



The Lord Mayor of Limerick, Mr Jim Kemmy, with the demi-culverin cannon which was presented to him by Lieut Gen Gerry McMahon, Chief of Staff of the Defence Forces, in Limerick yesterday. Photograph: Dylan Vaughan/Press 22

Kemmy receives cannon from Siege of Limerick on behalf of civic trust

A DEMI-culverin cannon used by the Jacobite forces in the 1691 Siege of Limerick was yesterday handed over to the Lord Mayor of Limerick. Lieut Gen Gerry McMahon, Chief of Staff of the Defence Forces, handed it over to Mr Jim Kemmy TD at Sarsfield Barracks. Mr Kemmy is patron of the Limerick Civic Trust. It is to be given to the trustees of the Hunt Museum for display in the Customs

House Park in front of its new premises, which are now being restored.

The barrel of the cannon is 11 ft long and, without carriage, it weighs 1.5 tonnes. It took eight men and 46 horses to draw it 300 years ago. It was dug up from the bed of the River Shannon 10 years ago by the Limerick Civic

Trust and recovered with the permission of the Office of Public Works.

With another cannon also recovered, it was used as a bollard for tying up sailing ships in the former port of Limerick at the Customs House. The cannon was restored and fitted with a reproduction carriage, under the direction of Comdt James O'Neill, by the Ordinance Corps.

3% increase in cattle slaughterings

By Sean Mac Connell, Agriculture Correspondent

CATTLE slaughterings at Irish meat plants last week were 3 per cent higher than in the corresponding week in 1995 at 27,200 head, according to figures from An Bord Bia, the Irish food board.

However, heifer slaughterings declined by 24 per cent to 5,700 head while cow throughput was 30 per cent lower than in the same week last year at 4,700 head.

The figures, experts say, have been distorted by the introduction of EU intervention which has meant that animals are being

Monitor, reports that bullock prices are down by over 15 per cent on the same period last year, heifer prices just under 14 per cent and cow prices over 19 per cent. There has been a dramatic impact on the live export trade which has fallen by 46 per cent as only one North African destination, Egypt, is currently

To date this year, this figure has fallen to 71,649 animals.

The report said that in Britain the market for Irish supplies remained difficult last week with strong competition being reported from cheaper British product.

In France, it reported, retailers continued to purchase principally French beef and the markets in