

GRANTHAM RATES DECREASED BY TWO PENCE IN THE £

Stormy Budget Night Meeting of the
Borough Authority

HEATED DEBATES IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER

Proposals to Effect a Further Reduction
Lost on the Vote

GRANTHAM TOWN COUNCIL HAD GOOD NEWS FOR THE RATEPAYERS OF THE BOROUGH ON WEDNESDAY NIGHT. THEY LEVIED A RATE OF 6s. 11d. IN THE £ FOR THE COMING HALF-YEAR, THEREBY REDUCING THE CALL FOR THE PAST SIX MONTHS BY 2d.

At the same time, Budget-night was not the happy gathering that might be inferred from this. During one of the most heated debates in the Council chamber for many years, Councillor George Mills put forward an amendment, the effect of which would have meant a saving in the borough expenses of over £1,000, introducing four points to justify this. The amendment was lost on a majority vote, and afterwards attempts were made separately to reduce the estimates by the four sums he had mentioned. These, too, were unsuccessful.

Highlights of the evening were the spirited clashes between Councillor A. Roberts, the chairman of the Finance committee, and Councillor Stanley Foster, the latter defending a charge that he "was no English gentleman" by saying that he was man enough to serve in the Forces from 1914 to 1918. Councillor Roberts's reply was that he served for 2½ days, and then tried six times without success to get back into the Army.