

CATHOLICS IN ENGLAND.

Their Organization to Secure Equal Rights in Public Offices in Manchester.

The Registration Association—Its Aim and Scope—An Interesting Statement Made by the Secretary of the Society in regard to the Successes Achieved.

Some idea may be obtained how Catholics look after their interests in public affairs in England from the following report of an interview with a representative of the Catholic Times, Eng., recently held with Mr. H. Timony, the secretary of the Manchester Catholic Registration Association.

"The circumstance which gave rise to the institution of the Registration Association," said Mr. Timony, "was the Catholic defeat at the School Board election of 1891.

"The only alteration which had been made in them is that while previously the executive consisted of 12 members and officers, it now includes one priest and one layman from every mission, the officers of the Association, the Catholic J. P.'s, and every Catholic member of a public body in Manchester."

"It certainly makes the committee unwieldy, but at the same time it greatly increases its representative character."

"Who are the officers of the Association?" The Bishop of Salford is, of course, president, the chairman is the Very Rev. Canon Richardson, Mr. T. Q. Riddin, P. L. G., is the treasurer, and Mr. R. J. Daly and myself are the hon. secs.

"Would you tell me their names?" "They are Councillors D. McCabe, J. P., D. Boyle, and C. O'Doherty; the Rev. P. Lynch, M.R.; Mr. T. Freeman Kelly and Mr. James Hackforth, of the Manchester School Board; Mrs. Rose Hyland, P.L.G., Mr. Jos. O'Neil, P.L.G., Mr. T. Q. Riddin, P.L.G., and Mr. Jas. Nolan, P.L.G., of the Manchester Union; Mrs. Sale, P.L.G., Miss Cle g, P.L.G., Dr. Nolan, P.L.G., and Dr. O'Doherty, P.L.G., of the Chorlton Union; the Rev. J. Hennessey, P.L.G., and the Rev. W. Sassen, P.L.G., of the Prestwich Union; and Councillors E. Scully and M. Bushell, of the Gordon District Council.

"Does the Association confine its influence to Manchester?" "It extends its influence all over the greater Manchester, and wherever in the adjacent districts its help is needed it gives its assistance. The only thing the Association asks is that the selections of these districts shall be Catholic men of ability and character who will be an honour to those who elect them, and this being the case, it will give all the financial and other assistance necessary to secure their election."

"All this necessarily means money?" "Of course a considerable amount of money is necessary to do all this work, but nothing in comparison with the

magnitude of the result, for it has been found by experience at the Association's disposal we can do as much for £20 as the political organizations can accomplish for £500.

"Do you come into conflict with those bodies?" "We find we can work pretty well with both the principal parties, though the Independent Labor party gives us considerable trouble."

"What has been your most striking success?" "Perhaps our greatest victory has been in Prestwich, where previous to the founding of the Association there had not been a Catholic Guardian of the Poor for forty years.

"The name of the Association appears to be a very important one." "Well, what I have mentioned is undoubtedly a great work, but that to which most of our labor is devoted is the work of registration. In the words of our constitution, our object is 'To advance the general interest of Manchester Catholics and to secure and maintain the adequate representation of Catholics on the various public bodies of Manchester.'

"Are there any associations of the same kind outside Manchester?" "There is a similar association in Salford, and Warrington has asked for and received full particulars of the organization. There is also the London Catholic Association, but that appears to me to take in too much to do all its work effectually. With these exceptions, I know of no similar association in England or in the diocese, but there can be no doubt that if the organization were extended throughout the diocese of Salford His Lordship Bishop Bilborough would have a greater proportion of Catholic representatives than any other Bishop in England, if he has not already."

"What is your work for this year?" "First and foremost there is the work of registration, and particular attention will have to be devoted to this in view of the School Board elections, which take place in November and will be fought on the new register, and also important elections of Guardians of the Poor."

"Would the Association interest itself in the formation of similar organizations outside its own district?" "Any place desirous of forming a Catholic Registration Association would be supplied with all necessary information upon application being made to the Central Office, St. Augustine's, Granby-row, and the officers of the Association would be only too glad, if the distance were not too great, to arrange to send some of their representatives to the place where its inauguration was desired. At all times we can get some of the Catholic representatives, and I have never asked any of them to undertake such a duty when they have not willingly done so."

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NEWFOUNDLAND'S SCHOOLS.

An Interesting Outline of the System in Vogue.

The Principle of Denominational Schools Recognized—Some of the Results Attained—A Tribute to the Christian Brothers—The Enthusiasm They Have Awakened in the General Work of Education.

Mr. P. J. McGrath, editor of the Evening Herald of St. John's, N.F., contributes an article to the current number of the Canadian Magazine, in which he deals with the School system of the Island. In opening he says:—

"At a time when Canadian people are struggling with the most dangerous political problem that has faced them since confederation, and when the permanence of the Dominion is threatened by the introduction of racial and religious elements into the arena of general politics, it may not be amiss to explain how Newfoundland has escaped the pitfalls that endanger the feet of one of Canada's most promising provinces. All men who desire a peaceful and satisfactory settlement of the Manitoba School Question may find therein material to aid them in their work, for this island, the 'Cinderella of British colonies,' has succeeded where others have failed in keeping her educational system free from trouble and friction, by adopting the principles of mutual toleration and the

RECOGNITION OF DENOMINATIONAL RIGHTS.

