

'STUFFING' THE PUBLIC SERVICE.

THAMES DISTRICT.

THE following are the particulars of the salaries or wages and religious beliefs of the employes in the Railway, Justice, and Post and Telegraph Departments at the Thames:—

RAILWAY.		
Grade.	Salary.	Religion.
Station-master	£190 per annum	non-Catholic
Clerk	£120 "	"
Cadet	£60 "	"
Guard	£156 10s "	"
Acting-guard	£110 "	"
Porter	£73 "	Catholic
Driver	£160 "	non-Catholic
Fireman	£110 "	"
Cleaner	£66 "	"
Ganger	£120 "	"
6 platelayers	£100 per annum each	"

POST AND TELEGRAPH.		
Chief postmaster	£400 per annum	non-Catholic
" clerk	£220 "	"
Senior telegraphist	£220 "	"
Clerk	£200 "	"
Telegraphist	£210 "	"
"	£180 "	"
"	£180 "	"
"	£200 "	"
"	£180 "	"
"	£170 "	"
Senior T. clerk	£170 "	"
Telegraphist	£160 "	"
"	£130 "	"
Cadet	£85 "	"
"	£65 "	Catholic
"	£65 "	non-Catholic
"	£40 "	"
Exchange clerk	£80 "	"
"	£80 "	Catholic
Letter-carrier	£120 "	Non-Catholic
"	£80 "	"
"	£70 "	Catholic
"	£70 "	"
Distributor	£60 "	"
Messenger	£31 "	Non-Catholic
"	£31 "	"
"	£31 "	"
"	£31 "	Catholic
"	£26 "	"
Lineman	£145 "	Non-Catholic
"	£140 "	"
P.O. Messenger	£36 "	"

JUSTICE.		
Sergeant of police	11s per day	"
1 Constable	8s "	Catholic
2 Constables	8s " each	non-Catholic
Acting Detective	9s 6d "	"
2 Constables	7s " "	"
S. M. and Warden	—	"
Clerk of Court	—	"
Clerk	—	"
Clerk	—	"
Native interpreter	—	"

Of the 16 employes of the Railway Department in the Thames one is a Catholic, his annual pay amounting to £73. The solitary Catholic draws £1 for every £24 paid by the department there. This is one of the branches of the public service in which it is alleged by sectarian strife-raisers that our co-religionists are in excess of their proportion in the population. There are 32 employes in the Post and Telegraph Department, of whom seven are Catholics, the pay of the latter ranging from £26 to £80 a year. Out of every £9 15s paid in salaries and wages by the Department Catholics draw £1. We have not been supplied with a list of salaries paid to the officers of the Magistrate's Court, but as they are all non-Catholics, the particulars to hand are sufficient for our purpose. There is only one Catholic among the twelve employes of the Justice Department. These figures speak for themselves and need no comment. It is rather significant that although the salaries in the above list range from £26 to £100 per annum, the highest credited to a Catholic is £80 a year.

Resignation of the Bishop of Bendigo.

A GOOD deal of surprise and very general regret was felt when it became known that the Right Rev. Dr. Reville, O.S.A., had tendered his resignation of the See of Bendigo to the Holy Father. Of course (writes the Bendigo correspondent of the Sydney *Freeman's Journal*) the newspapers immediately cast about for some sensational reason for this step. As reticence was observed in the only reliable quarter, a theory was soon evolved to the following effect:—

'The original church of the parish, which the Bishop of Bendigo administers directly, was known as St. Kilian's. In the last 12 months a handsome new cathedral, known as the Church of the Sacred Heart, has been built. Money was borrowed for the purpose upon the assumption that a bequest of nearly £90,000 and £6000 a year by the late Dr. Backhaus, would be available to liquidate the obligation incurred. Incidentally it may be mentioned that there is now some doubt whether the legacy can be expended outside the limits of the original parish of St. Kilian's. The lump sum of £90,000 will, however, fall due in a few weeks, and, according to the testator's will, the bequest must be administered by a secular bishop, that is a bishop who is not a member of any religious Order. Dr. Reville is attached to the Order of St. Augustine, and, accordingly, he feels that this provision in the will debars him from acting as administrator of the money.'

