

Special meeting - 13th January 1908.

A special meeting of the County Council, was held in the Council Chamber, Courthouse, Wexford, on 13th January 1908; for the purpose of considering the adoption of a series of resolutions submitted by a committee appointed by the Department of Agriculture & Technical Instruction, in connection with the question of afforestation.

Present: - Mr. M. A. Ennis, Vice-Chairman, presiding.
Other councillors: - Messrs J. Bolger, J. Asple, M. Browne, M. Doyle, John J. Kehoe, E. Hore, James Codd, and John Bolger.

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

Under date 4th January, the following letter was read from the Secretary of the Departmental Committee on Irish Forestry: -

"I am directed by the Departmental Committee on Irish Forestry to acquaint you for the information of your Council that at a conference of the Chairmen & Vice-Chairman of the Irish County Councils held in Dublin on the 2nd instant, the accompanying resolutions were unanimously adopted.

At the conference in question it was decided to ask each County Council separately to consider the afore-mentioned resolutions, and to have the result of their deliberations furnished to me for the information of the Committee - at as early a date as practicable during the present month. It was the opinion of the conference that in the case of Councils which were not holding an ordinary meeting during the month, the Chairman might consider the desirability of summoning special meetings. It was also decided at the conference that a copy of the resolutions in question, and of the enclosed summary of the proceedings, should be sent to all the members of the County Council prior to their meeting. I have accordingly been instructed to forward to you the

accompanying supply of these documents, and to request you to transmit a copy of both to each member when summoning the meeting of your council at which the resolutions will be considered.

I shall be much obliged if you will let me know as soon as practicable the date of the meeting of your council, and I shall be glad if, subsequently, you will transmit to me with the least possible delay the decisions arrived at.

I am to add that the matter is one of considerable urgency as the committee are desirous of presenting their Report at as early a date as practicable.

I am forwarding a copy of the enclosed documents to the chairman and vice chairman of your council.

A copy of minute appointing the committee is sent herewith."

The following were the resolutions which had been forwarded by the committee:-

"That in our opinion, it is a matter of urgent public importance that measures should be taken by the State for the preservation of the existing forest areas in Ireland, for the acquisition of land suitable for plantation, and for the development, generally, of a systematic scheme of national afforestation."

"That the county councils are the proper authorities to be entrusted with the management of the smaller local woods within their counties which are passing from the hands of private owners, and in our opinion the county council, being given the requisite facilities in respect of loans under the Land Acts for the acquisition of land, etc., and in respect of expert advice and supervision from a central authority, should be prepared to undertake the custody of such woods and to work them for the benefit of the county."

"That no scheme of afforestation can be effectual unless compulsory powers are conferred for the acquisition of lands suitable for the purpose, and of grazing or other

rights affecting same."

The chairman who attended the conference of the Forestry Committee with the chairman and vice-chairman of the county councils, at which the resolutions set out above, were adopted, explained what occurred there.

After a short discussion, Mr. Hore proposed and Mr. Browne seconded the adoption of the resolutions.

The motion on being put to the meeting was adopted unanimously.

W. H. Morris

11. 2. 1908