RELIVING THE NEWS with Sean Curtin

Thomond Bridge cost just a mere £30 to build

From the Limerick Chronicle: Saturday, January 26, 1931

Town Topics column run in the Limerick Chronicle for several years and covered every kind of topic that was of interest to the unnamed writer.

THE CASTLE BARRACKS

It would appear that the Government have definitely made up their minds to hand over to the Municipal Council the modern portion of the Castle Barracks for the purpose of a housing scheme.

It is stated that the portion to be vested in the Council will permit an easy conversion into thirty-three artisans' dwellings.

The Government is to insist on getting some compensation for the property, but no sum has been specified so far. When the Corporation have prepared an estimate showing the cost of the reconstruction work, then the Ministry will name a sum "that will show neither profit nor loss" to the Council. That would seem to be a very fair proposition.

THE "MODERN" BUILDINGS

King John's Castle continues to be one of the finest specimens of fortified Norman architecture in Ireland.

The north-west tower is said to have been the first portion of the work undertaken. An infantry barracks was attached to the castle in 1754.

It is those buildings that are now referred to as the "modern" part of the Castle Barracks. The King furthered the castle with every requisite for the defence of his newly acquired property. In 1699 King James I granted charter to the city by which certain privileges were bestowed on the castle. However, the King's Castle and other property were reserved.

The first Constable to be appointed to take charge of the barracks was Godfrey de Biche, who held supreme control in 1216.