

NORTH TIPPERARY AGRICULTURAL COMMITTEE.

The monthly meeting of the North Tipperary Committee of Agriculture was held in the Court-house, Roscrea, on Thursday. Mr. L. S. Mahor, J.P., presided, and there were also present—Messrs A. O'Meara, M.C.C., and C. N. Nagle, M.C.C.

A letter was read from the Department stating that the import of hay and straw from England and Scotland was prohibited.

The Department also wrote that they had no money available for the purpose of giving loans for the purchase of fruit trees.

The Department further wrote giving notice of an egg-laying competition for 1915-16, and asking that the instructress find persons with suitable birds.

Chairman—It appears that the hens are reserving their energies at present. (laughter).

In another letter on the subject of poultry the Department said that Mrs. McGrath, Nenagh, who had a turkey station, refused to change the bird after the regular period, and they would have to strike out her name.

The Secretary said that the rule was that after two consecutive years the bird should be changed, but as the bird was a very good one Mrs. McGrath did not like to let it go. He had, however, got a letter from her since stating that she was agreeable to the proposed change.

A circular was read from the Department stating that in many places the Instructors' travelling expenses exceeded the amounts allocated for the purpose, and they would not sanction it in future. They now suggested the system of doing districts in separate circuits, a certain time to be spent in each.

Chairman—Does this apply to us?

Secretary—No, it is a circular. I'll take care to warn our instructors about the expenses.

Mr. Nagle—When you are at the wheel things will be all right.

Secretary—There is one important matter, and that is about the instructors staying on certain circuits.

Mr. O'Meara—We do not want that.

Chairman—Oh, we did.

Secretary—It is not easy to do it sometimes. For instance, Miss Ruane has a class in Loughmore at present, and she stays in Templemore, and if she had a class in Borrisokane she would, of course, stay there.

Mr. Nagle said that a married man like Mr. Bracken could not be removing about like that.

The Secretary said that if a district like Thurles was being worked he should stay there according to the system. He was not doing that, but he arranged as much work as possible, and then stayed there for a day.

Mr. Nagle said they could not expect Mr. Bracken to be running about like that.

The following resolution was approved of, and unanimously adopted:—"That this meeting views with deep concern the recent action of the Treasury, which has led to the stoppage of the Board of Works loans for agricultural improvements. These loans are now urgently needed more than ever, because of the late transfer of land purchase to farmers throughout the country. Many farmers who were formerly unable to obtain loans in consequence of their low valuations, have now become qualified through the purchase of their holdings, Land Purchase having raised borrowing powers to the limit of five times the Poor Law valuation of a holding, instead of three times, as formerly. To stop these loans just when they have been placed within the grasp of the small holder—who obviously needs them most—is little short of a calamity."