|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1831 1422 | 1836 1478 |
| 1832 1452 | 1837 1478 |
| 1833 1448 | 1838 1478 |
| 1834 1481 | 1839 1200 |
| 1835 1492 |

The number of electors is, according to the last of these returns, to that of the number of inhabitants, as 1 to 123, and to that of families of six individuals each, as 1 to 20. The county is included in the Leinster circuit. The as­sizes are held in the city of Waterford, where the county prison is fixed. General sessions of the peace are held four times in the year in that city ; twice a year at Dun- garvan, and twice at Lismore ; in each of which towns there are a court-house and a bridewell. The local government is vested in a lieutenant, fourteen deputy-lieutenants, fifty- nine other unpaid magistrates, and a stipendiary magistrate. The constabulary force consists of a county inspector, five sub-inspectors, six head constables, and 150 constables and sub-constables. The county infirmary and the lunatic asylum for the county and city are in Waterford city, where also is a fever hospital ; and there are others in Dun- garvan, Lismore, and Tallow. There are twelve dispen­saries in various towns. Waterford, Dungarvan, and Lis­more, have been fixed on as sites for the workhouses of poor-law unions.

Though the land is in general coarse, there is a consi­derable tract of rich soil, particularly in the south-eastern quarter; and the mountainous districts afford good pas­turage for cattle. The estates are in general very large : that of the duke of Devonshire is the most extensive. Tillage has increased very rapidly within the present cen­tury. In 1779, not one thirtieth part was under the plough. At present, nearly two thirds are under tillage. The change has arisen in some degree from the custom of dividing farms. When the eldest daughter of a farmer married, the father divided the land with his son-in-law ; the next daughter got half of his remaining share for her portion, the system of subdivision being continued as long as there were any daughters to be thus provided for. The sons were left to shift for themselves as best they could. But the atten­tion latterly paid to introduce the most approved agricul­tural practices, has contributed in a much greater degree to this effect. The lands of resident gentry are now spe­cimens worthy of imitation. The settlement of the reli­gious fraternity of St Bernard la Trappe, near Cappoquin, the members of which devote much attention to the re­clamation and improvement of a large mountainous tract

granted to them for their residence, has still further sti­mulated the spirit of industrious exertion, and given it a judicious direction. Wheat is largely raised, clover very generally grown ; but other kinds of green crops are not yet so general as in England. Lime for manure is abundant in the western parts, and large quantities of coralline sea- sand are carried into the interior for the same purpose. The fences are mostly banks of earth topped with furze in the flat country, and dry stone walls in the mountainous parts. The best breeds of cattle are to be seen on the pas­tures. Sheep are not a common stock ; swine, raised chiefly for export, are very numerous, as are goats in the higher lands. Waterford is the principal dairy county in the island. The chief produce of these farms is butter, the export of which has increased considerably for several years. Very little cheese is made. The want of timber, both for ornamental and useful purposes, is much felt ; but thc deficiency is yearly diminished by the increased atten­tion to plantations. There is but little bog. The exten­sive range of sea-coast, indented by numerous creeks and inlets, holds out great inducements for profitable employ­ment in the fisheries. During the ten years’ continuance of the system of bounties, and of grants and loans for the building and repairs of boats and the purchase of fishing gear, adopted by the Board of Fisheries instituted in 1819, the sea-fishery was carried on with much spirit, and caused a large circulation of money, particularly in Dungarvan, the centre of the system. Some working fishermen accu­mulated capital ; some became boat-owners, and some boat-owners masters of trading vessels. But on the termi­nation of the bounties and grants, the business declined rapidly. The boats fell into decay, and were laid up. Those fishermen who had no land, but depended wholly on the success of their occupation at sea, were reduced to po­verty, and, in seasons when the fishery wholly failed, to a state of utter destitution. Yet the market is so far from being overstocked, that the quantity of fish taken on the coast never equals the demand in the local markets, Sco­tish and Newfoundland fish being sold in very large quan­tities. A company formed in Waterford between thirty and forty years ago, for supplying the English markets with round fish from the Nymph Bank by well-boats, failed, owing, it is alleged, to mismanagement. The follow­ing summary exhibits the number of vessels employed in the last year in which the bounty and loan system was in operation, and in that when a second board of commis­sioners repeated the inquiries as to the state of the Irish fisheries.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Decked Vessels. Number. Tonnage.** | **Half-decked. Number. Tonnage.** | **Open Sail-boats. Number.** | **Row-boats. Number.** | **Number of Fishermen.** |
| 1830 69 1239 64 960 40 270 1983  1836 101 1668 52 266 2516 | | | | | |

The coasts abound with shell-fish. Salmon, and other species of river-fish, are taken in large numbers in the Blackwater and Suir, and in the numerous smaller streams.

Carrick-on-Suir was once the centre of a very exten­sive woollen manufacture, which branched out into most parts of this county. It has been for many years almost extinct, the supply at present serving only for the do­mestic consumption of the peasantry. Linen is made in the farm-houses, but only for family use. A cotton fac­tory has been established at Portlaw, to the west of Wa­terford city, which gives employment to a large number of workers. There are distilleries, breweries, and paper-mills. Flour is also extensively manufactured, and largely exported. Some glass is made at Waterford, and coarse earthenware in several places ; but Waterford is not a manufacturing county. The inland trade chiefly centres in Waterford city, which is also a good emporium for the export of grain and salted provisions. Some business in

both departments is also done at Dungarvan and Youghal. The exports and imports in 1838 were stated in a parlia­mentary return to be,—

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Exports. Tons.** | **Value. £.** | **Imports. Tons.** | **Value. *£.*** |
| Waterford 118,000... .2,060,000.... 130,000.... 1,572,000 | | | | |
| Dungarvan 7,500 75,000 11,000 15,000 | | | | |
| Total 125,500 | | 2,135,000 | 141,000 | 1,587,000 |

An act has passed for a railroad from Waterford city, to proceed along the northern side of the Suir, by Carrick-on- Suir and Clonmel, to join the great southern line near Cahir. There are six banking establishments in the county ; of which one is a branch of thc Bank of Ireland, two of the Provincial Bank, and the other three of the National Bank. There are eight loan companies, established under a late act, in different places. The amount of the loans in the