

## ELECTRIC LIGHT AND POWER FOR TUAM

### CO. FORMED TO PROMOTE A SCHEME

Rev. O. Hanahan, Adm., presided at a very largely attended meeting of the residents of the town, held on Friday night in the Town Hall, for the purpose of discussing the possibilities of having a scheme for electric light and power put into practical operation in Tuam.

Mr J. Daly, Acting Sec. to the meeting, read a detailed report from Mr Tierney, O.E, in which he stated he examined the three possible ways by which an inexpensive scheme could be worked, i.e.—The Clare River, Suction Gas, and Dwyer's mill, and he decided upon the plan of having it generated by suction gas at an estimated cost of £7,000. He proposed erecting the plant at the back of the Courthouse as the most central place.

Very Rev. Canon Eaton said the Engineer's report was very clear and Mr Daly had read it very distinctly. He (Canon Eaton) proposed that they adopt the report. The Engineer, Mr Tierney, was a very eminent man in his profession, having a considerable amount of experience in the supervision of electrical plants in erection, so that they could have full confidence in the man who drew up that report. He proposes to erect a complete electrical plant in Tuam that will supply light. He makes provision for the purchase of a site. He has considered different sources of water supply and he

rejects them all on the grounds that they would be insufficient, and one source, the Ballygaddy river, would be too expensive. It would be necessary to get a deep volume of water and to cut the rocks before getting that. What he proposes doing is to work an engine by suction gas by working two dynamos and two gas engines, so that when one would be out of order they would have the other to fall back on, so that there will be no fear of being without light. Mr Tierney proposes to erect two cables down to the centre of the town opposite Mr Byrne's house, so if one of these go out of order they would have the other to go back on. The plant will go all over the town wherever required and it proposes to bring the electric light into all the houses that may require it. The scheme would cost about £7,000 which is not a big sum of money considering how the value of money has changed since the war and it would not be more than half that amount before the war. So far as he could see there will not be much difficulty in getting that amount. In the college they were very keen on getting electric light and on one occasion they had actually arranged on a scheme but it dropped for some reason or other. The business people in the town interviewed in the matter said they only wanted somebody to start it and give it an impetus, and now that it was

started he was sure business men would support it and interest themselves in it, and the revenue as estimated would be something about £1,670 and the working expenses £1,000, leaving a balance of £670 profit. It was proposed to divide that £670 amongst the shareholders, and it would mean 6 per cent which was as much as they could get anywhere, and there would still be a balance of £250 which he proposed to invest at compound interest, and in 20 years they would be in a position to buy a new plant. Besides giving a good light to the town and houses the plant would also supply a good deal of motor power for running engines sawmills crushing oats for cattle—there was no limit to the amount of things it would do. He proposed the report be adopted and a company be formed to carry out the scheme.

Mr Daly said that if the plant was only used for lighting purposes it would not pay at all. They would also have it for motor power. In Loughrea they started a similar scheme 4½ years ago and it cost them something over £4,000 and subsequently added another £2,000, and after 4 years they have paid it off and made a profit of £500.

Mr O'Malley proposed and the Revd Chairman seconded that shares of £1 each be opened, and those present promised to take out shares amounting to £5,200.

It was proposed by Mr O'Malley, and seconded by Mr Murray and passed unanimously, that Mr F B McDonogh, solicitor, be appointed the company solicitor.