

and sheep, wool and hides.

#### ECONOMIC CHANGE

'Foster's Law' of 1784 made tillage a more economic proposition to grazing on arable ground. As the new century commenced the county fell into economic decline because the infra-structure of the county was by then largely in place and large scale employment of craftsmen and labourers consequently declined.

Landlords who had been in residence during the construction period by in large absented themselves to England with the demise of the Irish Parliament in 1800. By 1802, 44% of the Mayo's 111 landlords were classed as 'non-resident' by James McParlan in his Statistical Survey.

#### The Chief Landowners of Mayo in 1838 showing their Acreages.

<u>Landowner</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Landowner</u>	<u>Acreage</u>
Marquess of Sligo		Viscount Dillon	83,700
(Browne)	130,700	Sir W. Palmer	78,600
Sir Richard O'Donnell	80,100	W.H. Carter	54,600
Denis Bingham	66,300	John Knox	35,700
Earl of Lucan (Bingham)	49,100	Sir F. L.-Blosse	29,000
Earl of Arran	33,100	Mervyn Pratt	16,500
Charles Nesbitt Knox	22,500	George Moore	15,200
Patrick Kirwan	15,300	William Orme	12,900
Sir William Brabazon	14,900	Lord O. and Brownell	11,500
Connell O'Donnell	11,800	Lord Kilmaine	
George V. Jackson	11,200	(Browne)	11,200
A. Knox-Gore	10,800	Maurice Blake	10,100
Lord Clanmorris (Bingham)	10,200	Rev. F. Rutledge	9,100
Sir S. O'Malley	9,300	Costello (a minor)	7,900
Thomas Phillips	8,900	Peter McLoughlin	7,200
David Thompson	7,300	James Browne	5,700
Joseph McDonnell	7,000	Martin D'Arcy	6,200
Andrew Crean Lynch	6,300	John Browne	5,700
John Walsh	5,800	F. Blake-Knox	5,500
Thomas G. Fitzgerald	5,600	Arthur Pugh	5,400
Henry Knox	5,700		
Samuel Bourns	5,100.		

(From the Ordnance Survey Field Name Books of 1838)

Middlemen, who rented large tracts of land on long leases and subletted in portions on a year-to-year basis replaced the resident landlord on many estates. The middleman was purely motivated by quick profit whereas previously the landlord in residence had a slightly wider interest in the long term welfare of his tenantry. About that time too the linen and woollen trades went into recession thus removing from the tenant his chief source of off-farm income. The cost of renting land consequently increased in line with the growing dependance on tillage.

From 1821 to 1831 the population of the county grew from 293,112 to 366,328 persons representing an increase of 25% in just ten years. Tenanted land holdings, which in the main had previously passed intact from one generation to the next, were now being subdivided among the sons of tenant farmers as they