

goes on apace, is preparing a state of things among us that may awaken our dictators very rudely one of these days. No nation ever yet strayed far from the pathways of right and truth without paying sooner or later a heavy penalty for it.

Religious Statistics

In an article in the *Dunedin Evening Star*, the Rev. Robert Wood examines in detail the religious statistics for New Zealand according to the belated 1916 census report. In three tables he gives us, (a) the numbers in the various denominations, (b) statistics for church-going, (c) for attendance at Sunday School. Note that he says his figures for "Roman" Catholics include "Catholics undefined," *apropos* of which we who hold that there is but one Catholic Church, and that it is ours, never, for census purposes or for any other reason, sign ourselves "Roman" Catholics, and we are certain that many others follow us in this. "Roman" Catholic is a Protestant label which for our part we will not accept.

NUMBERS BY DENOMINATIONS.

Denomination.	Number.	In-crease since 1911.	De-crease since 1911.
Church of England	459,671	47,350	—
Presbyterian	260,659	25,997	—
Roman Catholic, including Catholics undefined	151,605	10,015	—
Methodist	106,024	11,197	—
Baptist	20,871	830	—
Congregational	8,221	—	635
Lutheran	3,630	—	947
Church of Christ	9,249	62	—
Salvation Army	10,004	297	—
Seventh Day Adventist	1,534	421	—
Unitarian	1,402	86	—
Protestant, undefined	2,238	67	—
Greek Catholic	247	—	18
Other Christians	13,873	2,636	—
Hebrew	2,341	213	—
Mohammedan	47	35	—
Buddhist, Confucian	1,471	—	30
Other non-Christians	954	305	—
Agnostic	662	34	—
Freethinkers	4,446	208	—
Rationalists	619	—	162
Spiritualists	1,295	98	—
No denomination	5,023	782	—
Other indefinite	310	230	—
No religion	4,184	—	449
Atheists	115	4	—
Other no religion	12	—	—
Object to state	25,577	—	—
Unspecified	3,924	—	—

Grand total ... 1,099,449

The following are the figures for church attendance and church accommodation:—

Denomination.	Number at services.	Seating accommodation.
Church of England	54,964	125,330
Presbyterian	60,781	125,375
Roman Catholic	53,907	71,847
Catholic Apostolic	195	760
Greek Orthodox	40	60
Methodist	41,968	87,295
Baptist	6,034	13,190
Congregational	3,257	7,800
Brethren	6,119	16,110
Church of Christ	3,131	8,734
Lutheran	564	1,395
Society of Friends	44	200
Christadelphian	163	925
Seventh Day Adventist	613	1,648
Unitarian	150	800
Salvation Army	6,999	21,328
Hebrew	390	1,340

Church of God	80	80
Spiritualists	525	1,690
Mormon	355	950
Theosophist	226	431
Undenominational	2,527	5,972
Totals	243,024	493,260

Churches and chapels (to the number of 2091), schools, halls, theatres, private houses, are named as places where religious services are held. Mr. Wood tells us that in *Mudie-Smith's Religious Life of London* it is stated that in handling the figures for church-attendance 50 per cent. must be deducted for those who are too young, too old, too sick, or too busy to attend. He thinks that percentage too high, but suggests that a third should be deducted and a comparison based on the remainder. We disagree with Mr. Wood. Our experience in country districts warrants us in believing that 50 per cent. is not too high. Leaving out of the question the sick, the old, and the young, when in country places there is early Mass more than half the Catholic population cannot attend. Of course other denominations have not service as early as we have and this does not apply to them in the same way. Another thing to be considered is that when the census was compiled we were asked (if our memory serves us) to give in our returns the figures for the largest attendance at a service. For churches that have but one service that works out favorably, but it by no means does us justice. For instance, suppose we say that the largest Sunday attendance at Mass in St. Joseph's Cathedral is 800, what is there in that bald statement to tell the statisticians that there are three other Masses at which about 1200 others attend? This circumstance has to be taken into account when reading the figures for Catholics. It is obvious, too, from the foregoing that while seating accommodation in our churches may be more than sufficient for the largest number attending a service, it may be (and is) altogether inadequate for the total number of our people going to Mass on Sundays. Remembering that in all the larger towns there are from two to four Masses every Sunday, the difference thus made is by no means negligible. Bearing this in mind it is clear that Catholics are easily the best church-goers in the Dominion. Mr. Wood also gives a table for attendance at Sunday school. Catholics do their Sunday school work all the week round and the Sunday classes are of minor importance in comparison with the work done on week days. However, here are Mr. Wood's figures from the census:—

ATTENDANCE AT SUNDAY SCHOOL AND NUMBER OF TEACHERS.

The Government Statistician furnishes the following information about Sunday school scholars and workers belonging to the several denominations:—

Denomination.	Scholars.	Teachers.
Church of England	41,225	3,585
Presbyterian	37,141	3,838
Roman Catholic	12,234	612
Methodist	26,917	2,864
Baptist	5,424	707
Congregational	2,616	331
Brethren	3,513	390
Church of Christ	3,017	340
Lutheran	193	18
Christadelphian	65	12
Seventh Day Adventist	470	68
Unitarian	140	16
Salvation Army	4,786	519
Hebrew	151	9
Church of God	22	4
Spiritualist	97	11
Mormon	450	38
Theosophist	87	11
Undenominational	1,106	119
Totals	139,660	13,492

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