submitted:-

A meeting of Scholarship Committee was held in County Council Chamber, County Hall, Wexford, on 30th April 1938. Present: Messrs. D. Allen (Chairman County Council) presiding; Gerald Hurley, Sean O'Byrne and Michael Redmond.

The County Secretary was also in attendance.

SECONDARY & VOCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME 1939: Provisions of Scheme which obtained last year with the necessary changes as to dates were agreed to and recommended to County Council for acceptance with the following addendum:-

"When two members of the same family are successful in the same year at Examination for Secondary and Vocational Scholarships and secure such marks as would entitle them to award, one scholarship only will be awarded, the parents or guardians of the two successful pupils concerned to make the selection."

UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME 1939: The Scheme for 1938 with the necessary changes as to dates was recommended to the County Council for acceptance.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr. Kelly seconded by Mr. Colfer:-

"That the Minutes of Scholarship Committee meeting held on 30th April 1938 be received and considered."

Arising out of examination of means of parents of applicants for University Scholarships several members believed that some criterion other than the assessability of parents or guardians to income tax under schedules other than A and B should be set up. They believed that people with very substantial incomes who should be able to provide University education for their children could be brought under the scheme on the present regulation.

Col. Quin referred to an application in which the parents who were National Teachers with a conjoint income of £588 were not assessable to ordinary income tax.

Mr. Corish said there was another application in which the income was given at £577, but there were seven other children under 18 years old and this application was within the regulations as owing to the number of the children under 18 there was a "nil" income tax assessment.

In reply to Mr. Doyle the Secretary said the scholarship schemes were revised every year.

Miss O'Ryan said it was wrong to suggest that the scheme was only for poor people. The Council never passed a Scholarship Scheme in that sense. It was intended for any person in the County who may have a big family, and whose means did not permit giving higher education to their children. There were very few people with big families who could give higher education to their children, and County Council felt, in the interests of the country, that they should subsidise these people and give a clever child an opportunity of availing of the scheme. She objected to it being recorded that the Scheme was intended for poor people.

The Secretary said out of the list of 28 applicants only four could get scholarships.

Mr. O'Byrne - It was not intended for poor people but for anyone who could not otherwise get higher education. I don't think, however, in deciding on the regulation about income tax, we ever contemplated that it should apply to salaries as high as those mentioned.

Mr. Smyth said he never thought that persons worth approximately £600 in income would be accepted.

After further discussion Mr. Bowe gave the following notice of motion:-

"That the Council at their meeting to be held on 13th June 1938 consider how best to arrive at a decision relative to the eligibility of candidates to compete for University Scholarships of this Council in order to comply with the provisions of Section 10(2) of the Irish University Act 1918 which defines accepted candidates under this Scheme to mean such as are "in need of assistance " to secure the benefits of a University training".

That the decision of the County Council in this matter apply to their University Scholarship Scheme for 1939."

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Miss O'Ryan seconded by Mr. M. Redmond:-

"That Messrs. J. N. Anglim, F. P. Barry, J. J. Kelly (Camblin) and R. Ryan (Ardamine) who have selected course in Agriculture in connection with University Scholarship Scheme be invited to attend next meeting of Finance Committee on 13th May 1938 with a view to having their knowledge of practical agriculture tested by the members of the Committee."

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

"That the 28 candidates applying under University Scholarship Scheme for permission to sit for Scholarship examination be deemed eligible."

The Secretary stated that the list of applicants as follows had been furnished Councillors with agenda papers of meeting:-

WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL

UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME 1938

LIST OF APPLICANTS FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

Abbreviations:- C (Children under 18). I (Income).
V (Valuation).

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1. Anglim, James Noel, "St. Anne's", Duncannon, Co. Wexford.
C.1. I. £165. 15. 7d. V. £1. 10s. Widow.
 2. Barry, Francis P., Hillview, Coolcots, Wexford.
C.2. I. £150. V. £21. 15s. Farmer.
 3. Brennan, Richard, Camolin.
C.1. I. £60. V. £4. 15s. Tailor.
 4. Brewer, William J., Irishtown, New Ross.
C.2. I. £200. V. £10. 2. 6d. Carpenter.
 5. Browne, Thomas P., Rock's Lane, Wexford.
C.5. I. £182. V. £4. Baker.
 6. Butler, Thomas, Blackhall, Glynn.
C.None. I. 7s. 6d per week N.H. Insurance.
V. £1. 15s. Agricultural Labourer.
 7. Byrne, William, The Hollow, Camblin, New Ross.
C.None. I. £87. 1. 6d. V. £39. 10s. Farmer.
 8. Corish Patrick J., Ballycullane.
C.7. I. £577. V. £5. 15s. National Teachers.
 9. Creane, Una Maire, Riverchapel.
C.4. I. £588. V. £8. 3s. National Teachers.
 10. Doyle, Bridget Teresa, Drimmagh, Rosslare.
C.3. I. £170. V. £4. Railway Worker.
 11. Duggan, Anne Mary, The Leap, Enniscorthy.
C.3. I. £150. V. £10. 15s. Blacksmith.
 12. Finn, Joseph, 16 Main Street, Gorey.
C.7. I. £100. V. £18. Garage Owner.
 13. Hall, Philip Dermot, 10 Cornmarket, Wexford.
C.None. I. £110. V. £12. Shopkeeper.
 14. Kelly, Edward, 10 Grattan Terrace, Gorey.
C. 2. I. £107. V. £3. Railway Worker.
 15. Kelly, James Joseph, Camblin, New Ross. 1
C.None. I. £120. V. £38. 10s. Farmer.
 16. Kinsella, James Joseph, The Square, Main Street, Bunclody.
C.None. I. £105. V. £8. Guardians, Spirit Grocers.

