

Galway County Libraries.

A chara,

Owing to a County Council Visiting Committee meeting in Tuam on Saturday next, the meeting of the County Libraries Committee has been postponed until Saturday week next, the 9th. day of December.

Is mise,
S.J. Maguire,
County Librarian.

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF A QUARTERLY MEETING
HELD ON SATURDAY, THE 3rd DAY OF FEBRUARY, 1951.

Present : Alderman Miss M. A. Ashe, Co.C. ; County Councillor M. Carty, N.T. ; County Councillor J. J. Cunningham, N.T. ; Sean Donnellan, N.T. ; County Councillor Sean Glynn ; J. Hoban, N.T. ; County Councillor T. King ; Deputy and County Councillor M. F. Kitt, N.T. ; the Reverend M. McDonough, S.T.L., B.A. ; County Councillor J. McElhiney ; F. M. Mullin, N.T. ; Councillor J. A. O'Connell ; Tadg O'Shea, N.T. ; and County Councillor J. J. Ruane.

Apology : Intimation of his inability to attend was received from Councillor James O'Connor.

Chairman of the Meeting : County Councillor J. J. Cunningham, N.T., Vice-Chairman.

209. Election of Chairman for the Year 1950-1951 :

It was proposed by Alderman Miss M. A. Ashe, seconded by County Councillor J. J. Cunningham, and
RESOLVED—That the Very Reverend P. Canon Glynn, B.A., be elected Chairman of the Committee for the year 1950-1951.

210. Election of Vice-Chairman for the Year 1950-1951 :

It was proposed by Deputy and County Councillor M. F. Kitt, seconded by County Councillor M. Carty, and
RESOLVED—That County Councillor J. J. Cunningham, N.T., be elected Vice-Chairman for the year 1950-1951.

211. Minutes of the Last Meeting :

RESOLVED—That the Minutes of the last meeting, circulated each member, be taken as read ; and that they be signed.

212. Donations :

RESOLVED—That the Committee's thanks be tendered the following donors :—

Donor :	Donation :
E.C.A.	The New York Times and The New York Herald Tribune.
Royal Dublin Society	List of Accessions for 1950.
Belfast Public Libraries	Annual Report, 1949-'50.
Cork County Library	Annual Report, 1949-'50.
Donegal Historical Society	Journal of the Donegal His- torical Society, 1950.
Portumna Development Company...	Portumna Review, Christ- mas, 1950.

Patrick Glynn
28 Feb 1951

- Philips (Ireland), Ltd., Dublin ... Philips Technical Review, November, 1950.
- Department of External Affairs ... Ireland: An Introduction to her History, etc.
- Irish Tourist Association ... Introducing Ireland.
213. Library Association of Ireland—Annual Conference, Galway, 1950 :

RESOLVED—That the report of the County Librarian on the Annual Conference of the Library Association of Ireland, held at the University College, Galway, be approved.

214. Branch Library at Woodford :

County Councillor M. Carty moved a Notice of Motion : That a Branch Library be established at Woodford. It was seconded by Deputy and County Councillor M. F. Kitt, and

RESOLVED—That a Branch Library be established at Woodford.

215. Reports :

It was proposed by County Councillor J. McElhiney, seconded by County Councillor J. J. Ruane, and

RESOLVED—That the County Librarian's Reports be approved :—

The official statement from the Publishers' Association conveyed through the Library Association, that book prices are likely to rise from ten to twenty per cent during the coming year, has come as a shock to me, as also to other librarians. While I knew that a rise in price was inevitable I did not anticipate that the rise would be so high. One has known that book prices were bound to rise with paper costs nine times as much as the cost in 1938, and printing four times as much. Casing of books has at least doubled in cost. One must shudder apprehensively at all this ballooning of prices, but books are, however, one of the few commodities that have not kept pace with others on the price index. We all know that the days of the 7s. 6d. novel and the 3s. 6d. cheap reprint are over. I do not, nevertheless, view this extra expenditure in a light-hearted manner. When I buy books I am anxious to get the most for the Committee's money. This increase will mean, therefore, a quicker rejection of the shoddy makeshifts that are being still offered by publishers, and it will also be necessary to scrutinise more closely the value of a book as literature or information. A further review of the fiction question is clearly indicated.

No co-ordination exists in the publishing world today. Too many books are published, and many of them are unnecessary. The tendency of making many pieces of "book-making," of unwanted anthologies and symposia, of duplication of subjects, of publishers rushing into a "buyers'" market, is obvious. Undue optimism seems to be the keynote. The members of the book

trade have long been trying to bring about some co-ordination of publishing effort before the cut-throat competition noticeable in the United States of America gains strength in these islands, resulting in a down grading of quality with an up-grading of price.

Until comparatively recently the rural areas, on the whole, showed quite a good taste in literature as compared with the towns. Now, however, little difference exists in the nature of the demand as between town and country—both show a decided inclination for more fiction.

The Local Government Auditor drew my attention some time ago to the necessity of revising the bye-laws. As they now read they do not give all the protection desired. I would suggest that you authorise me to obtain a set of model bye-laws used in other libraries and submit the model to the County Manager.

The problems that arise through the use of the County Library Headquarters as a city library continue. Adequate headquarters space is badly needed, and the staff while labouring under the handicap of an overcrowded headquarters are doing great things to produce results.

The Galway Reader, Vol. 3, Nos. 1 and 2, was published in November last. No. 3 of Vol. 3 is now in the hands of the printer and is due for publication in May next.

The Branch Library in Glenamaddy came into operation on the 1st December last. There are 106 registered readers and 517 volumes have been issued. Owing to the railway strike only half of the stock of books—800 volumes—has been delivered to the Branch.

21,391 books for home reading were issued at headquarters ; 5,568 at Ballinasloe ; 4,821 at Loughrea ; 5,102 at Tuam ; 2,730 at Portumna ; and 10,911 at schools and village centres, making a total issue of 50,523 for the quarter ended the 31st December, 1950.

