

	Proportion of Population.	Proportion in Public Service.
Church of England	... 46.6	... 42.8
Roman Catholic	... 26.0	... 24.7
Methodist	... 10.3	... 9.9
Presbyterian	... 9.9	... 15.4
Others	... 7.2	... 7.2

All this tells its own tale—so far as it goes. But there is worse behind it all. The figures quoted above deal only with the total and relative numerical strength of the adherents of various creeds in the public service of New South Wales. Matters are, for Catholics, vastly worse when we come to deal with the vital question of total and relative pay. We have before us a full list of the positions under the New South Wales Government in which the pay is £700 a year and upwards, taken from the State Blue Book and published in a Sydney contemporary (the 'Catholic Press') on July 20, 1901. There are on the list 109 names. Only three of these are the names of Catholics—one of them a Protestant at the time of his appointment. The non-Catholics on the list draw every year a grand total of £130,388; the Catholics £3090. Comment on these figures would be a sort of journalistic sacrilege.

The official statistical tables given above would smite with a half-bon blow the mind of any man who is open to reason and evidence. But it would be a great mistake to imagine that they stilled the supple tongues or dislocated the jawbones of the Revs. Woods-Rutledge and Dill-Macky. They had about as much effect on those hyphenated ministers of the Lord as upon a pair of brazen images. The holy men simply repeated their slanders as serenely as before. They remind one of the association of old women of both sexes who met in Exeter Hall recently and besought the Almighty to open the eyes of their erring brethren who fancy that the earth is a spheroid, whereas it is in reality (so the new lights contend) as flat as a pancake or at worst (as some of the lecturers conceded) 'as a saucer.' Sane people do not waste breath and brain-tissue trying to convince this sort of 'queer folk' of the shaws. You give them a wide berth, as Billings did to the rattlesnake, and address yourself to those who listen to them, not knowing the freakish peculiarities of 'yellow' clerics to whom newspaper notoriety is as the breath of life. Twelve months of searching investigation into the personnel of the public service in every part of New Zealand have convinced us that an official return, on the lines of that of New South Wales, would reveal a good deal of 'stuffing'—but not by Catholics. We have repeatedly urged, and still urge, the compilation and publication of these returns.

A BRACE OF FAIRY TALES

OUR BISHOPS, 'THE ADULT CATHOLIC VOTE,' AND THE OLD 'STUFFING' STORY

The 'Outlook' (Dunedin) is the Presbyterian-Methodist-Congregationalist organ of New Zealand. Our acquaintance with it covers nearly eight years. During that period it has been generally eminently fair in its treatment of the creeds for which it does not profess to cater, and for a non-Catholic religious paper, singularly free from the 'odium theologicum.' These happy results were, no doubt, due in a great measure to the sound traditions established by the scholarly and fair-minded Rev. Dr. Waddell, whose gifted pen (although no longer acting editorially) still occasionally adorns the columns of the 'Outlook.' The lines on which he conducted our Protestant contemporary have, so far as other creeds are concerned, been generally followed by his successor. But tradition says that even good old Homer went mid-nid-nodding at times, and it may possibly have been a similar oversight that allowed the publication of a slipshod, semi-illiterate, and evil-tempered article in the editorial columns of the 'Outlook' of July 22. Its notable lack of literary quality stamped it as the work of a writer whose hand was a stranger in the editorial department of our local reli-

gious, contemporary, and its strong animus against Catholics was evidenced by the nicknames—painful and frequent and free—which it flung at them, and by the number of calumnious imputations which it made against them by direct statement or by implication or innuendo. We dealt with some of its direct statements in the following communication, which was

Our First Letter

on the subject, and which was unavoidably held over till the issue of August 12:—

Sir,—I have been for over seven years a reader of the 'Outlook.' I gladly acknowledge the general spirit of fairness which it has during that period manifested towards the creeds for which it does not cater. I therefore read with deep and pained surprise the editorial article in your issue dated the 22nd inst., which contains many strong and unmerited statements regarding my co-religionists, and is marked by the free use of the offensive terms, 'Papists,' 'Popish,' 'Romish,' etc. For the present I beg to direct your attention to the two following assertions:—

1. You state, as a sheer matter of fact, that the Catholic prelates of New Zealand (also referred to as 'the Archbishop and his creatures') 'bargain with political parties' for the 'disposal of the Catholic vote. This statement I know and declare to be in every part contrary to fact.

2. Again you say: 'From every district we learn that appointments in the Public Service fall to Roman Catholics in a ratio far in excess of their proportion of the population.' My personal experience of such statements as this extends over seven years. I have noticed (a) that they appear most frequently before and during electoral campaigns; (b) that they are generally so vaguely worded as to make investigation of their truth or falsehood difficult or impossible; (c) that on the rare occasions on which specific offices, or sets of offices, or workshops, etc., of any particular department were named, the stories of 'packing' with 'Papists' generally turned out to be untrue. I have over and over again, even in the columns of the daily press, challenged the authors of such statements—some of them candidates for Parliamentary honors—to produce their evidence in point, and to join with me in securing the formation of representative and responsible citizens to investigate the matter, so far as Dunedin and other centres of population were concerned. In every case my challenges were declined. I have repeatedly pressed for the publication of an official return of the religious beliefs of public servants, based on the latest census papers. This was done in consequence of a similar clamor, in New South Wales, with results of a striking nature, which, no doubt, are well known to you. Having failed to bring certain platform orators to meet me in any way, I carried out a lengthy series of investigations in every part of the Colony in 1901-2, with the aid of active, and, I believe, thoroughly trustworthy local committees. The results of these investigations were published in minute detail week by week in the 'Tablet.' They went to show (a) that Catholics were almost unrepresented, so to speak, in several State departments; (b) that, with the exception of one part of the law and justice branch, Catholics were represented numerically in the Public Service far below their proportion to total population, while in the matter of relative pay they were enormously below their more favored fellow-employees and officials of other faiths.

The burden of proving this charge of 'stuffing' naturally rests with those who make the charge. I feel sure, therefore, that you will, as a matter of common fair play, submit to me the details regarding public appointments which you have been receiving 'from every district' in New Zealand. This will enable us both to properly test the value of the information supplied to you. If, in addition to this, you will join with me in having the story of 'stuffing' investigated, so far as Dunedin is concerned, I can safely promise you results that will be decidedly interesting to your readers. I feel that for the present I must not make further inroads upon your space.—I am, etc.,

EDITOR 'N.Z. TABLET.'

July 20.

'Outlook' Comment Summarised.

On this letter the 'Outlook' commented to the following effect: (1) That, on the question of 'language,' if it erred it erred in good company, as the 'Tablet' editor quoted approvingly an extract from an article by a Protestant writer, Mr. G. K. Chesterton, in which he refers to the Church of Rome as the 'Papacy.' (This, by the way, is not, and never has been regarded by Catholics as a term of offence, and was never included by us among the theological