17. Mulligan, Mary Teresa, Craan, Gorey.
C.3. I. £90. V. £57. 5. 0. Farmer.
18. Murphy, Stasia, Coolhull, Wellingtonbridge.
C.1. I. £200. V. £66. 5. 0. Farmer.
19. O'Connor, Joan, Gally, Enniscorthy.
C.7. I. £200. V. £62. Merchant.
20. O'Donohue, Thomas Oliver, Johnstown, Clonegal, Ferns.
C.4. I. £363. V. £4. Mother, National Teacher.
Father, Pensioner.
21. O'Keeffe, Alice M., Station House, Rosslare Strand.
C.5. I. £217. V. Railway House. Station Master.
22. O'Bourke, Catherine, Newbawn.
C.2. I. £299. 6s. V. £41. Farmer and National
Teacher.
23. O'Rourke, Laurence, Newbawn.
C.2. I. £299. 6s. V. £41. Farmer and National
Teacher.
24. Redmond, Judith Teresa, 13 St. Michael's Place, Gorey.
C.None. I. £45 for 3 months. V. Cottage 3s. 6d
per week. Mother, Shop Assistant.
25. Roche, Catherine Agnes, Ballygilliestown, Davidstown.
C.4. I. £400. V. £78. 10s. Farmer.
26. Ryan, Robert, Ardamine, Gorey.
C.3. I. £134. V. £21. 15s. Farmer and Road
Ganger.
27. Sheil, Hubert, 5 Pearse Street, Gorey.
C.5. I. £119. V. £3. Railway Porter.
28. Teehan, John E., 101 Irishtown, New Ross.
C.3. I. £200. V. £9. 10s. Publican and Insurance
Agent.

N. J. FRIZELLE,
Secretary Wexford County Council.

County Hall,
WEXFORD.

4th May, 1938.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr. Colfer seconded by Mr. Keegan:-

"That the minutes of Scholarship Committee meeting of 30th April, 1938, in so far as same relate to Secondary and Vocational Scholarship Scheme be, and the same, ~~are~~ hereby confirmed and approved. That consideration of recommendation of Scholarship Committee relative to University Scholarship Scheme be deferred until a decision by the Council has been arrived at on Mr. Bowe's notice of motion."

THIRD CEMENT FACTORY

The following under date 29th April, 1938, (T.I.M. 9/84) was read from the Department of Industry and Commerce (Trade & Industries Branch), Lord Edward Street, Dublin, re above:-

"I am directed by the Minister for Industry and Commerce to refer to your letter of the 19th instant, forwarding copy of a resolution adopted at the meeting of your Council on 11th instant regarding the claims of Wexford County as a site for a third cement factory. I am to state that it will be realized that various technical considerations, such as the suitability and sufficiency of raw materials, water supplies, rail, road and river connections etc. enter into the question of the determination of the site of a cement factory, and these are matters primarily for the operating company. It is understood that the company, Messrs. Cement Ltd., have been investigating the possibilities of a number of districts, including County Wexford, with a view to the selection of the most advantageous site for the proposed factory, but the stage has not yet been reached at which a decision in the matter can be taken. Your Council may rest assured, however, that before a decision is arrived at the claims

of County Wexford will be fully considered."

The Secretary stated he had not received reply to the resolution forwarded in this matter to Cement Ltd.

MOTOR TAX ON RAILWAY LORRIES

Under date 29th April, 1938, the following was read from the Manager, Great Southern Railways, in connection with the above:-

"Your letter of 19th instant addressed to the Secretary of the Company forwarding the terms of a Resolution passed by the Wexford County Council regarding the above has been handed to me.

The tractors and trailers hired from the Company by your Council had, previous to hire, been attached to the Company's Waterford Depot, where they were taxed.

The equitable distribution of taxation of its motor fleet between the various Corporations and County Councils presents some difficulty to the Company, as vehicles taxed in one County have frequently to be hired to other County Councils. The practice generally adopted is to tax the vehicles in the Borough or County in which they are operating at the date of taxation. You can take it, therefore, that all vehicles operating in the County Wexford in January next will be taxed with your Council.

Apart from the Company's motor vehicles on hire to your Council, I am informed that in January last excise duty amounting to £180 was paid to your Council in respect of Railhead motor vehicles operating in County Wexford."

CELEBRATIONS OF 1798 INSURRECTION

In connection with the Celebrations in course of arrangement to commemorate the Rising of 1798, the following was read from Mr. James Wall, Hon. Secretary, '98 Commemoration Association, Buncloody Branch:-

"The Committee of above Branch have decided to erect a plaque in the wall of the Slaney Bridge at Bunclody, to commemorate the memory of the brave men who fell there in '98. They have instructed me to seek the necessary permission from your Council to carry out the project."

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr. Ronan, seconded by Mr. T. Redmond:-

"That the application of Bunclody Branch of 1798 Commemoration Committee, for erection of plaque at Bunclody Bridge to commemorate the memory of the insurgents who lost their lives at this Bridge in 1798, be agreed to, work to be carried out to the satisfaction of the County Surveyor."

Miss O'Ryan proposed and Mr. Colfer seconded the following resolution which was adopted:-

"That this Council will offer no objection to erection of plaque at Horetown, Taghmon, to commemorate the memory of the Insurgents who lost their lives at the place in 1798."

It was decided that this work be carried out to the satisfaction of the County Surveyor.

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

"That where applications are made for the erection of plaques or other methods to commemorate scenes of the Rising of 1798, the County Surveyor be empowered to approve of these applications provided agreement be forthcoming that the work will be carried out to his satisfaction."

ROCK DRILLERS - INCREASE OF WAGES

At the meeting of the County Council on the 11th April 1938, Messrs. Thomas Stafford, Ballyhine, Barntown; Patrick Doyle, Clohamon, Ferns (Smith); John Kinsella, Killowen, Kyle (Smith) and Nicholas Carroll, Killowen, Kyle,

engaged on County Council Rock Drilling Plant applied for an increase of 15/- in their wages.