This theory (writes the correspondent) has the very serious defect of being quite incorrect. As a matter of fact, there has been no development in connection with the bequest of the late Very Rev. Dr. Backhaus which would in any way account for Dr. Reville's resignation. The present Bishop was Vicar-General of the diocese when Dr. Backhaus died in 1882; he was subsequently for many years Coadjutor to the late Bishop Crane; and nobody could possibly be in a better position to know the obligations imposed by the will than Dr. Reville. Besides it is preposterous to suppose that the bequest, valuable though it is, would in any way be permitted to regulate the episcopal appointment to Bendigo. The provisions of Dr. Backhaus's will, briefly, are 'that all the real property in Victoria and South Australia is to be vested in trustees for ever, the income to accumulate for 20 years, and then to be applied by the parish priest for the time being of St. Kilian's for the benefit of St. Kilian's Church for religious and useful purposes. After 20 years, the income to be handed over annually to the said parish priest, provided that such priest be a secular priest. If not a secular priest, then the trustees to dispose of the accumulations and the annual income for the benefit of St. Kilian's Church and the congregation thereof in such manner as they may think proper.' So that it would require hostility on the part of the trustees to the best interests of the diocese and parish to prevent the administration of the funds under a regular priest. And this is an unlikely contingency. The Very Rev. Dean Barry, P.P., D.D. (who is a co-trustee in the estate with Mr. Charles Mundein and the Sandhurst Trustees Company), says there was no trouble threatening regarding the estate, and whoever may be appointed to fill the vacancy, assuming the Pope accepted the resignation, would be no better off than Bishop Reville. It should be stated, that under the terms of Dr. Backhaus's will, moneys arising from the estate should not be touched for over 20 years. That term will expire in a few months by which time it is calculated the estate will be worth £120,000. Three or four years ago, however, the church authorities obtained a loan from Mr. George Lansell, on the strength of expectations under Dr. Backhaus's will, and with this money the main portion of the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Wattle-square has been erected. Dr. Barry explains that the best legal advice was obtained in this, as in all other transactions regarding the administration of the estate, and the late Bishop Crane and Dr. Reville, who was then Coadjutor-Bishop, fully acquiesced in what was done. There was no difference between Bishop Reville and the trustees of the estate, and so far as he (Dr. Barry) was aware, the only reason the Bishop had for resigning was the unsatisfactory state of his health.

Later inquiries have elicited the information that Bishop Reville tendered his resignation to Cardinal Moran about the end of February, and as the mail steamer by which his Eminence left on his visit to Rome is about due at Naples, the Pope's decision regarding the acceptance or otherwise may come to hand at any time. Meanwhile rumor is busy providing a successor to Dr. Reville, the names mentioned most prominently being the Very Rev. Dean Hegarty, of Kyneton, and the Very Rev. Dean O'Haran (private secretary to and at present accompanying the Cardinal to Rome). But it is needless to say that these rumors are purely speculative.

The Augustinian Order, to which Dr. Reville belongs, has given four Bishops to the Australian Church—viz, the late Bishop of Bendigo (Dr. Crane), the late Bishop of Cooktown (Dr. Hutchinson), the present Bishop of Cooktown (Dr. Murray), and Bishop Reville himself. The last named was appointed Coadjutor-Bishop of Bendigo and consecrated under the title of Bishop of Ceramis, in partibus, in 1885, and succeeded Bishop Crane on the death of that venerable prelate in October last. During his connection with the diocese Dr. Reville has won the admiration of all classes by his piety and the ability and holy zeal with which he has discharged the onerous duties of his high office.

The family of the late Hon. Thomas Dalton, K.C.S.G., purpose perpetuating his memory in a rich window to be placed in St. Mary's Church, North Sydney. The subject of the window, the order for which has been entrusted to Hardman, of Birmingham, is the Five Glorious Mysteries, and the work is to be done in the finest style of art.

Hancock's "BISMARCK" LAGER BEER.

NEW ZEALAND'S
NEW INDUSTRY.