216. Revision of Bye-laws :

RESOLVED—That the County Librarian be authorised to obtain a set of model bye-laws and to submit the model to the County Manager.

217. Temporary Provision for a Reference Library :

RESOLVED—That the County Librarian be authorised to ask the County Manager if it be possible to obtain a room in the Town Hall or in the County Buildings for use as a temporary reference library, as such a provision would help in a small way to ease the congestion at the County Library Headquarters.

218. Photostats of Old Galway Newspapers :

RESOLVED—That the County Librarian be authorised to seek the help of the County Manager in obtaining photostats of old

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Galway County Council
(COUNTY LIBRARIES DEPARTMENT)

MINUTES
OF THE PROCEEDINGS

OF A

Quarterly Meeting

HELD ON

Saturday, 3rd day of March

1951.

Athlone Printing Works Co. Ltd. 2451/51

Patrick Glynn
28/3/57

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE TWENTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING, HELD ON SATURDAY, THE 28th DAY OF JULY, 1951.

PRESENT: County Councillor J. J. Cunningham, N.T.; the Very Rev. P. Canon Glynn, B.A. (Chairman); County Councillor Sean Glynn; Michael Gohery, N.T.; James Hoban, N.T.; County Councillor T. King; County Councillor M. Kitt, N.T.; Frank Mullin, N.T.; Urban Councillor James O'Connor; Tadg O'Shea, N.T.; County Councillor Martin Quinn; and County Councillor J. J. Ruane.

APOLOGIES: Intimations of their inability to attend were received from County Councillor M. Carty, N.T.; Sean Donnellan, N.T.; John Moroney, N.T.; and Jarlath A. O'Connell.

CHAIRMAN OF THE MEETING: The Very Rev. P. Canon Glynn, B.A.

231. Minutes.—RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the last meeting, circulated each member, be taken as read; and that they be signed.

232. Donations.—That the Committee's thanks be tendered the following donors:—

Donor.	Nature of Donation.
Patrick J. Costello, Esq., New York, late of Tuam.	Pamphlet entitled "Giants under the Earth": the story of the Brooklyn-Battery Tunnel.
Cork City Public Library ...	Annual Report, 1950-1951.
Central Catholic Library, Dublin.	ditto
The Library Council, Dublin	ditto
County Donegal Library ...	ditto
Carlow County Library ...	ditto
<i>Flight</i> , London ...	Issue No. 2212.
The Publisher ...	"Irish Creamery Industry and Dairying Review, 1891-1951."
U.S.A. Information Bureau, Dublin.	"Saturday Review of Literature"; "Life in U.S.A. for People over Sixty"; "Our Foreign Policy."
Christian Science Monitor, Dublin.	Weekly editions of the "Christian Science Monitor."
Iodine Educational Bureau, London.	"Iodine Facts," Nos. 430-476.

233. Report.—It was proposed by F. Mullin, N.T., seconded by M. Gohery, N.T., and RESOLVED: That the County Librarian's report be approved:—

The new Branch in Spiddal is now in operation. Premises have been secured in Oughterard, and it is hoped to have the

Patrick Glynn
10/7/51

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**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF A QUARTERLY MEETING
HELD ON SATURDAY, THE 3rd DAY OF MARCH, 1951.**

PRESENT: County Councillor M. Carty, N.T.; County Councillor J. J. Cunningham, N.T. (Vice-Chairman); Sean Donnellan, N.T.; the Very Reverend P. Canon Glynn, B.A. (Chairman); County Councillor Sean Glynn; M. Gehery, N.T.; J. Hoban, N.T.; County Councillor T. King; Deputy and County Councillor M. F. Kitt, N.T.; the Reverend M. MacDonough, S.T.L., B.A.; John Moroney, N.T.; Frank Mullin, N.T.; J. A. O'Connell, Town Commissioner; Councillor J. O'Connor; Tadg O'Shea, N.T.; Senator and County Councillor M. Quinn; and County Councillor J. J. Ruane.

221. Donations :

RESOLVED: That the Committee's thanks be tendered the following donors:—

Donor.	Donation.
The Franciscan College, Rathfarnham.	School Annual, 1950.
Philips Electrical (Ireland) Ltd.	Philips Technical Review, Decem- ber, 1950, and January, 1951.
The American Government	<i>New York Times</i> and <i>New York Herald Tribune</i> (daily by air mail).

222. Promotion of a Member of the Staff :

It was proposed by County Councillor M. Carty, seconded by J. A. O'Connell, and

RESOLVED: That having regard to his long years of satisfactory service and his knowledge and experience, it is the unanimous wish of this Committee that Mr. Edward Griffin, who is at present employed as porter in Libraries' Headquarters be promoted and appointed a member of the Co. Libraries' clerical staff.

223. Salaries of Branch Librarians :

It was proposed by County Councillor J. J. Ruane, seconded by J. Hoban, and

RESOLVED: That the members of this Committee appeal to the County Manager to increase the remuneration paid to Branch Librarians.

224. Hospital Library Provision :

It was proposed by County Councillor J. J. Cunningham, seconded by F. Mullin, and

RESOLVED: While in favour of the plan of Hospital Libraries, that with the present commitments, attenuated staff and limited finance, the County Libraries Committee is precluded from undertaking the work of maintaining Hospital Libraries in the county.

225. Abbeyknockmoy Branch Library :

The County Librarian submitted an application on behalf of the residents in the district of Abbeyknockmoy for a Branch Library to serve the area.

It was proposed by Deputy and County Councillor M. F. Kitt, seconded by County Councillor J. J. Cunningham, and

RESOLVED : That a Branch Library be established at Abbeyknockmoy.

226. Spiddal Branch Library :

NOTED.—The County Librarian's assurance that the shelving for the Spiddal Branch Library will be completed so that the Branch may function from a date early in April.