Mr. Colfer at the above mentioned meeting gave the following notice of motion for consideration at the present meeting of the Council:-

"That the application of the four County Council employees engaged on rockdrilling plant for an increase of 15s. per week in their remuneration be favourably considered."

Mr. Colfer was about to move his motion when Miss O'Ryan mentioned that an increase of 15/- per week was too much.

The Chairman agreed.

Mr. Colfer then moved his motion as follows:-

"That the four men engaged at rock drilling, Messrs. Thomas Stafford, Patrick Doyle, John Kinsella and Nicholas Carroll, be granted an increase in their wages of 7s. 6d per week."

Mr. Keegan seconded.

The County Surveyor denied absolutely the statement in the men's application that they had to work during dinner hour. They also mentioned overtime, but for this they were paid on the usual overtime Schedule. He admitted their work was the hardest of all road employees. They were paid £3 per week, the same wages as the Engine Drivers. He was quite prepared to recommend 7s. 6d extra per week for the rock drillers, but the Smiths who sharpened the tools had, in his opinion, a very easy job, compared with the drill men. The Smith work in the County Council workshop was much more difficult and more arduous than that dealing with rock drilling tools.

Col. Quin suggested that the rock drillers, but not the Smiths should receive 7s. 6d increase per week.

The County Surveyor said he was afraid that this might cause jealousy and trouble, but the Chairman asked Mr. Colfer to accept Col. Quin's suggestion.

After some discussion Col. Quin proposed and the Chairman seconded the following amendment:-

"That an increase of 7s. 6d per week be granted to Thomas Stafford and Nicholas Carroll (Rock Drillers) and that no change be made in the wages of Patrick Doyle and John Kinsella, (Smiths) attending on the rock drillers.

The County Surveyor stated there were two other men concerned.

The Secretary pointed out that they could be dealt with subsequently, as applications from them had not been submitted to the Finance Committee.

After further discussion Col. Quin's amendment was put to the meeting and adopted nem. con.

PAYMENT URBAN COUNCIL DEMANDS

The following under date 5th May 1938 was read from Town Clerk, Enniscorthy:-

"Referring to your letter of the 20th ultimo relative to the Resolutions adopted at your County Council meeting in connection with the arrears due on foot of Demand I am directed to hand you the sum of £925 on account and to state that my Council have arranged to meet your Demand on each quarter day and to pay in addition the sum of £125 on account of arrears.

My Council have now made provision in their Estimate to meet these charges in future and if your County Council agree to my Council's proposal for the liquidation of their debt on these terms no further trouble will arise. My Council is of the opinion that the Department of Local Government will not agree to sanction the raising of a special loan to clear off the arrears, but the recommendation will be made to raise a loan in due course."

The Secretary stated that the following showed how Demands on Urban Councils stood at the moment:-

	<u>Urban Demands to</u> <u>31st March 1938.</u>			<u>Paid</u>			<u>Outstanding</u>		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Enniscorthy	3396.	4.	8	974.	4.	4d	2422.	0.	4
				28%			72%		
New Ross (Ordinary)	3193.	6.	6	2394.	19.	9	798.	6.	9
				75%			25%		
New Ross (Roads)	225.	0.	0	225.	0.	0	----		
Wexford	6876.	9.	5	3440.	0.	0	3436.	9.	5
				50%			50%		
	£13691.	0.	7	£7034.	4.	1	£6656.	16.	6
				51%			49%		

Mr. McCarthy said that Enniscorthy Urban Council could do no more than what they had done. They had paid a full year's demand within the year and had agreed to raise a special rate of 1/- to clear off the arrears.

Miss O'Ryan proposed the following resolution which was seconded by the Chairman and adopted:-

"That letter from Enniscorthy Urban Council as to payment of Demand of County Council be referred to the Finance Committee for consideration and which Committee is hereby empowered to deal generally with the payment of Demands by Urban Councils."

WAGES OF RELIEF WORKERS

Mr. Colfer submitted the following letter:-

"We, the undersigned unemployed relief workers at Burkestown, Ballycullane, condemn the action of the Local Government for reducing our pay by 2s. 6d per week. We, as married men, find it impossible to support our unfortunate wives and families. We hereby appeal to the Government to refund us the 2s. 6d which has been stopped on us. We also consider it very unfair and unjust to ask us to work for such a low rate of wages as 26 shillings per week. Hoping we shall be refunded the 2s. 6d without having to take further action. (Signed) James Flood, Peter Kehoe,

Patrick Hurley, John Furlong, Patrick Quirke, William Burke, Simon Parle, Patrick Neville, Phil Rochford, Thomas Finn, James Codd, John Whelan, Thomas Mallow, Patrick Rossiter, Patrick Kirwan, John Rochford."

Mr. Colfer mentioned that these men were working on a Relief Grant in Burkestown quarry.

Mr. O'Neill, Assistant Surveyor for the district, said the men were working on a Rural Relief Grant.

The County Surveyor mentioned that the men received only a half day's pay for the half holiday, Saturday, whereas the ordinary staff of the County Council were paid a full day's wages. Up to recently the men were not employed at all on Saturday and received no remuneration consequently for that day.

Mr. Corish asked how the wages of 26/- was made up.

The County Surveyor said that the men worked for five full days - 25/-, plus 2/6d for the half day. The cost of insurance to the men brought the wages down to 26/-. The Surveyors were now authorised to use their discretion in the matter and owing to this instruction the men would be paid in the ordinary way and at the ordinary County Council rate.

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

Letter under date 14th April 1938 from Department of Local Government and Public Health (F.36/38) transmitting copy of the Presidential Elections Act 1937 and Order thereunder and pointing out the steps to be taken by the Council in the event of an Election, was submitted.