Of what may be termed two evils (though many will doubtless join issue with me there) she chose the lesser; between State schools, with their secularism that frequently degenerates into godlessness, and denominational schools, with their waste of energy and effort, she adopted the latter, thereby promoting peace and concord throughout the land. I do not write as the champion or critic of either system, but merely aim to present the facts as they exist, and permit the reader to draw his own conclusions. The public school, no doubt, has its advantages, in giving a uniformity and high standard of work, but, on the other hand, it must not be forgotten that the tendency in such institutions is to weaken the interest of clergymen and denominational leaders in the work of educating the youth, which the constant rivalry of sectional schools serves to increase and vivify.

The system in operation in this colony is denominational in its widest and completest sense. Last year, only the one public school remaining—the Harbor Grace Grammar School—was abolished, and its appropriation included in the general educational vote. From the early '50's, when the concession of Home Rule or Responsible Government was wrung from a reluctant British

Ministry, the principle of denominational schools has always been recognized, and until 1876 there were

CATHOLIC AND PROTESTANT SCHOOLS IN EVERY SETTLEMENT.

For a period anterior to the latter differences had been arising between the two leading Protestant bodies, the Anglican and the Methodist, which resulted in the subdivision of the system by maintaining schools for every denomination. By this means the disputes and jealousies of sectaries and the evil purposes of unscrupulous politicians are avoided and the systems loyally upheld by every class and creed in the island. For all practical purposes there are but three denominations to be considered throughout the colony—Catholic, Anglican and Methodist, which rate in population in the order named. The Presbyterians are sufficiently numerous to keep up a school in St. John's, the Congregationalists likewise, and the Salvation Army has lately effected a lodgment in one or two villages.

The total population of the island at the last census, in 1891, was 197,934, and the denominations totalled as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Denomination, Number. Catholic: 72,342; Anglican: 48,075; Methodist: 52,672.

The financial features of the policy are taken up by the writer in the following manner:

"The States provides an annual appropriation or grant for educational purposes, which is based upon the number of each denomination, and divided among them on a per capita basis. At present the grant is \$144,000, or roughly, 75 cents per head of the entire population."

THE SALARIES OF TEACHERS.

is a question which Mr. McGrath treats at some length. In part he says:—

"Each of the three denominations has a superintendent for its schools who inspects and examines them and supervises the educational affairs of that body. Each receives a salary of \$1,620 and has an assistant at \$400. The stipend for the colleges is fixed by law, and grants in aid of the support and training of teachers are provided, at these colleges and at the Catholic convents an allowance of \$100 yearly for males and \$80 for females being made to those desirous of pursuing the profession of teaching. The salary of the teachers is fixed by the means of the Board employing him or her, as the case may be, but within the past few years, they having represented the need of further help in this direction, \$20,000 is voted yearly to be disbursed by the superintendents to the teachers as a supplement to the Board salary, at the rate of \$64 for the first, \$48 for the second, and \$32 for the third grade teachers. In addition to this the vote of \$5,237 is awarded by the superintendents to successful teachers as a bonus in the proportions of \$20, \$12 and \$6 respectively, according to grade. School fees rating from \$1 to \$3 are also to be paid by each

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mutual respect engendered, and the healthy rivalry caused by the efforts of each denomination to make the best possible showing. The advance in the educational status is largely due to the introduction of the Irish Christian Brothers to teach the Catholic boys' schools in St. John's, some 18 years ago. These gentlemen have effected quite a revolution in school improvement, and none recognize and admit their ability more readily than the other denominations, which have profited largely by the spur they have given all round. The educational future of the colony is regarded by those interested as most hopeful, and certainly every atom of influence that churchmen and statesmen can exert in behalf of the betterment of our people in this respect is being applied to that end. We hold that, while there is much to be done to reach an ideal standard, we may not unreasonably claim for our present system that its results warrant the annual expenditure.

NOTE—Roughly, the Catholics number 36 out of every 100 of the population; Anglicans, 34; Methodists, 26, and minor Protestants, 4.

A RAILWAY DISASTER.

NEARLY ONE HUNDRED RUSSIAN SOLDIERS LOSE THEIR LIVES AND MANY OTHERS SERIOUSLY INJURED. ST. PETERSBURG, May 17.—Patrols of the disaster which befell a military train last week between Bekesbof and Bliva on the Valdi Jurley line, show it to have been due to the cars crossing a low embankment, which had been submerged and undermined by the recent floods in that district. The train conveying the Kraenojansk infantry was derailed. The engine tumbled over, dragging with it fifteen covered trucks filled with soldiers, and two second class carriages. All the cars were shattered and now lie in heaps of ruins, covering the track for a distance of ninety yards. In the panic which followed the accident many of the soldiers jumped into the water and were drowned. Special trains were sent to the scene of the disaster from the nearest towns, and ninety-three injured men were conveyed to the hospitals at Dorpat and Yurief. Twenty-four bodies have already been recovered, and the remains of sixty additional victims are beneath the debris.

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RESPONSIBILITY OF HACKMEN. Judge Doherty on Friday morning delivered judgment in a case which is of interest to hackmen and the general public. The facts are as follows: Herbert Ben Olien, an Oriental lecturer, took an action for \$900 against Louis Durocher, carter, for the loss of a trunk which plaintiff claimed defendant had lost. The evidence showed that defendant had taken the trunk to one of the railway stations in the city, where it had been lost. Defendant pleaded that his control of the trunk expired the moment he delivered it at the station, where plaintiff should have been waiting to receive it. This view of the case was concurred in by the judge, who dismissed plaintiff's action.