227. Reference Library :

NOTED.—The reply from the County Manager relative to the impossibility of providing at present premises for use as a Reference Library.

228. Loughrea Local Library Committee :

It was proposed by Councillor J. O'Connor, seconded by County Councillor J. J. Cunningham, and

RESOLVED : That the Loughrea Local Library Committee shall consist of the following members :—

The Reverend G. Egan, P.P., Clostoken; the Reverend Brother Fidelis, De la Salle House, Loughrea; M. Beatty, Esq., B.A., B.Comm., Moore Street, Loughrea; P. J. Barry, Esq., M.P.S.I., Main Street, Loughrea; Mrs. L. Duffy, Loughrea; Miss M. McGuinness, N.T., Abbey Terrace, Loughrea; J. Gilchrist, Esq., C.E., Dunkellin Street, Loughrea; P. J. Finnegan, Esq., Dolphin Street, Loughrea; Dr. M. J. Dyar, West Park, Loughrea; J. O'Dowd, Esq., Knockninhc, Loughrea; J. Manning, Esq., N.T., Barrack Street, Loughrea; Mrs. M. Neilan, Main Street, Loughrea; M. J. Wynne, Esq., B.A., N.T., Kilrickle; and J. Cleary, Esq., N.T., Abbey Terrace, Loughrea.

229. Ballinasloe Local Library Committee :

It was proposed by Councillor J. O'Connor, seconded by County Councillor J. J. Cunningham, and

RESOLVED : That the Ballinasloe Local Library Committee shall consist of the following members :—

Father Cummins, Administrator; Father Egan; A. Stainton, Esq.; T. Derham, Esq.; M. Keane, Esq.; P. Molloy, Esq., N.T.; P. O'Donnell, Esq.; J. Lynch, Esq., Ardcaru; D. Connolly, Esq., N.T.; P. O'Regan, Esq., Dunlo Hill; Martin Murray, Esq., Creagh.

230. County Librarian's Reports :

It was proposed by J. Moroney, seconded by F. Mullin, and

RESOLVED : That the County Librarian's Reports be approved :—

The Galway Libraries are playing a valuable part in the education of children. The book stock of the Juvenile Department is the most important part of the Libraries and every effort is made to keep it at a high standard. The child readers are potential adult ones and, therefore, their department is an important one. It should be a training ground for intelligent citizens, and its aim is to give the children literature that will lead them on to a high standard of reading. By doing so ephemeral matter is discouraged so that when the children come to borrow from the adult library they will have a high standard of reading rather than the tendency to " assimilate print " of the lightest kind of fiction. By supplying a wide selection of classic and good modern writing a step is made towards creating an intelligent reading public.

Book reviews in " The Galway Reader " are an additional stimulant not only to good reading for adults but also for children.

Children should be encouraged to use all the resources of the Libraries. Not nearly enough parents know what fun it is to get acquainted with junior books themselves and share in their delights along with the children. Not only is it fun; it is also a means of encouraging the children to read good books, and enriches the home by another common interest. Browsing regularly in the Library Headquarters and Branches among the children's books is one way to learn of literature for the junior. Another way, and nothing can take its place, is reading aloud at home as a family. There are available delightful books for tots that older children can be taught to enjoy with the family. The books for the older ones can, of course, be read aloud when the little ones are looking at picture books or are in bed. Parents should make active contact with the Libraries and help the children to learn to turn to them for books.

Never at any time have the Libraries' relations with the Press of the county been so cordial and so co-operative. There is no doubt that thanks to our newspapers the Libraries have been kept in the public eye.

What are the prospects for 1951? As far as a Branch Library, Art Gallery and Museum for the City of Galway is concerned, the outlook seems bleak, but it is to be recorded with pleasure that the County Manager has not lost sight of the matter. New Branch Libraries are being organized, but difficulties are being experienced in finding premises at Gort, Carraroe and Mountbellew-Moylough districts. An application from residents in the district of Abbeyknockmoy is now before you.

I would again revert to the financial anomaly regarding School Libraries. No funds from the Department of Education are

County Library Report
 1917-18

yet available. The Libraries bear both the cost of the service and of supplying books. In Northern Ireland and Great Britain every modern school must now be provided with at least one room for use as a library. No effort is being made by our Department of Education to relate the school to the library and the work of the librarian to that of the school is overlooked. I maintain that the School Library should lead to the County Library.

The position concerning mill-board is really desperate and is likely to force publishers to issue books in paper covers unless Holland releases greater supplies or an ersatz substitute is found quickly. It will also be necessary to salvage all covers of books before they are withdrawn for pulping. This will entail additional work for the staffs of libraries. A plea is made to all not to waste or destroy card-board cartons.

The following figures show the number of books issued for home reading at Headquarters Branches and Centres up to the 17th February—two months:—

	Non-Fiction.	Fiction.	Juvenile.	Total.
Headquarters ...	5,716	14,818	3,362	23,896
Ballinasloe ...	2,268	4,048	1,652	7,968
Loughrea ...	1,716	3,658	968	6,342
Tuam ...	2,106	3,774	2,124	8,004
Glenamaddy ...	174	358	166	698
Schools, Halls, Clubs, etc. ...	2,426	4,384	3,926	10,736
	14,406	31,040	12,198	57,644

	Headquarters.	Centres and Branches.	Total.
Adults ...	20,534	24,912	45,446
Children ...	3,362	8,836	12,198
TOTAL ...	23,896	33,748	57,644

(Minutes Nos. 221 to 230, inclusive).