ANALYST'S REPORT

The following analyses were made by County Analyst for Quarter ended 31st December 1937:-

Foods 263; Drugs 25. Total 288. Number adulterated 5 new milks; 1 Butter; 2 Olive Oils; 1 Camphorated Oil and 1 Castor Oil.

POISONS AND PHARMACY ACT LICENCES

Mr. Colfer proposed and Mr. Kelly seconded the following resolution which was adopted:-

"That Licences under Poisons and Pharmacy Act be issued to the following:-

New Licence:

Mary E. Dunne, Main Street, Ferns.

Renewals:

Manager, Boro Co-operative Society.

James J. Codd, 26 & 27 Court Street, Enniscorthy.

James S. Hennessy, South Street, New Ross.

Richard Breen, Commercial Quay, Wexford.

PROPOSALS FOR PAYMENTS

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr. Kelly seconded by Mr. Colfer:-

"That the several proposals for payment (including proposals for payment to Contractors for roads and works as appearing on Forms 22 as certified by County Surveyor) submitted to this meeting, be and the same are hereby confirmed and approved."

J. Allen

13th June '38

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WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL

SPECIAL MEETING - 23rd MAY, 1938

M I N U T E S

County Hall,
WEXFORD.

N. J. FRIZELLE,
Secretary County Council.

A special meeting of Wexford County Council was held in County Council Chamber, County Hall, Wexford, on 23rd May, 1938, for the purpose of considering report of Mr. A. Delap (Delap & Waller - Consulting Engineers, 16 Molesworth Street, Dublin) as to examination of Wexford Bridge, and the following notice of motion by Mr. Corish:-

"That, in view of the fact that Wexford Bridge is incapable of carrying present-day traffic a new bridge be constructed from Wexford old Courthouse to Ferrybank, the site of a former bridge."

Mr. D. Allen (Chairman County Council) presided, also, Messrs. J. J. Bowe, Patrick Colfer, Richard Corish, Christopher Culleton, Raymond Doyle, W. P. Keegan, John P. Kelly, William Kinsella, James Lawler, Thomas McCarthy, Sean Murphy, Sean O'Byrne, Miss N. O'Ryan, Col. R. P. Wemyss Quin, Michael Redmond, Thomas Redmond, Patrick Ronan and James E. Walsh.

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

The following report of Mr. Delap (which had been circulated to Councillors) was read:-

R E P O R T

- on -

W E X F O R D B R I D G E

61912-13.

Wexford New Bridge, as it is called on the map, was built in 1863 and is therefore 75 years old. It has 30 spans of 40 ft., 2 of 20 ft., and 2 of 25 ft. each, and one opening span of 50 ft. Total length between abutments of about 1340 feet. The piers, or bents, between these spans each consist of 8 piles in a single row across the line of the bridge, the middle 6 at 4 ft. centres are vertical, the outer piles Nos. 1 and 8 rake outwards at an angle of 12° to the vertical. The piles, vertical and raked, are tied together by upper and lower pairs of wales $12'' \times 16''$ and one pair of diagonals of $12'' \times 6''$ pitch pine. Each row of 8 piles is capped by a $14''$ square horizontal crosshead, and on this crosshead and directly over each pile rest the main longitudinal beams of the bridge; these beams are each 40 ft. long, nominally, $14''$ sq. really and generally about $13''$ to $13\frac{1}{2}''$ square. Each beam is strengthened by being trussed or stiffened with a W.I. tie rod $2\frac{1}{4}''$ dia. which runs parallel to the timber beam for its centre third and 2.75 ft. below its centre line.

The end of each timber beam rests in a C.I. shoe or saddle to which the tie bar is attached, the 2 shoes of 2 adjacent beams are coupled and form a saddle on the main crosshead of each of the piers. Resting on these longitudinal beams are C.I. buckle plates about $\frac{3}{8}''$ thick, and on the buckle plates is about 1 ft. thick of road material. The road material, the C.I. plates, the beam itself and the tie bar form the dead load which each beam must carry. The weight of the shoes, which are heavy, are assumed to be carried directly by the piers. The cast iron supports of the tie rods, and the transverse members which steady the whole, are ignored in adding up the dead load as they are troublesome to measure up and they are not necessary to prove the case.

The case is, that the bridge as designed is not fit for the load it carries.

The factor of safety, which is the allowance always made for possible faulty material, or faulty workmanship or our own ignorance, is usually 5 in cases of this sort; that is, for instance, where wrought iron is used that has a breaking strength of 25 tons per square inch, it is sound practice to use a factor of safety of 5 and a working stress of $\frac{25}{5} = 5$ tons per square inch.

No engineer with a sense of responsibility will cut down his factor of safety, it is a sacred matter on which the safety of the public depends.

In Wexford bridge, as shown by the figures to be submitted, the factor of safety has been cut down to an alarming extent, and there is worse still to come. At an early stage of this investigation it became clear that of the two parts which together go to make up each beam, viz., timber and tie rod, the timber is amply strong, while the tie rod is not nearly strong enough.

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The bridge as designed is not strong enough to carry its own weight without encroaching on its factor of safety, a thing no responsible engineer will do. Besides its own weight, 4 ton loads use it under the present restrictions, this load puts a stress on the bridge 50% beyond the safety point.

All this is on the assumption that the bridge is as it was when it was first put up 75 years ago. This is far from being the case. Much of the timber is patched and rotten, but the timber is several times larger than the original loads call for and it is not the timber that will first fail.

