

proposal has broken down. 'Merlin,' the writer who started the controversy, states that he has for some time refrained from making any allusion to the proposed inquiry, because he has been hoping, in spite of many disappointments, that the matter might be disposed of on the lines suggested by Father Thurston, and accepted by himself. But he now announces definitely, as we learn from the *Catholic Times*, that it has not been possible to form such a committee of enquiry as was desired. Eminent scholars to whom the editor of the *Referee* and 'Merlin' appealed declined, with one consent, to be burdened with a discussion which would, they held, be purely academic and unproductive. We confess to a feeling of regret that the proposal for a commission has come to nothing, for we are heartily tired of exposing this hoary old fiction about the Jesuits, and the finding of a non-Catholic committee of experts would surely be accepted, even by our enemies, as conclusive.

'STUFFING' THE PUBLIC SERVICE.

WELLINGTON.

By this time our readers, who have followed the particulars regarding the Public Service, which have appeared in these columns, are satisfied that if the Government departments are 'stuffed' with any particular denomination it is not with our co-religionists. The following particulars concerning the Post and Telegraph offices, the head office of the Railways, Government Life Insurance, and Department of Roads, Wellington, will bear out our contention.

POST AND TELEGRAPH OFFICES.

Grade.	Salary or Wages.	Religion.
Secretary	£700 per annum	non-Catholic
Supt. electric lines	650	"
Assist. sec. and insptr	600	"
Accountant	500	"
Chief postmaster	465	"
Inspector telegraphs	435	"
Officer in charge (Tel)	425	"
Assist. accountant	400	"
2nd clerk (G.P.O.)	330	"
Chief clerk (G.P.O.)	330	"
1 clerk	300	"
1 "	275	"
1 "	260	"
7 "	250	each
1 "	235	"

There is not a single Catholic among the 21 officers enumerated in the foregoing list. As it would take up too much of our space to give a list of individual officers in the Post and Telegraph department in Wellington we have bulked them according to salaries as follows:—

10	£220 per annum each	non-Catholic
3	220	Catholic
1	210	non-Catholic
27	200	"
2	200	Catholic
1	190	non-Catholic
42	180	"
4	180	Catholic
5	170	non-Catholic
6	160	"
5	160	Catholic
8	150	non-Catholic
4	145	"
1	145	Catholic
1	155	non-Catholic
5	140	"
14	130	"
3	130	Catholic
3	125	non-Catholic
15	120	"
1	120	Catholic
6	115	non-Catholic
2	110	"
3	105	"
18	100	"
1	100	Catholic
1	95	"
4	90	non-Catholic
9	85	"
21	80	"
7	80	Catholic
5	75	non-Catholic
12	70	"
1	70	Catholic
7	65	non-Catholic

Grade	Salary	Religion
1	65	Catholic
6	60	non-Catholic
1	60	Catholic
9	50	non-Catholic
1	50	Catholic
1	40	non-Catholic

Out of a total of 298 employees, 32 are Catholics, or less than one in nine. The total amount of the annual salaries paid by the department is £44,240, of which the sum of £4235 goes to our co-religionists—that is, for every £10 9s paid in salaries and wages Catholics receive £1. The general average salary paid to each employee is £148 9s 2d, the non-Catholic average being £150 7s 10d, and the Catholic average £132 6s 10d. This information has been taken principally from the Post and Telegraph Departmental list for last year. A few changes may have taken place in the meantime, but these would not alter the results to any appreciable extent.

HEAD OFFICE N.Z. RAILWAYS.

The approximate amount paid in salaries through the head office of the Government Railways is £25,000 per annum. We have been unable to get a list of the employees, but we are given to understand that the Catholics on the staff draw £1980 per annum, or about £1 in every £12 12s 6d.

GOVERNMENT LIFE INSURANCE DEPARTMENT.

There are 131 employees, including temporary clerks, in the above department whose salaries amount to £22,908, or an average of £174 17s 4d. Of these, 14 are Catholics, who draw annually £1472. The average annual salary of each non-Catholic employee is £183 4s 3d, and of each Catholic employee £105 2s 10d. For every £16 paid by the department, Catholics draw £1.

DEPARTMENT OF ROADS.

Head Office.—There are 22 permanent and temporary employees in this department. Three of these are Catholics, and draw between them £357 4s per annum (an average of £119 1s 4d) out of a total of £3928 8s, the general average being £178 11s 3d, and the non-Catholic average £188 2s 1d. For every £11 paid in salaries or wages Catholics draw £1.

District Office.—Of the 29 employees in the District Office, five are Catholic, who draw an annual sum of £702 8s out of a total of £5045 16s—about £1 in every £7. The average for our co-religionists is only £140 9s 7d, against that of £180 19s 6d for non-Catholics.

HASTINGS, HAWKE'S BAY.

The following are the particulars regarding employees in the Post and Telegraph, Railway, and Justice Departments in Hastings:—

Post and Telegraph Department—

Grade.	Salary or Wages.	Religion.
Postmaster	£250 per annum	non-Catholic
Telegraphist	200	"
"	170	"
2 Cadets	66	each
Exchange clerk	70	"
Letter carrier	125	Catholic
"	70	non-Catholic
Messenger	34	"
"	31	"
"	26	"

Railway—

Stationmaster	200	"
Clerk	180	"
"	140	"
Cadet	40	"
Guard	7s 6d per day	"
Porter	7s 7d	"
"	7s 0d	"
"	7s 0d	Catholic
"	6s 6d	non-Catholic
" (junior)	4s 0d	"
"	5s 6d	"
Line Ganger	8s 0d	Catholic
Platelay	6s 6d	"
"	6s 0d	non-Catholic

The sergeant and two constables at Hastings and the constable at Clive are non-Catholics. Of the four Catholics employed in the departments mentioned only one is a salaried officer, the others being wages men. The proportion of Catholics in the departments is less than one in seven.

For Chilblains there is positively no remedy to approach Evan's WITCH'S OIL—an absolutely certain cure.—*.*

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