... to the financial accounts regarding ...
 ... from the Department of Education are

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE TWENTY-SEVENTH
ANNUAL MEETING, HELD ON SATURDAY, THE 28th DAY OF
JULY, 1951.**

PRESENT: County Councillor J. J. Cunningham, N.T.; the Very Rev. P. Canon Glynn, B.A. (Chairman); County Councillor Sean Glynn; Michael Gohery, N.T.; James Hoban, N.T.; County Councillor T. King; County Councillor M. Kitt, N.T.; Frank Mullin, N.T.; Urban Councillor James O'Connor; Tadg O'Shea, N.T.; County Councillor Martin Quinn; and County Councillor J. J. Ruane.

APOLOGIES: Intimations of their inability to attend were received from County Councillor M. Carty, N.T.; Sean Donnellan, N.T.; John Moroney, N.T.; and Jarlath A. O'Connell.

CHAIRMAN OF THE MEETING: The Very Rev. P. Canon Glynn, B.A.

231. Minutes.—RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the last meeting, circulated each member, be taken as read; and that they be signed.

232. Donations.—That the Committee's thanks be tendered the following donors:—

Donor.	Nature of Donation.
Patrick J. Costello, Esq., New York, late of Tuam.	Pamphlet entitled "Giants under the Earth": the story of the Brooklyn-Battery Tunnel.
Cork City Public Library ...	Annual Report, 1950-1951.
Central Catholic Library, Dublin.	ditto
The Library Council, Dublin	ditto
County Donegal Library ...	ditto
Carlow County Library ...	ditto
<i>Flight</i> , London ...	Issue No. 2212.
The Publisher ...	"Irish Creamery Industry and Dairying Review, 1891-1951."
U.S.A. Information Bureau, Dublin.	"Saturday Review of Literature"; "Life in U.S.A. for People over Sixty"; "Our Foreign Policy."
Christian Science Monitor, Dublin.	Weekly editions of the "Christian Science Monitor."
Iodine Educational Bureau, London.	"Iodine Facts," Nos. 430-476.

233. Report.—It was proposed by F. Mullin, N.T., seconded by M. Gohery, N.T., and **RESOLVED:** That the County Librarian's report be approved:—

The new Branch in Spiddal is now in operation. Premises have been secured in Oughterard, and it is hoped to have the

Patrick Glynn
10/7/51 | 1951

Branch Library in operation there by the 1st August next. Suitable accommodation has been made available at Carraroe, Abbeyknockmoy, Moylough, and Woodford. It is hoped to have these Branches in operation and to re-open the Athenry Branch by the 1st October next. Negotiations continue in respect of Branches at Clifden and Headford.

BOOKS ISSUED FOR HOME READING

	Non-Fiction.	Fiction.	Juvenile.	Total.
Headquarters	8,549	108	12,881	13,640
Ballinasloe	952	875	1,979	2,087
Loughrea ...	446	422	1,685	1,871
Tuam ...	725	687	1,891	1,996
Glenamaddy	487	461	612	680
Spiddal ...	349	332	552	581
Centres ...	872	816	13,176	13,901
Portumna ...	109	102	996	1,051
Totals ...	11,798	33,772	9,447	55,017
	12,489	35,807	10,012	58,308

1925—1950

	1925-26	1949-50
Cost per head of population ...	.48d.	8d.
Percentage of readers ...	4.85	21.1
Stock per head of population ...	0.35	3.08
Issues per head of population ...	0.16	1.4
Staff ...	3	10
Income from rates ...	£737	£6,140
Branches ...	None	4

234. Book Selection.—It was proposed by County Councillor King, seconded by Tadg O'Shea, and RESOLVED: (1) That printed slips be inserted in every book issued at Headquarters, Branches, and Centres, asking readers to draw the attention of the County Librarian to any objectionable book; (2) That the following members form a Selection Committee; that lists of books for purchase be submitted each member; and that they meet once a month:—

- (1) Alderman Miss M. A. Ashe, Cross Street, Galway.
- (2) Very Rev. P. Canon Glynn, Galway.
- (3) County Councillor T. King, Balroebackmore, Corrandulla
- (4) Rev. M. McDonagh, St. Mary's College.
- (5) John Moroney, N.T., Cappa, Barna.
- (6) Councillor Thomas O'Connor, Salthill.
- (7) Tadg O'Shea, N.T., Rossaveel, Costello; and
- (8) Alderman J. Owens, Dominick Street, Galway.

235. Application for a Branch Library at Ballygar.—The County Librarian submitted an application for the establishment of a Branch Library at Ballygar from County Councillor Mark Wall.

It was proposed by County Councillor J. J. Cunningham, seconded by Tadg O'Shea, and RESOLVED: That the members of this Committee favour the establishment of a Branch Library at Ballygar.

236. Mr. Edward Griffen.—The County Librarian submitted correspondence relative to the appointment of Mr. Edward Griffen on the Clerical Staff of the Libraries, from the County Secretary.

It was proposed by County Councillor T. King, seconded by Tadg O'Shea, and RESOLVED: That Mr. Edward Griffen should, considering his long service with the Libraries Department, be subject only to a qualifying examination, and which should be confined to an oral and practical test, and that the County Librarian be instructed to inform the County Secretary that this is the unanimous view and recommendation of the members of the County Libraries Committee.

237. Remunerations of Branch Librarians.—The County Librarian submitted the following letter from the County Secretary:—

"In regard to the remuneration of Branch Librarians, I wish to state that the Manager's proposal at the time was to pay them 1/6d. per hour plus temporary allowance. Although we made representations to the Department on behalf of the Branch Librarians, the Minister was not prepared to sanction payment of the temporary allowance to these officials."

It was proposed by County Councillor J. J. Cunningham, seconded by Tadg O'Shea, and RESOLVED: That this Committee request the County Manager to again ask the Department to reconsider the payment of the temporary allowance to the Branch Librarians.

(Minutes Nos. 231 to 237, inclusive)

Galway County Council

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF A QUARTERLY MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY, THE 10th DAY OF NOVEMBER, 1951.