The tie rods of wrought iron $2\frac{1}{4}$ " dia. which give strength and stiffness to each beam were always too light for their job even when full $2\frac{1}{4}$ " dia. They have rusted badly and their strength is thus reduced in a number of places to under 2" dia. in one to $1\frac{3}{4}$ ", and in one case the tie rod is rusted through and hangs under the bridge useless. In one case, at least, the C.I. shoe to which the tie rod is secured is broken across and this tie rod is useless.

There is much more that could be said about the condition of the bridge, but nothing to modify what this report is intended to convey, viz., that the bridge - always too light for any traffic - has become very dangerous; the action of wind and weather has cut down the margin of safety, which was always too small, to a point where it must soon vanish, and at the same time the increasing weight and speed of modern traffic all tend to still further narrow the margin on which the lives of the public depend.

With a full sense of the inconvenience this must cause to the users of the bridge, the bridge must be closed to everything of more than one ton in weight on two wheels, or two tons on four wheels, and these must not move at more than walking pace, and, further, the bridge must be inspected every day for signs of failure by a reasonable individual who will be instructed to report daily to the Council through their Surveyor.

Certain things have been referred to, such as a broken tie rod and broken or cracked shoes - these should be replaced at once, unless it is decided to shut the bridge to all wheeled traffic.

This report has been written in haste and much has been omitted because the writer considered the matter was of such importance that it should be brought before the Council with the least possible delay.

Should anything in this require further explanation, the writer will be glad to attend and answer any questions.

The following extract from Minutes of Finance Committee of 13th May 1938 was read:-

"The County Surveyor stated that on receipt of this report he had interviewed County Secretary and County Solicitor as to the powers which the County Council had to restrict traffic on this bridge and in view of the serious statements in the report he (County Surveyor) took it on himself to fence off two spans which were referred to as defective. As regards weight, he arranged to have notices put up on the bridge that the maximum load would be 2 tons (all in) which was a "cut" of two tons in the present weight. He had fenced off both approaches leaving a ten foot gap, had also restricted vehicular speed to a maximum of five miles and had notified the Bus Office that their vehicles could no longer cross the bridge.

The Chairman said the Finance Committee would approve of the steps taken in the matter by the County Surveyor, and asked Mr. Delap who was in attendance, if the bridge would be worth repairing.

Mr. Delap replied in the negative. This was not an off-hand opinion, but was borne out by his close examination. They would not - in the ordinary course - erect a timber bridge on the site which would be capable of carrying modern traffic and to erect a grand new bridge of modern constructional materials on the present rotten structure would be waste of money. The present bridge had to bear two loads (1) the dead load which was the weight of the bridge itself, and (2) the live load, viz., vehicles, passengers, etc., passing over it. The dead load even produced a strain which was undesirable, but when added to the live load the strain was much greater than was legitimate on the standard engineering figures universally accepted. They were cutting the margin of safety in the

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design of the bridge by half and it could not stand up to that. No bridge would now be erected in accordance with the plans of this bridge. The only reason which prevented him from telegraphing to have the bridge closed completely was because it had been so carefully and constantly looked after. He admitted that by leaving it open even to light traffic they were taking a certain risk but as it would be watched day and night this risk would be greatly minimised.

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Miss O'Ryan seconded by Mr. Kelly:-

"That we approve of the action of the County Surveyor as regards restriction of traffic etc. on Wexford Bridge and, in view of the serious nature of the report of Mr. Delap we empower the County Surveyor to close this Wexford Bridge to all traffic should the occasion arise. Any person who brings traffic over and above the regulations published by the County Surveyor will be prosecuted. That the County Surveyor be further empowered to employ day and night watchmen at the structure to ensure the safety of the public. And we also empower him to take such further action in this matter as he may consider necessary."

The Chairman said that as regards alternate route to Wexford the Ballyboggan road should be strengthened to carry the traffic which was up to the present, utilising Wexford Bridge.

The County Surveyor said he had met heavy lorries travelling what would be the alternate road - Kylecross to Castlebridge - which would be about 4 miles.

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

"That County Surveyor be instructed to put Ballyboggan road - Kyle Cross to Castlebridge - into such a condition of repair as will allow of its use by modern traffic. That he apply to the Department of Local Government and Public

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Health for a State contribution to enable suitable repair to this road being carried out.

That a special meeting of the County Council be held on 23rd May, 1938, at 2.15 p.m. for consideration of Mr. Delap's report and of notice of motion by Mr. Corish as regards erection of new bridge.

That copy of Mr. Delap's report be furnished County Councillors with agenda paper for above meeting."

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of the Chairman seconded by Miss O'Ryan:-

"That extract from Minutes of Finance Committee meeting of 13th May 1938 relative to Wexford Bridge submitted to this meeting be and the same is hereby confirmed and approved."

In reply to Mr. Kinsella the County Surveyor said he had no objection to the Bus service using the alternate route Kyle Cross - Castlebridge and was prepared to give a permit to that effect. If they applied to the Ministry for approval he would not oppose the application.

The Chairman said he would be glad if Councillors would put forward any matter they believed should arise out of report of Mr. Delap and put any questions which occurred to them to Mr. Delap in order to elicit the fullest information.

Miss O'Ryan asked if the tie rods could be repaired, as it appeared from the report the timber was all right, and able to carry ordinary traffic without danger.

The County Surveyor said that to replace the defective tie rods the whole structure should be dismantled. A new beam without any work on it would cost about £15 and he believed it was more expensive to put in tie rods than to put in a new beam.

Mr. Delap said the tie rods could not be replaced.

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In the first place, the tie rods are an essential part of the beam. The beam itself will not carry the load without the tie rod, and the tie rod that was in the thing the first day was not a match for the timber. It was less than a fourth of the strength of the timber. The tie rods are anchored by beautifully designed castings at the end, into which the beams sit, and these are bored out for the tie rods of the particular size. The shoe and the beam and the tie rod are all vital parts of the bridge. You can't alter any one of them without altering the whole lot. The timber was strong enough for its share of the work but the tie rods were not strong enough to aid the beams. The tie rods were never right. Steel tie rods would increase the strength.

