

MORE FACTS ABOUT 'STUFFING.'

SOME EXAMPLES FROM CHRISTCHURCH.

STATE OF AFFAIRS IN AUCKLAND

THE following further returns from the Christchurch district show that if the public service is 'stuffed' with the members of any one denomination it is not at least with Catholics:—

Christchurch Receiving Home (under the Industrial Schools' Act).—Manager, £120 per annum; attendants, £180 a year. Two and sometimes three attendants are employed, for which the latter sum is voted. There are no Catholics employed in the institution.

Burnham Industrial School.—Manager, £180 per annum; matron, £70; schoolmaster, £150; assistant do, £100; cadet, £65. There is also a vote for attendants amounting to £1361. The number of attendants varies according to requirements. Of these only one is a Catholic. All the permanent officials are non-Catholics. Taking the permanent officials and the attendants together they number about 30, with only one Catholic among them. The whole of the salaries amount to £1926 per annum, of which sum only £65 or £70 at the outside is drawn by the solitary Catholic. Although the proportion of Catholics to the general population is as one to seven, yet here in a public institution they are represented by one in 30, and for every £1 drawn by this Catholic employe non-Catholics draw over £60. Here is a glaring example of religious 'stuffing,' but our co-religionists are certainly not the sinners.

Te Aranga Home (Burwood), an institution for classification under the Industrial Schools' Act. The employees are a manager at £150 per annum, and three or four attendants, for whose services a lump sum of £200 is voted annually. There are no Catholics among those engaged in this institution.

Sumner Deaf and Dumb Institution.—The following is the list: Director, £450 per annum; 1 teacher at £210 a year, 1 do. at £195, 1 at £150, 1 at £140, 1 at £120, and 1 at £100; 3 instructors (special classes) £100 per year each; steward and matron, £200 per annum; sub-matron, £52; servants (number varies), total vote £236. Among the 13 salaried officials there is only one Catholic. Including servants the total sum voted for the employees of the institution amounts to £2153 out of which the solitary Catholic draws £52, or in other words £1 out of every £41 8s paid as wages and salaries in the institution.

It is evident from the figures given with reference to the fore-mentioned public institutions in and around Christchurch that instead of our co-religionists being represented amongst the employees in excess of their proportion in the population, the contrary is the case. The fact of so very few Catholics being employed in these public institutions creates a suspicion that they have been rigidly excluded from all positions save the lowest and worst paid.

AUCKLAND.

We have been unable to get a list of salaries paid to the officers of the Justice Department in Auckland, but we have been informed that there are no Catholics among the staffs of the Supreme Court and S. M. Court in that city.

Railway Department.—Total clerical staff (including station-masters, clerks, cadets), 118. Of these 13 are Catholics, or one in every nine. The guards, porters, shunters, etc., number 232, of whom 20 are Catholics, being one in nearly every 12. There are 375 platelayers, etc., among whom are 53 Catholics—one in seven. The drivers and firemen total 156, 11 of them being Catholics. The total of employees on the Government railways make 881, and of these 107 are Catholics, being less than one in eight. It will be noticed that the Catholics are more numerous in the lower grades of the service than in better paid positions. Unfortunately we are not in a position to give a list of salaries. Had we been able to do so the disadvantages under which our co-religionists suffer in this branch of the public service, where, by the way, it is alleged they receive the most favor, would be more apparent.

Customs.—There are 19 Customs officers in Auckland, of whom two are Catholics, the proportion of our co-religionists being less than one in nine. We have been unable to get a list of salaries, but experience leads us to believe that nearly all the high-paid officials are non-Catholics.

In many of the Government offices in Auckland, such as the Native Lands', Official Assignee's, Registrar of Deaths, Public Trust, and Advances to Settlers', no Catholics are employed; in others, such as the Lands and Survey, Agricultural Department, etc., there are either one or two in each office. We are not in a position to state the salaries of these officers, but from what we know of similar Government offices in other parts of the Colony we can safely presume that our co-religionists are neither duly represented as to number, nor do they draw salaries according to their proportion in the general population.

Post and Telegraph Department.—The following is a list of officers, etc., in the Post and Telegraph office, Auckland district, together with a statement of their grade, salaries or wages, and creed:—

Grade.	Salary.	Religion.
Inspector of telegraphs	£500	non-Catholic
Officer in charge (telegraph)	385	"
Chief clerk (post office)	330	"
Senior M.O. and S.B. clerk	300	Catholic
Assist. officer in charge (telegraph)	250	non-Catholic
2 senior mail clerks	250 each	"
Second M.O. clerk	250	"
Mail agent	250	"
Senior check clerk (telegraph)	220	"
Senior counter clerk	220	"
Senior telephone clerk	210	"
Mechanician	220	"
2 check clerks (telegraph)	220 each	"
5 clerks (post office)	200	"
1 clerk	200	Catholic
Despatch clerk	200	non-Catholic
1 counter clerk (telegraph)	200	"
10 telegraphists	200 each	"
1 telegraphist	200	Catholic
10 clerks (post office)	180 each	non-Catholic
2 " "	180	Catholic
Newspaper sorter	140	Catholic
Letter-carriers' sorter	180	non-Catholic
6 clerks (post office)	170 each	"
1 clerk (post office)	160	"
Assistant letter-carrier's sorter	150	"
" "	145	"
2 clerks (post office)	145 each	"
3 " "	130	"
9 Telegraphists	180	"
Counter clerk (tel.)	180	"
3 Telegraphists	170 each	"
1 " "	170	Catholic
1 " "	160	non-Catholic
3 " "	130	"
Lineman (foreman)	160	"
7 Cadets (telegraph)	100 each	"
1 Cadet	100	Catholic
9 Cadets (post office)	100 each	non-Catholic
5 " "	65 each	"
1 " (tel.)	65	"
1 " (post office)	50	"
Chief postmaster	500	"
Senior clerk (teleph. ex.)	120	"
Assist. " "	120	"
2 Supervisors	100 each	"
17 Cadettes	80	"
5 " "	80	Catholic
1 Cadette (post office)	100	non-Catholic
1 " (teleph. ex.)	70	Catholic
2 Cadettes	60 each	non-Catholic
2 " "	50	"
3 Linemen	140 each	non-Catholic
2 " "	125	"
2 Letter-carriers	140	"
2 " "	135	"
4 " "	120	"
2 " "	95	"
2 " "	85	"
3 " "	80	"
3 " "	75	"
11 " "	70	"
Messenger (post office)	120	"
Assistant Messenger (post office)	110	"
4 " "	70 each	"
2 Counter Clerks (telegraph)	150	"
1 " Clerk	140	"
1 " " "	120	"
Assistant Counter Clerk (telegraph)	85	"
Junior Telegraph Exchange Clerk	115	"
2 " " " "	100 each	"
1 " " " "	90	Catholic
1 " " " "	80	"
2 Assistant Despatch Clerks	70 each	non-Catholic
1 " Clerk	65	"
2 Distributors (telegraph)	65 each	"
4 " " "	60	"

The above figures have been compiled from the departmental list for the financial year 1901-1902. Since the publication of the list—August of last year—some transfers may have taken place.