PRESENT: County Councillor M. Carty, N.T.; County Councillor J. J. Cunningham, N.T. (Vice-Chairman); Sean Donnellan, N.T.; County Councillor P. T. Galvin; the Very Reverend P. Canon Glynn, B.A. (Chairman); County Councillor Sean Glynn; Michael Gohery, N.T.; James Hoban, N.T.; County Councillor Thomas King; County Councillor M. Kitt, N.T.; the Very Rev. M. MacDonagh, M.A.; John Moroney, N.T.; F. Mullen, N.T.; Urban Councillor James O'Connor; Borough Councillor Thomas O'Connor; Tadg O'Shea, B.A., N.T.; County Councillor M. Quinn; and County Councillor J. J. Ruane.

Apology: Intimation of her inability to attend was received from Alderman and County Councillor Miss M. A. Ashe.

Chairman of the Meeting: The Very Reverend Canon P. Glynn, B.A., Chairman.

238. Minutes of the Last Meeting.—Resolved: That the minutes of the last meeting, circulated each member, be taken as read and that they be signed.

239. Donations: Resolved: That the Committee's thanks be tendered to the following donors:—

Donor.	Nature of Donation.
United States Government.	(1) New York Times (Paris Edition)—Daily.
	(2) New York Herald Tribune (Paris Edition)—Daily.
	(3) American Youth (Education Periodical).
	(4) Labour in America—Pamphlets.
Iodine Development Corporation, London.	Iodine facts—three numbers.
The late Patrick Gibney, Esq., Frenchfort.	
Oranmore, per C. J. Kerin, Esq., Executor.	13 Admiralty Charts of Galway Bay.

Patrick Glynn
2/2/52

Negotiations continue in the following cases for Branch Libraries: Abbeyknockmoy, Clifden, Ballygar, Headford and Woodford. Difficulties in securing suitable premises have arisen in Clifden, Headford and Athenry. When shelving and equipment have been supplied, it is hoped to have the Branches in operation at Moylough, Abbeyknockmoy, and Woodford.

Arising out of the Annual Conference of the Library Association of Ireland held in Sligo in September last, some observations are submitted together with additional remarks by the County Librarian:

(1) The Library Association of Ireland calls the attention of Library authorities to the development work now being carried out by the Library Advisory Council of Northern Ireland, as compared with the Republic of Ireland, where little, if any, development work, other than a Library survey, is now in progress. The Northern Ireland Advisory Council consists of 28 members of whom eleven are practising librarians, and the remainder directly concerned with the organisation, or administration of Libraries. The object of the Council is to consider measures for the development and expansion of library services. Since its establishment, it has produced two main reports; one which dealt with a complete hospital service, and the other with a system of school libraries throughout Northern Ireland. In the course of the reports the Council stresses the necessity for a considerable degree of co-operation between libraries and social and educational organisations and shows that there is a rapidly growing awareness that well stocked and well organised libraries are an essential part of the social services. (2) The Library Association of Ireland points out that if the Department of Education is really interested in a school library service it should pay for it, and not, as at present allow the full cost to fall on the Local Authority in each County. Your County Librarian would add to this that, although in many districts, much good work is being done by the library service for children and adolescents, and deficiencies of the present system are serious, librarians regard the problem as one of real urgency. The Department of Education is not fulfilling its duties in this respect. Thousands of schools throughout the country have no school library which could be called effective and adequate, and many public libraries have children's departments that are ill-equipped, poorly stocked, badly staffed and severely limited in scope and range. To quote from the reports of the British Minister of Education, and the British School Library Association: "... if a right contact with good books is never made, or if being made, it is severed on leaving school, the loss which is thereby suffered is grave, and often irreparable."

While the responsibility for school libraries rests with the education authorities, there are advantages in the purchase (as

- Frank Curran, Esq., Fort Eyre, Galway. (1) An original Indenture—an apprentice weaver, dated Mountbellew, 18th December, 1799.
- (2) Bound Maps of the Blake Estate, Renvyle, Connemara, prepared for the cumbered Estates Court and dated 1851.
- The County Librarian Private M.S. notice of the Showing of " Magic Pictures " in the Lodge, Rathangan, 27th January, 1860.

240 Reports : It was proposed by County Councillor T. King, seconded by the Chairman and Resolved : That the reports of the County Librarian be adopted.

REPORTS.

Headquarters : Additional shelving has been made available for the storage of 3,750 volumes in the main office at Headquarters.

26,115 books were issued for home-reading, made up of 8,549 volumes on general subjects, 13,640 of works of fiction and 3,926 for children and adolescents. The figures refer to the quarter ended 30th September last.

Branches : A Branch Library at Oughterard came into operation on the 1st August last. During the two months ended the 30th September adult readers borrowed 74 books on general subjects and 448 works of fiction, Juvenile and adolescent readers made use of 122 volumes. The total issue amounted to 644.

The following summary shows the issue of books for home-reading at headquarters, Branches and centres for the same period :—

	Non-Fiction	Fiction	Juvenile	Total
Headquarters ...	8,549	13,640	3,926	26,115
Ballinasloe ...	952	2,087	218	3,257
Loughrea ...	446	1,871	156	2,473
Tuam ...	725	1,996	212	2,933
Glenamaddy ...	487	680	151	1,318
Spiddal ...	349	581	189	1,119
Centres ...	872	13,901	4,977	19,750
Portumna ...	109	1,051	183	1,343
Oughterard ...	74	448	122	644
Total ...	12,563	36,255	10,134	58,952

Negotiations continue in the following cases for Branch Libraries: Abbeyknockmoy, Clifden, Ballygar, Headford and Woodford. Difficulties in securing suitable premises have arisen in Clifden, Headford and Athenry. When shelving and equipment have been supplied, it is hoped to have the Branches in operation at Moylough, Abbeyknockmoy, and Woodford.