Mr. Murphy referred to references in the report as to "design of the bridge not being fit for the load" and that "as designed the bridge was not strong enough to carry its own - dead - load without encroaching on the factor of safety". All this was on the assumption that the bridge was as designed 75 years ago and as if it had never carried present day ordinary traffic.

In answer to Mr. Keegan, Mr. Delap said he did not know if the piles were sound or defective. The top was so bad it was not worth while bothering about the piles.

The County Surveyor said that as the piles were in alignment it could be assumed they were sound under water.

Col. Quin suggested that the present tie rods of $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches should be replaced by tie rods of 5 or 6 inches.

Mr. Delap said there were 480 shoes to be dealt with and it would be a big and expensive job to replace these. And even if the new tie rods were of steel they could not bring the bridge up to the weight of modern traffic.

Mr. Culleton believed it would be waste of money to

replace the tie rods for the extra amount of strength they would secure.

Mr. Delap said he gathered the Council would like to repair the bridge for at least about $2\frac{1}{2}$ years during which a new bridge would be in course of construction as the complete closing of the bridge for this period could not be contemplated. He believed if the Council desired to carry out sufficient repairs to extend the life of the bridge to say ten years the expenditure would be so high that the proposal would have to be ruled out. He was prepared to furnish estimates for both periods. Probably the partial reconstruction of the bridge for a further life of ten years to carry light loads would run to £20,000 or £30,000 after which they would have to build a new bridge.

The Chairman said that what the Council desired to know was the present condition of the bridge.

Mr. Delap said the bridge was not safe enough to carry itself; it was holding together from sheer habit.

Mr. Doyle contended that it would be necessary to have the services of a diver to present a really accurate report of the condition of the structure; otherwise, there would be obscurity as to its exact condition. Could they take it that the fact of the piles being in alignment presented absolute proof of their soundness under water?

The County Surveyor said that as a result of inspection in 1911 by Mr. Ryan, Engineer, Dublin, the piles were found to be in good condition. As they were in perfect alignment from end to end, it could be assumed so far as he knew they were sound; there might, of course, be a certain amount of wear from sand.

Mr. Kinsella said that to spend £30,000 as estimated by Mr. Delap to extend the life of the bridge for ten years would be throwing money away.

Mr. Delap said that the question of what the bridge was like under water was no concern of his as at the time of his inspection he found the timber better than he expected and the tie rods in a terrible state making the bridge dangerous.

Mr. Doyle held it was absolutely necessary to have the portion of the bridge under water examined by a diver before the Council committed themselves to anything. It was 27 years since the substructure was examined.

Mr. Keegan said when they arranged for a report as to the condition of the bridge he believed the Council considered this report would cover the entire structure, and not the superstructure only. For the money it cost he could not regard the report as satisfactory.

In reply to Col. Quin, Mr. Delap said it was possible to put a new "top" on the bridge but at very heavy expenditure and to his mind prohibitive expenditure for the value received. A lot of timber is rotten and when he referred to the fact that the timber was amply strong he meant taking it as a whole.

Miss O'Ryan said that the bridge was capable of such repair as would allow it to carry the traffic which had utilised it to the present. She thought the County Surveyor or some member of the Survey Staff should have from time to time seen any actual defects in shoes or the rods. If this had been done there would not have been the necessity to take measures to inform the public they were crossing the bridge at their own risk. If the faulty shoes and tie rods had been replaced the bridge traffic, as at present, could have gone on. In her opinion, a good case for the repair of the bridge to last this generation could be made.

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The County Surveyor said when repairs had been completed last year it was found some tie rods were defective. These and some shoes had been repaired. As all defects became apparent they were attended to.

Miss O'Ryan said if the defective rods and shoes had been looked after by inspection from time to time they would not have the pannicky report now under consideration.

The County Surveyor said he could not replace the rods and shoes at any earlier period. Since he came to the County he had been continually making good any defect found in the bridge.

Miss O'Ryan held that if the tie rods referred to by Mr. Delap had been made good prior to his examination they would not have the present pannicky report.

Mr. Corish was of opinion that their whole discussion should centre round the opinion of Mr. Delap that the bridge was dangerous.

Mr. Culleton pointed out that bits of patch work repair here and there would not put the bridge into a satisfactory condition. The structure would have to be completely stripped and any repairs to make the bridge safe - even to a limited degree - could be carried out only at a prohibitive cost.

Mr. Walsh said that as the report of Mr. Delap dealt with the superstructure only it was not sufficient to allow the Council to arrive at a proper decision. He feared they were called together on a wild goose chase as they understood they were to have a report covering the entire structure.

The Chairman pointed out that the margin of safety dealt with the lowest possible minimum load the bridge could carry.

Mr. Delap said they had no right to encroach on the

factor of safety universally accepted everywhere.

The County Surveyor said in reply to query by Mr. Corish that the bridge could be sufficiently strengthened to allow of it taking four tons, all in.

The following under date 21st May 1938 was read from the Chairman, Wexford Development Association:-

'A meeting of the Wexford Development Association was held in the Chamber of Commerce, Wexford, on the 20th instant and I was asked to forward the following resolution to you for the consideration of the Wexford County Council:-

"That we, the members of the Wexford Development Association, desire to draw the attention of the Wexford County Council to the serious position brought about by the discontinuance of the Bus Service between Kilmuckridge, Blackwater, Curracloe &c. and Wexford, due to the closing of Wexford Bridge to heavy motor traffic. A very noticeable decline in trade has taken place since the cessation of the service, which in our opinion constitutes a serious menace to the trade and prosperity of our town and we respectfully ask the County Council to instruct their officials in consultation with the representatives of the G.S.R. Bus Service to provide, at the earliest possible time, an alternative route by which the district at present cut off, may be served by motor transport as heretofore."

