

# RELIVING THE NEWS

with Sean Curtin

## Parents launch protest over school's condition

From the Limerick Chronicle

Thursday, January 12, 1961

SOME 85 boys and girls at Killoughteen National School, about two miles from Newcastle West, are to enjoy an unofficial extended Christmas holiday as the result of the action of their parents in withdrawing them as a protest against the condition of the school and in support of their agitation for a new building.

The action was decided on at a fully representative meeting of the parents on Wednesday night when a resolution was unanimously adopted pledging support to the decision, and declaring that the lockout would be continued indefinitely until a definite assurance was given that steps would be taken forthwith to provide a new school building.

A statement issued after the meeting stated that the parents had

reluctantly withdrawn their children from the school after repeated requests for a new school building, but it had failed to bring any reasonable response, and as a protest against appalling conditions in the existing school: complete absence of sanitary arrangements, and the state of the playground, as well as against the cold indifference towards the demand for a new building in keeping with present day standards.

The school, which was built in 1880, is located in an outlying rural district of Newcastle West Parish, and serves the needs of a large number of farmers and labourers' families in the area.

A spokesman for the parents told a Limerick Chronicle reporter that conditions were so bad in the school that they felt it their duty to withdraw

## Pupils go on Strike in Co. Limerick

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their children in the interest of their health and safety.

"We don't want to cause any undue trouble or nuisance," the spokesman said, "but we have done everything in our power to have the position remedied over the past few years, and we feel now that we have no alternative but to take the action decided on."

The meeting of parents, he added, had been held in the school building where they shivered for nearly two hours discussing the problem before finally deciding on the lockout.

Mr. Nicholas Walsh is Principal at the school and he has one assistant, Miss Woulfe.