Arising out of the Annual Conference of the Library Association of Ireland held in Sligo in September last, some observations are submitted together with additional remarks by the County Librarian:

(1) The Library Association of Ireland calls the attention of Library authorities to the development work now being carried out by the Library Advisory Council of Northern Ireland, as compared with the Republic of Ireland, where little, if any, development work, other than a Library survey, is now in progress. The Northern Ireland Advisory Council consists of 28 members of whom eleven are practising librarians, and the remainder directly concerned with the organisation, or administration of Libraries. The object of the Council is to consider measures for the development and expansion of library services. Since its establishment, it has produced two main reports; one which dealt with a complete hospital service, and the other with a system of school libraries throughout Northern Ireland. In the course of the reports the Council stresses the necessity for a considerable degree of co-operation between libraries and social and educational organisations and shows that there is a rapidly growing awareness that well stocked and well organised libraries are an essential part of the social services. (2) The Library Association of Ireland points out that if the Department of Education is really interested in a school library service it should pay for it, and not, as at present allow the full cost to fall on the Local Authority in each County. Your County Librarian would add to this that, although in many districts, much good work is being done by the library service for children and adolescents, and deficiencies of the present system are serious, librarians regard the problem as one of real urgency. The Department of Education is not fulfilling its duties in this respect. Thousands of schools throughout the country have no school library which could be called effective and adequate, and many public libraries have children's departments that are ill-equipped, poorly stocked, badly staffed and severely limited in scope and range. To quote from the reports of the British Minister of Education, and the British School Library Association: ". . . if a right contact with good books is never made, or if being made, it is severed on leaving school, the loss which is thereby suffered is grave, and often irreparable."

While the responsibility for school libraries rests with the education authorities, there are advantages in the purchase (as

distinct from the selection) of part of the bookstock of school libraries being in the hands of librarians acting on behalf of the Department of Education.

Any services provided by the library authority should be financed by grant by the Department of Education to the Library authority. The formation of school libraries up to the standard envisaged by educationalists, must be a gradual process, extending over many years. In the initial stages, therefore, interests of children will be well served, limited as now, by close co-operation with the County Library in the loan of books for use in the school, though this should not be considered a satisfactory permanent substitute for a school library.

The depopulation of rural areas gives rise to a major economic and social problem to which Library Authorities should be actively concerned, and it is the duty of those authorities to make sure that the rural dweller is not denied the books he needs. Direct service is imperative and this should begin with the children in the rural school. Reading is the most important subject in education for the reason that it is the road by which we must travel to gain knowledge of all other subjects. The foundation of this road is laid when the child masters the mechanics of reading and learns to associate the printed letters in his book with the objects represented. The function of libraries is to make reading a pleasure to the child and so give him a lasting love of books. Every book he reads takes his road to knowledge a little further on its way. Every child must be made welcome in a library, not for the quality of books he wants to read, but for the fact that he wants to read at all. So long as he is willing to read at all, the road to his mind is kept open for knowledge to pass through. Allow that road to close and the state is reached, recognised by Caliban in the "Tempest" when he said, ". . . take away his books, and he is but a sot."

(3) The Library Association of Ireland considers it wise for library authorities to augment stocks as scarcity of paper and the high price of books may soon cause increased demands on libraries. A generous supply of good books is necessary and a very substantial increase in the average expenditure on books is needed. In buying books there should be ample and liberal provision of up-to-date vocational and technical works and the supply of these must be sufficiently generous to ensure that no readers are discouraged by tedious waiting. Attention is needed, to see that superseded and out-of-date works are regularly weeded out. The expected development, nationally, of both technical and adult education demands the most substantial support from the library service, and the service must be ready with new standards to meet new needs.

Your County Librarian would pass to an interesting point—the creation of a reading public. Rapidly as the library system has

developed in this country, it has not taken such a hold, nor played such a part in national life, as its sponsors hoped and foretold. On the contrary, very many children leave school, without any urge to continue their education or broaden their interests by the greatest single instrument open, and available to every individual in the community, namely, the public library service. I would suggest that this points to some serious defect in library methods, or in educational methods, or in both. It is not enough to teach children to read, and then hope for the best. The lowest possible liaison is necessary with the public library, especially in the selection of book stock and the services of trained staff. A special effort should be made in the school, to create a book interest and habit in pupils who leave school at the end of the compulsory period.

(4) The Library Association of Ireland calls for more representation of practising Librarians on the Irish Library Council. There is only one librarian on the Council at present. For this and other purposes, the Association calls for the amendment of the Public Libraries Act under which the Council was appointed. Until this is done, not a single County Library can reach anything like its maximum development. The Library Council should fulfil the duty with which it was charged in regard to helping local authorities, to improve their library service, not only to children, but to adults.

241. It was proposed by County Councillor J. J. Cunningham, seconded by J. Hoban, Esq., and

Resolved:—That the County Librarian circulate to the members, the observations arising out of the Conference of the Library Association of Ireland, held in Sligo in September last.

242. **Mr. Edward Griffin:**—

The County Librarian submitted the following letter:—

Minute No. 236—Mr. Edward Griffin.

15th August, 1951.

"A. CHARA,

Your letter of the 8th instant was submitted to the County Manager, who has directed me to inform you that he cannot accede to the recommendation of the Libraries Committee that Mr. Edward Griffin be appointed to the position of Clerical Officer subject to a qualifying examination, as there are a definite standard and definite conditions of appointment for the position of clerical officer.

Mise, le meas,
County Secretary.

LEABHARLANNA CHONNDAE NA GAILLIMHE

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF A QUARTERLY MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY, THE 2nd DAY OF FEBRUARY, 1952.