It was decided, on the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Miss O'Ryan, to furnish the Development Association with copy of recommendation of Finance Committee of 13th May 1938 directing the County Surveyor to put the alternative route - Kyle Cross-Castlebridge - into a suitable condition of repair to carry the traffic, which up to now had utilised Wexford Bridge route.

In answer to Mr. Keegan, the County Surveyor said he believed that within the last two years the bridge had

carried loads of eight to ten tons.

Mr. Keegan held this had a great deal to do with bringing about the present situation.

Col. Quin was of opinion that if the bridge was repaired and a low speed limit imposed it would be safe for the present.

The County Surveyor said to strengthen the bridge to carry four tons all in would cost between £9,000 and £10,000.

The Chairman believed the weight after repair should run to at least five tons.

Mr. Culleton held that after the Council had spent £10,000 or £12,000 on the repairs referred to that day the public would not be satisfied and rightly so.

X Mr. Corish then moved the following motion standing in his name:-

"That, in view of the fact that Wexford Bridge is incapable of carrying present-day traffic, a new bridge be constructed from Wexford Old Courthouse to Ferrybank, the site of a former bridge."

He pointed out it was easy to take extracts from Mr. Delap's report and read into them certain meanings, but, he contended the report should be considered as a whole. As for the statement that the tie rods and shoes etc. could be repaired at a cost of £10,000 the cost might be considerably more when the bridge was stripped and probably other matters needing repair discovered. He considered the suggestion to patch up the bridge very bad finance and only putting off the evil day at enormous cost. If the repaired bridge was going to last only ten years it would be difficult to get a Bank to give a loan for ten years, because that period was a problematical one. The annual repayment of a loan for ten years would be almost half the annual

cost of repayment of a loan for 35 years for the cost of a new bridge. When the repairs were finished no engineer could venture to give the County Council a lease of the life of the bridge. It would be a jerry-built structure at the best. After money was expended on repairs Mr. Delap had said very definitely that the bridge would not be equal to modern traffic and it would be merely placed in the position that the County Council thought it was in up to a short time ago. It was not fair to leave a town like Wexford, which was dependent for a good deal of its trade on the area which the bridge led to, depending on such a bridge. If the proposed new bridge cost £100,000 the County Council could look forward to receiving one-third of the cost as a free grant from the Government. That was the usual proportion given to local authorities for such work. Assuming they got the loan for the proposed bridge repayable in 35 years, under the same conditions as the Local Loans Fund gave, the cost of repayment to the ratepayers would be only $2\frac{1}{3}$ d in the £. At a previous meeting he gave in detail the incidence of the rate on various classes of ratepayers and the amount was very small. The few very large ratepayers in the County would not, he suggested, grumble at the money they would have to pay for the bridge. If the loan was for 40 years it would be a little over 2d and for 50 years the rate would be only 2d in the £ plus £102. In view of all the circumstances and the fact that Wexford town had been very badly hit for a number of years by the state of Wexford bridge, he would ask the County Council to pass his proposition. Col. Quin suggested that the bridge was in its present state because the County Council officials did not prevent certain traffic from passing over it. If it was necessary to have a Guard on the bridge to prevent traffic passing over at a certain speed it was a very precarious

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position for the people of Wexford to occupy from the point of view of trade. It would cost several thousand pounds to repay the loan necessary to make the present bridge right for ten years and at the end of that ten years the Council would have to undertake the building of a new bridge and undertake the payment of £3,904 a year for the purpose for 35 years. The present bridge was extremely dangerous and the position was extremely serious from the point of view of the County generally.

Mr. Kelly seconded the proposal.

Mr. Kinsella said if the Wexford Harbour project was not going ahead the County Council might put some of the money voted for it into a new bridge.

Mr. Corish replied that the Government were not in agreement with the harbour scheme of the Harbour Board, and that Board had postponed consideration of the scheme, but were to get a dredger to keep the harbour clear.

Mr. T. Redmond said the members should have a clear idea that the quarter of a million they voted for the harbour project would be scrapped before they decided to build a new bridge.

Chairman - You may reasonably assume that when the Government did not approve of the harbour scheme it will not go on because it was contingent on the Government putting up one-third of the cost. If a bridge was required they would have to provide for it irrespective of any other scheme.

In reply to Col. Quin the Chairman said it was open to the Council to rescind the resolution agreeing to contribute to the improvement of Wexford Harbour.

Mr. Doyle said if engineers could satisfy the Council that the bridge could be repaired at a reasonable figure to give it an extended life of ten years, owing to the

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condition of the ratepayers and the country, the people according to present prospects, would then be in a better position to face the expenditure for a new bridge.

Miss O'Ryan said the Council could not take a vote on the question of the bridge without having before them an estimate of the cost of repairs to the present bridge. If a new bridge is required, every member of the Council would vote for it but if the old bridge could be repaired to serve during the present generation, she thought the members would agree to repair it and leave the erection of the new bridge over for some time. Even with repairs the bridge could not carry all kinds of modern traffic; but it would carry the traffic it had been carrying up to the present and a little more. She thought in that case the people "over the water", as the area was called, would not have a big grievance. If the lighter traffic such as private cars could cross, and if the heavy lorry traffic had to take an alternative route it would not be a very big inconvenience and against that these people could say they had not to pay for a new bridge. She suggested the Council ask for particulars of the cost of the repairs and the probable life of the repaired bridge and the possible cost of the new bridge.

Mr. Keegan asked if any guarantee could be given that with the new tie-bars the bridge could carry a five ton bus. That would cater for a lot of people. The alternative route would cater for people wanting to carry 5 to 10 tons, and they were only five or six in the whole County.

