

Saving grace



THE TRUSTEE Savings Bank, Glentworth Street, is greatly admired by Limerick citizens for its Greek classical architectural style.

Its architect, W. H. Owen, gave the Limerick Savings Bank (as it was popularly known to many Limerick generations), a touch of admirable delicacy.

Settled for £100,000

A 43-year-old Listowel man, Mr. Noel Hughes, Inch East, who lost an eye while working for the Board of Works, had his case settled for £100,000 at High Court sittings in Limerick this week. The accident happened on April 12th, 1979, at Ferrybridge, Casheen, Listowel, where Mr. Hughes was cutting a steel rope. Some of the steel got into his eye and he lost his sight.

Mr. Hughes, who has not worked since the accident, is married with three children. He was represented in court by Robert Pierse, Sorls., Listowel.

The delicacy can also be seen in the Gateway of The Potato Market (now defunct), on Merchants Quay. Owen designed The Potato Market which occupies the site of the filled-in Long Dock of pre-Georgian Limerick city.

Matthew Bridge was also designed by Owen.

A Welsh Gothic enthusiast, Owen designed his own residence, "Glendower" now "Derravoher," residence of former Mayor of Limerick, Mr. Ted Russell), on the North Circular Road (near Barrington's Pier), in this style.

He also designed nearby "Tivoli" residence.

Owen's arrival on the 1840s Limerick city architectural scene was a result of the eviction from power of the corrupt Vereker-controlled Limerick Corporation.

The reformed Limerick Corporation led to the exit of the Pain Brothers (who were

given most of the important architectural commissions here by the Vereker-controlled Corporation) from the Limerick architectural scene.

Owen was probably a relative of the Welshman, Jacob Owen and his son, James, who in the last 60 years of the 1800s, were Irish Board of Works chief architects.

The Limerick Savings Bank is said to be a small replica of Cardiff Museum (Wales) and its ceilings plaster designs and mouldings are exceptionally fine and interesting.

□ Photo: JOHN WRIGHT.

□ Text: SEAMUS O CINNEIDE.

SEMINAR ON

Organised by East Co
At Firgrove Hotel,
On Thurs., March 2

All farmers are