Present : County Councillor M. Carty, N.T. ; County Councillor J. J. Cunningham, N.T., (*Vice-Chairman*) ; Sean Donnellan, N.T. ; the Very Reverend P. Canon Glynn, B.A., (*Chairman*) ; County Councillor Sean Glynn ; Michael Gohery, N.T. ; James Hoban, N.T. ; County Councillor T. King ; County Councillor M. F. Kitt, N.T. ; the Reverend M. McDonogh, M.A. ; John M. Moroney, N.T. ; F. Mullan, N.T. ; Town Commissioner Jarlath A. O'Connell ; Councillor James O'Connor ; Tadhg O'Shea, B.A., N.T. ; County Councillor M. Quinn ; and County Councillor J. J. Ruane.

Apology : Intimation of her inability to attend was received from County Councillor and Alderman Miss M. A. Ashe.

In attendance : C. I. O'Flynn, Esq., County Manager.

Chairman of the Meeting : The Very Reverend P. Canon Glynn, B.A.

246. *Minutes of the last meeting* : Resolved—That the Minutes of the last meeting circulated each member be taken as read ; and that they be signed.

247. *Donations* : Resolved—That the Committee's thanks be tendered the following donors :

The United States Government : *New York Times* ; *New York Herald Tribune* ; *American Youth* ; *Junior Review* ; *The Heavenly Twins*, by William Maxwell ; and *In Quest of Peace and Security* : American Foreign Policy.

Church of Christ Scientist, Dublin : *Christian Science Monitor*.

Government of India : *India Record*.

Allied Founders, Ltd., Waterford : *Waterford at Work*, illust.

William F. O'Neill, New York : *A Plague of Bureaucrats* : A Study of Institutions.

Dr. Mackev, Dun Laoghaire : *Life of Thomas Moore*, by the donor ; and *Excerpts from a MS. written by Roger Casement in Pentonville Prison*, by the Rev. James MacCarroll.

The Hon. Donogh O'Brien, Alexandria, Egypt : *History of the O'Briens*.

The Right Reverend The Bishop of Menevia : *The Menevia Diocesan Year Book*, 1951.

The County Librarian : *Catalogue of the Exhibition of Books at the Festival of Britain*, 1951.

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MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF A QUARTERLY MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY, THE 26th DAY OF APRIL, 1952.

Present—County Councillor M. Carty, N.T. ; County Councillor J. J. Cunningham, (*Vice-Chairman*) ; Sean Donnellan, N.T. ; County Councillor Sean Glynn ; Michael Gohery, N.T. ; James Hoban, N.T. ; County Councillor T. King ; County Councillor M. F. Kitt, N.T. ; John M. Moroney, N.T. ; Frank Mullan, N.T. ; Urban Councillor James O'Connor ; Tadhg O'Shea, B.A., N.T. ; Alderman J. Owens ; County Councillor M. Quinn ; and County Councillor J. J. Ruane.

256—*Chairman of the Meeting* : It was proposed by M. Gohery, seconded by F. Mullan, and resolved : That Tadhg O'Shea, be Chairman of the Meeting.

257—*Minutes of the Last Meeting* : Resolved : That the Minutes of the last meeting, circulated each member, be taken as read ; and that they be signed.

258—*Donations* : Resolved : That the Committee's thanks be tendered the following donors :—

The Library Council, Dublin, Annual Report, 1950-'51 ; The Central Catholic Library, Dublin, 29th Annual Report, 1951-'52 ; Convent of the Holy Child Jesus, Dublin, "The Pylon" : a Missionary Magazine ; B. O'Sullivan, Esq., Secretary, Connemara Pony Breeders' Society, "Stud Book" ; United States Government Information Service, Dublin, "New York Times" and "New York Herald Tribune" (Paris Edition) ; "Literature of the U.S.A.," Vol. I. ; "Western Star," by Stephen Vincent Benet ; "This is America" ; "Compton Reprint—U.S.A." ; "Steelmaking in America" ; and "This America."

259—*Report of the County Librarian* : A short time ago the English Ministry of Education published handbook No. 21—"The School Library." It is a small handbook of 32 pages well written, eminently readable, and contains a number of excellent photographs. In it is stated : "Fiction of the right kind has a place of vital importance in children's development. . . . Recreative reading no longer implies a concession to childish weakness but a recognition of the fact that children have a life of their own with needs that might find healthy satisfaction. . . . With the right books and judicious guidance proper conceptions of life and standards of conduct will modify themselves in the natural course of growth into the outlook of a mature and civilized adult." The pamphlet, which discusses the problems of teaching school children how to use and enjoy books, deals not with textbooks, but with books used for reference, study and recreative reading. It suggests that there is now so much to know that the wisdom

248. *The Library Association of Ireland : Resolved*—That consideration of the report, circulated members, dealing with the matters raised at the Sligo Conference of the Library Association of Ireland, be adjourned to the next meeting of the Committee.

249. *City of Galway Branch Library : Noted*—The County Manager's statement that he intends to ask the County Council to acquire the residence of Colonel Joyce at Mervue—the lands having been purchased by the Corporation of Galway for a new housing scheme—as a County Library Headquarters ; and that the premises now in use as a combined Headquarters and City Branch Library be converted to use as a City Branch Library only.

250. *County Librarian's Reports : Resolved*—That the County Librarian's Reports be adopted.

The Branch Libraries at Moylough and at Woodford are now in operation.

Heating and lighting facilities at the Spiddal Branch Library leave a lot to be desired. The attention of the County Secretary has been drawn to the matters.

The inadequate heating and the dampness of the walls, and the attempt on the part of the trustees of the premises used as a Branch Library at Loughrea have now been resolved. The County Manager has agreed "to increase the rent from £35 per annum to £50 per annum as from the 1st January, 1952, on the understanding that there will be no interference with the Library services and that this rent will cover cleaning, heating, lighting and attendance ; . . . and that structural repairs that may be necessary to remedy the dampness of the rooms be carried out."

