



Bridge Street, Newcastle West, taken around 1900 -

expressed by one Colonel  
niel Robinson, he  
scribed as managing  
ector of the Irish  
ste Land Improvement  
pany. For the  
ment, however, I pro-  
se to confine myself to  
brief but enlighten-  
portion of the report  
ling with conditions  
they then existed in  
st Limerick.

## DEAN COLL'S EVIDENCE

When the Commission-  
sat in Newcastle West  
August 28th, 1844, the  
st witness sworn and  
imined was none other  
in the celebrated Very  
v. Thomas Coll, D.D.,  
man Catholic Dean of  
Diocese of Limerick,  
1 Parish Priest of New-  
tle West for the previ-  
seventeen years.  
in Coll told the Com-  
missioners that the land  
he district was "tillage  
ncipally but that there  
s however, a great deal  
grass land". Stating  
t the state of the agri-  
ture in the district had  
proved to a certain  
ent, the Dean  
lained that the  
rovement consisted  
the increased intelli-  
ce displayed in the

resulted from the want of  
drainage; the district, he  
added, consisted of very  
wet and heavy soil, and  
could never be rendered  
productive unless it was  
drained, and could never  
be drained unless there  
was facility afforded for  
obtaining manure.

## GENERAL ATTITUDE OF THE LANDLORDS

The Dean was not  
aware of any encourage-  
ment by landlords for  
drainage, but he knew  
that Colonel White  
encouraged his tenants  
and made allowances for  
the building of farm  
houses and offices, which  
tended exceedingly to the  
comfort of farmers and  
enabled them to house  
their cattle, which they  
considered a very great  
advantage.

Incidentally, Dean Coll  
told the Commissioners  
that "Lord Devon is  
looked upon as an exceed-  
ingly good landlord." The  
Dean suggested that time  
should be given to the  
farmers at more reason-  
able rates. Questioned in  
regard to the condition of  
the farming population in  
the district, Dean Coll  
replied: "I do not believe  
that any of the farmers

discontent."

## DEPLORABLE CONDITIONS OF THE LABOURERS

Asked if the labourers  
were getting more com-  
fortable in their condi-  
tion, he said: "No. The  
labourers are a very  
wretched set of men in  
this neighbourhood;  
numbers of them can get  
no employment, and  
those who are employed  
are paid at the rate of 8d  
per day without food.  
Lord Devon and the  
trustees employ a num-  
ber, but the employment  
of the labouring class is  
confined principally to  
this estate, in a great  
degree."

In conclusion Dean Coll  
suggested, as a means of  
improvement, leases at a  
reasonable rent, and mod-  
erate assistance from  
landlords. Stating that  
there has been no agrari-  
an outrage in the district  
during his residence, the  
Dean added: "I do not  
know of any part of the  
kingdom more free from  
disturbance though they  
have great suffering and  
great loss of cattle, and  
great discontent."

IN OTHER PARTS OF



A fine picture of the Catholic Church in Dromcollogher c. 1900

tenants were anxious for  
leases at existing rents

AGENT GOT ALL THE  
LAND

(the labourers) had was  
sending out their little

lies ejected on the same  
day as myself upon the