

ployed. But for this siesta from ten to four he would probably have rivalled "R.L.S." in daily output. We do not know Sir Walter Scott's rate of production; in his day there was not a county cricket championship to make us all passionate statisticians; but Lockhart says enough to indicate that, when money was tight, Scott was a flyer after the order of Sheridan. Look, again, at our contemporary authors of bound masterpieces. Cast up the number of words turned out in a year, to be bound in cloth, octavo, by each of our most popular novelists. Divide this by the number of days in a year, less Sundays and a proper allowance for holidays, and the daily yield is almost as easily ascertained as the speed, per minute, of pigeons racing home to Oldham from Rouen. If the results could then be tactfully compared with the daily labors of eminent journalists, we fear it might be found that all the prize milch cows came from the branch of the profession of letters which is so warmly praised for lack of fluency. Why it should be so is another and a darker question. Perhaps because the hard-bitten journalist knows that behind a thousand harmless-looking villa fronts there are daily couched, from cock-crow onwards, "Veritas," "Forty Years' Subscriber," "Chapter and Verse," "Pro Bono Publico," and a whole dragonsome fauna of other informers ready to spring, letter-to-editor in hand, upon every wrong date, false quotation, or other human frailty of the writer's current hand. This chills the craftsman's fine fire, breeds self-distrust, and sets him toying with standard works of reference at seasons when the writer of "serious literature" can let himself loose in the blue without serious danger of being publicly corrected.

The Irish Governor-General

The *Manchester Guardian*, of December 15, announces the reception by the Dail of Mr. T. M. Healy, Governor General for Ireland. The members received him standing, and he said, after reading the King's message:

"To-day, in the name and with the authority of the people of Saorstát Éireann, you enter into the fullness of your partnership in liberty with the nations co-operating in co-equal membership in a great Commonwealth of free peoples. I meet you on this momentous day with sentiments of the deepest emotion, charged by his Majesty to associate myself as his representative with the task which, after many years of hard-pressed claim, becomes yours alone and unquestioned, by the effect of the Treaty made just a year ago between Great Britain and Ireland and subsequently ratified—the task of governing this State, of making the laws under which you are to live, and of administering those laws for the happiness and well-being of all your fellow-citizens.

"You have adopted a Constitution for this State, and in framing that Constitution, while you have in careful observance of your Treaty obligations conformed to those modes of constitutional expression and form which are common to your partner nations and a characteristic feature of their association in the Commonwealth of nations, you have had no other fetter on the exercise of a single-minded and whole-hearted determination to create for your country such machinery of government as seemed to you most calculated to serve her best interests most efficiently.

"You have just devised a Constitution under which the most patriotic yearnings for the re-creation of the national life and identity of our country in language and thought, in literature and art, for her progress along secure lines of social and economic development, for her assurance in prosperity, happiness and contentment, are offered the utmost free play. You have been encouraged in your work by the support of your fellow-countrymen and women, who have testified in no uncertain manner their approval of and confidence in your efforts for the nation.

THE HOSTILE MINORITY.

"Unhappily, a small number who have not yet bowed to the will of the majority have engaged in hostile operations against you, and have spread ruin broadcast in an attempt to impose their will upon the

majority by means of terror and destruction. While failing utterly in their attempt to upset the Treaty so solemnly arrived at, and to involve our country in a renewed strife with Great Britain, these unhappy people have succeeded in striking deadly blows both at the economic prosperity and the political unity of Ireland, and thousands of persons have suffered individual hardships through their actions.

"The problem of unemployment, so pressing in many countries to-day was certain to have been of smaller dimensions in Ireland than in almost any other country, but it has been enhanced to an incalculable extent by the fury of destruction and attempted disorganisation which is the manner of war now being waged upon the people. It must be your first and most urgent care to bring this disorder to a speedy end, so that you may be free to devote your best efforts to the solution of the social and economic problems it has created or aggravated.

"In the meantime my Ministers are giving their best attention to the working out of schemes for dealing with the [unemployment] problem, which they hope to have ready to submit to your active consideration so soon as the circumstances will allow of their being put into operation."

After alluding to the constitution of the Boundary Commission, Mr. Healy outlined prospective legislation. One of the earliest measures, he said, would be an electoral bill to implement the franchise enactments of the Constitution. A committee would be set up immediately to examine the question of the establishment of a judicial system, and a bill for the establishment of an Irish Judiciary would be submitted.

Other measures to be introduced would provide for a permanent civil police in the form of the present civic guard, and the provision of a national defence force in time of peace. Another matter of national importance which was engaging the attention of the Ministry was that of provision for the completion of land purchase. "It is my earnest prayer that the labors upon which you are now entering may be blessed and bear great fruit for our country," Mr Healy concluded.

Ecclesiastical and Educational Statistics

The *Catholic Directory* (*Ordo*) for 1923 supplies the following interesting ecclesiastical and educational statistics in respect to New Zealand:—

ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON.

Number of districts, 45; churches, 127; priests (regular), 54, (secular) 47; total 101. Religious brothers, 30; nuns, 513; colleges, 2; boarding and high schools, 18; primary schools, 55; orphanages, 4; inmates, 432; homes for incurable, 2; inmates, 140; creche, 1; inmates, 30. Total number of children receiving Catholic education in the archdiocese, 8483; total Catholic population of the archdiocese (census 1916), 55,437 (exclusive of Maoris); Maori Catholic population, 2071.

DIOCESE OF AUCKLAND.

Parishes, 49; diocesan clergy, 49; Fathers of St. Joseph's Missionary Society, 22; religious brothers, 18; sisters, 320; schools (boarding) for boys, 1; for girls, 16; superior and primary day schools, 39; teachers, 169; orphanages, 2; home for the poor, 1; hospital and convalescent home, 1. Total number of children receiving Catholic education, about 6000. Total Catholic population of the diocese (census 1916) about 40,000; Catholic Maoris about 3000.

DIOCESE OF CHRISTCHURCH.

Number of districts, 21; churches, 63; priests, 50 (secular 22, regular 28); religious brothers, 11; nuns, 296; boarding and high schools, 8; primary schools, 29; Magdalen Asylum, 1; industrial and preservation schools, 1; orphanage, 1; Nazareth House, 1; girls' hostels, 2. Number of Catholics in the diocese, 30,000.

DIOCESE OF DUNEDIN.

Districts, 24; churches, 71; stations, 45; secular priests, 40; religious brothers, 9; nuns, 222; boarding schools (girls), 6; boarding school for boys, 1; superior day schools, 6; primary schools, 23; ecclesiastical seminary, 1; orphanages, 2; home for the aged poor, 1; children in Catholic schools, 3163; Catholic population of diocese, 24,500.

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