The County Surveyor said that the £10,000 would only replace the ties but beams would have to be replaced.

Chairman - They are the ordinary day-to-day wear.

County Surveyor - If you don't put them in when you are doing the ties you would have to open up the whole lot

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again. The beams cost £15 each, without any work on them. There are 240 of them. Nobody contemplated repairing the bridge to carry 10 tons. Possibly five tons would be the maximum. I would be inclined to stick to four tons, but $4\frac{1}{2}$ tons might be allowed if it covered a 26 seater bus.

After further discussion the Chairman proposed the following which was seconded by Col. Quin:-

"That the County Surveyor be directed to prepare Estimate as to the cost of repairs to existing Wexford Bridge."

Proposing his motion the Chairman said after repair they did not expect the bridge to carry 9 or 10 tons. He did not think the New Ross bridge or many of the other bridges in the County could carry that. It would be sound policy for the Council to spend £10,000 on the bridge to repair it to carry ordinary traffic. He had come to the conclusion that if Mr. Barry had replaced the bad tie-rods last year before Mr. Delap examined the bridge they would not have had the alarming report Mr. Delap had given them because there would not have been any reason for it.

Mr. Delap - I dissent from that.

The Chairman said the bridge had carried whatever traffic was going over it. He denied that Wexford town had been badly hit by the state of the bridge except during the past fortnight when the buses did not run. It was not hit before that time. The repayment of the £10,000 on a 35 years' loan from Local Loans Fund would be £592 per annum and if they could get 20 years' service from the bridge he contended this would be good value. The cost of a new bridge after allowing for a $33\frac{1}{3}\%$ contribution from the Government would be for 30 years £4172 per annum and for 35 years £3904 per annum. The County Surveyor put in beams every time they were required and there was nothing in Mr. Delap's report to prove there is anything wrong with

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them. They could provide 66 new beams for £1000.

Referring to loans the Chairman said that this County and other Counties were probably at the peak period of this generation for housing activities. In Wexford they were building hundreds of houses, and they had a number of sewerage and waterworks schemes and were building four new hospitals. They had to deal with coming schemes for a new County Hospital, which would cost a minimum of £120,000 at present building prices, and the County would have to be responsible for £40,000 of that, ^{loan for} /which would have to be raised during the coming year. There were 20 or 25 villages that required sewerage and water schemes at £1,000 each within the next 10 years. If they were going to raise another £70,000 for a new bridge, he had been told, although he did not know if it was true that they would need an Act of Parliament to enable them to do so.

Mr. Corish disagreed with that statement.

The Chairman said very likely when the building boom was over materials would be cheaper and the Council might be able in twenty years' time to erect a new bridge at considerably less than the present estimated figure of £100,000.

In reply to Col. Quin Mr. Delap said that the Government of Eire accepted the figures of the Ministry of Transport for a definition of "modern" traffic, viz., 11 tons per wheel.

Chairman - It can be assumed that modern traffic in this country is up to 12 tons. There are very few heavier loads on the roads here.

Mr. Delap said the Ministry of Transport loading allows 50 per cent off for impact caused by speed.

In reply to Mr. Corish the Secretary said that the amount outstanding on County Council Loans and the amount

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of Loans sanctioned but not received was £79,497. The amount outstanding on the ordinary loans for Mental Hospital Committee was £6276 and for the new improvement scheme £14075.

The following statement gave the indebtedness of County Wexford Board of Health and County Wexford Board of Assistance:-

Wexford Board of Health

Due to Borrowers 31-3-38	£442734
Received since	<u>23100</u>
	£465834
Loans for houses approved by Co. Council -	
1000 houses -	£250000
Village Schemes -	<u>160000</u>
	410000
Amount received which is included in above figure	<u>106600</u>
	£303400
	<u>£769234</u>
Water Supplies & Sewerage Schemes -	
Amounts approved but not yet received:	
Ferns Water Supply (balance)	£170
Bunclody Water Supply (balance)	812
Gorey-Courtown Water Supply	25580
Ballindaggin Water Supply	720
Oylegate Water Supply	3400
Taghmon Water Supply	3376
Gorey Sewerage Scheme	<u>9200</u>
	<u>£43258</u>

Board of Assistance

Outstanding 31-3-'38	£8,367
Balances due -	660

Amounts approved of but not yet received:-

Completion new Hospitals -	£20,000	
Provision new Dispensaries -	13,000	
Dispy. Residence at Killenagh -	2,000	
Dispy. Residence at Killanne -	<u>2,000</u>	37,000
New Co. Hospital (Est.)		<u>120,000</u>
		£166,027

Summary:

Wexford Board of Health as above:	£769,234
do.	43,258
	<u>166,027</u>
	£978,519.

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Mr. Corish said that if the County Surveyor would say that in his opinion the repaired bridge would carry reasonable traffic he would not insist on the proposition to spend £100,000 on a new bridge. He hoped the repairs would be done in quick time if they decided to carry them out and that there should be some finality about the matter at the next meeting. It was a very serious matter and he would agree to adjourn his proposition to the next meeting.

The County Surveyor said it would not be possible to provide a detailed report and a hard and fast estimate by next meeting of the Council. No one would be prepared to give a considered estimate until after he had seen the bridge completely stripped.

The Chairman's motion to obtain report and estimate from County Surveyor was then put and passed, further consideration of Mr. Corish's motion being adjourned until the annual meeting of the Council on 27th June.

ANNUAL LEAVE COUNTY MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

The following resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr. Colfer seconded by Mr. Culleton:-

"That the application of County Medical Officer of Health (Dr. C. Bastible) for his annual leave from 1st to 30th June (inclusive) be agreed to."

The Department of Local Government and Public Health wrote under date 21st May 1938 (P.H.15392/38 Loch Garman) that the Minister had approved of the annual leave for the period.