The following figures show the issue of books for home reading :—

	Non-Fiction	Fiction	Juvenile	Total
Headquarters	8,763	13,981	4,025	26,769
Ballinasloe	976	2,140	224	3,340
Loughrea	458	1,919	219	2,596
Tuam	746	2,018	162	2,926
Glenamaddy	496	699	192	1,387
Spiddal	217	595	188	1,000
Portumna	122	1,179	211	1,512
Oughterard	79	471	129	679
Moylough	49	139	81	269
Centres	861	14,246	5,102	20,209
	12,767	37,387	10,533	60,687

Books dispatched from Headquarters to Branches and Centres amounted to 3,238 made up : To Branches 2,455 ; to Centres 783 volumes respectively.

251. *The Shaw Bequest : Resolved*—That the County Librarian be instructed to apply to the Trustees of the Shaw Bequest for a grant in aid of the many cultural activities of the Galway County Libraries Committee.

252. *Estimates 1952-1953 : Noted*—The Estimates for the year 1952-1953 as amended by the County Manager :

<i>Estimates for 1952-1953.</i>			
Books periodicals and Binding	.....	.....	£3,000
Salaries and Wages	.....	.....	£2,650
Administration	.....	.....	£1,500
Other Charges	.....	.....	£300
			<hr/>
			£7,450

253. *Mr. Edward Griffin* : The County Librarian submitted the views of the County Manager relative to the case of Mr. Edward Griffin : " . . . that it was not the practice to establish temporary clerks on a permanent basis on the result of a qualifying examination, only . . . The Minister has prescribed the standard of examination which must be adhered to in all cases. Under no circumstances could Mr. Griffin . . . be established . . . than through the ordinary channel of competitive examination."

It was proposed by County Councillor Sean Glynn, seconded by County Councillor J. J. Cunningham, and *Resolved*—That the County Manager be requested to favourably consider an increase in the salary of Mr. Edward Griffin.

254. *Killimor Branch Library* : The County Manager being agreeable to the idea, it was proposed by County Councillor M. Carty, seconded by County Councillor Kitt, and *Resolved*—That a Branch Library be established in Killimor.

255. *Vote of Condolence : Resolved*—That the sympathy of the members be tendered Mr. James Hoban on the death of his mother.

(Minutes Nos. 246 to 255 inclusive).

of trying to keep it in heads is doubtful. A main theme of the pamphlet is that given the right books and the right conditions for their use, pupils will become good readers. The pamphlet states that for many of the activities it describes the only ultimate essentials are a collection of suitable books and a clear idea in the mind of the teacher about the use to make of them. Undoubtedly the school library is the most accessible agency for the dissemination of literature to children. They are thus encouraged to use the public library, as they will, when they are finished with school. These views endorse the belief of all librarians and educationalists that books and reading are part of the equipment needed to help boys and girls to become better citizens, and healthier, happier people.

Possessing seemingly these beliefs the readers of the Portumna Branch Library have, in a letter, congratulated the County Librarian "for the provision of healthy and entertaining nourishment for the minds of the children of Portumna. . . . a wide range of the best available books, for the juvenile section, has been provided where the children of all ages will find reading, that will both instruct and amuse at the same time.

The importance of such a step cannot be over-emphasised, in view of the alarming increasing circulation of "Comics." In these so-called children's papers, false and pagan values of life are set out, the hero is a kind of superman, whose superiority consists in brute force and cunning; religion is ridiculed, and finally, perverted sex and lust are paraded as love. . . . We beg therefore, every librarian in our country to see to it that in the Juvenile department children and teenagers are provided with an abundance of sound, educative and at the same time attractive books."

The County Librarian would stress the fact that the Libraries of the County are meant to be used. That is their purpose. A wealth of interest and amusement lies on the book shelves for those who care to seek it. In general, the books are only allowed out on loan to residents of the City and County of Galway but the reference books in the Headquarters are Branches are open to visitors. They are made welcome among the numerous encyclopaedias, the many dictionaries, volumes on biography, directories, year-books, etc. A visit to the Headquarters or any of its Branches can be and education in itself. So when any reader wants information on any subject, whether it be home carpentry or world politics, he should go first to his local Branch. Before going any further afield in his search, he should ask the help of his librarian. All should feel encouraged to make full use of the facilities offered by the County Libraries of Galway.

Ballygar—The County Manager has agreed to the establishment of a Branch Library at Ballygar.

Killimor—The shelving and equipment for the Killimor Branch Library are being constructed, and it is expected to have this Branch in operation shortly.

Carraroe—The Carraroe Branch Library will be opened on the 1st June next.

Athenry—The Athenry Branch Library will be re-opened on the 1st May next.

Headford—Premises offered in Headford for use as a Branch Library are being considered by the County Manager.

Clifden—The search for suitable premises for use as a Branch Library in Clifden continues. Several places have been inspected and it is hoped that a room may be available in the near future.

Loughrea—The trouble engendered through dampness and inadequate heating at the Loughrea Branch have been resolved.

Tuam—Dampness has shown itself in the Tuam Branch and the heating system has been found to be inadequate. As the fate of the Palace—lately acquired by the County Council—remains undecided nothing can be done at present.

Spiddal—Since my report to you at the last meeting lighting has been installed in the Spiddal Branch. So far however, heating has not been made available, but the subject is being kept in mind.

The Library Survey, under the Library Council, which has been going on for the past year, will be undertaken in Galway. It will be opened by the Council's two Library Surveyors on the 9th June next, and the co-operation of the members of the Committee is anticipated.

It has been found, during the course of the recent audit, that in order to obviate misunderstandings, that an addendum to the Rules and Regulations of the County Libraries is necessary. Therefore, Regulation No. 6, page 2, line 12, after the word "detained," there be added the words: "including the cost of the notice or notices, and of the cost of the postage incurred. County readers may be allowed to retain books for 4 weeks."

The services of the Book Selection Committee may not be called on until the books purchased during the last financial year have been distributed. Lists of new books suggested for purchase are in course of preparation, however, and will be circulated members in due course.

The figures, so far available, showing the issue of books for home reading are:—