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CURRENT COMMENT

It speaks well for the honesty of the Henderson Directory Company that they report the population of Winnipeg, ascertained by their own enumerators within the last fortnight, as almost 20,000 less than they estimated in the latest edition of their directory. In the preface to that bulky and useful volume, under date of January, 20, 1905, "Henderson Directories, Ltd." say: "This, the twenty-seventh volume of Henderson's Winnipeg City Directory contains the names of 32,467 individuals, exclusive of 2,282 firms and corporations, indicating that the population of the city of Winnipeg at the end of 1904 was 97,401, an increase of 20,096 during the past year." A glance at this fantastic total, as compared with the 32,467 individual names in the Directory, shows that it is obtained by the simple process of multiplying by 3. It appears that this factor—3—is accepted by the Association of American Directory Publishers as a means of obtaining a very conservative estimate of the population. Multiply the number of names in any given city directory by 3 and you get somewhat less than the population of that city. Well and good, if the list of names is correct, without any unnecessary repetitions; but if the list of names swarms with unnecessary repetitions the very basis of the calculation becomes unreliable. Now this is precisely the case with the Winnipeg Directory; it swarms with unnecessary repetitions, which have evidently been counted as separate names in the making up of the total. Here are a few which we picked out after a few minutes' search:—at page 346 Bauviere, Compte (sic) de, fencing master Winnipeg College of Music—at page 496 De Bauviere, Comte, fencing master Winnipeg College of Music, 340 Garry; at page 346 Bauviere, Moreau de, Madame, teaches French Winnipeg College of Music, h. 122 Edmonton—at page 496 De Bauviere, Moreau, Madame, French teacher Wpg Col. of Music, h. 122 Edmonton; at p. 497 De la Giclais, M. J. A. M., Commission Agent, Real Estate, 515 Main, Res. 289 Colony—at p. 581 Giclais, M. J. A. M. de la, Commission Agent and Real Estate 515 Main, lvs 289 Colony; at p. 571 Galember, Louis de, real estate agent, h. 256 Ellen—at p. 497 De Galember, Louis B., insurance, lvs. 256 Ellen; at p. 497 De Jurkowski, Ladislav de, contractor, carpentering, h. 416 Manitoba—at p. 703 Jurkowski, Ladislav de, contractor carpenter, h 416 Manitoba; at p. 499 De Montmorency, Reginald, clk Watson & Co., rm 18, 223 Alexander—at p. 863 Montmorency, Reginald, messenger, bds 18 223 1/2 Alexander. Note the discrepancies in these double entries: the omission of the house address in the first mention of M. de Bauviere, calling M. de Galember in one place a real estate agent and in the other an insurance agent, calling Reginald de Montmorency in one place a clerk, in the other a messenger and giving the number of his residence once as 223 and a second time as 223 1/2. These differences, viewed in connection with the detailed repetition of all qualifications and addresses instead of saying "Bauviere, see De Bauviere," etc., clearly show that these six names were counted as twelve in the total, thus representing an addition of thirty-six individuals to the population when they do not really represent more than half that number. Moreover, a great number of the names appearing in the Winnipeg Directory, and therefore included in that total of which the publishers say: "This Directory contains the names of 32,467 individuals," belong to persons who live in St. Boniface, Norwood, and probably Louise Bridge, and who consequently should not be counted among the residents of Winnipeg. A curious instance of this, as well as of the incompetency of the Directory enumerators, is afforded by the way in which the family of Mr. Charles Poitras figures in Henderson's Winnipeg Directory. We have, at page 937, "Poitras, John, clerk E. B. Nixon, h Kitson, Norwood," then at page 941, "Poitras, John B., clerk retail grocer, lvs. 49

Kitson, Norwood." As we find that Edward Barnett Nixon styles himself, at page 892, "family grocer," John Poitras of Kitson and John B. Poitras of 49 Kitson must be one and the same individual split in two by a stupid enumerator. Next at p. 937 we have Poitras, Peter, clerk J. H. Ashdown Co., Ltd. (whol.) lvs 49 Kitson, Norwood. At p. 941 again we have Poitras, Charles, carpenter, h 49 Kitson, Norwood; but the same individual figures at p. 939, as Porteous, Charles, carpenter, h 49 Kitson, Norwood, and this is the name in which he figures in the Street Directory under "Kitson Ave. (Norwood)" "49 Porteous, Charles, carpenter." Thus we have the Poitras family (for this is their real name, not Portras nor Porteous) represented by five distinct articles, which multiplied by 3, would give 15 persons, when there are only seven people residing at 49 Kitson Ave., Norwood, and not one of them ought to be counted in the population of Winnipeg.

Taking into account these and numberless other inaccuracies and repetitions due to the linguistic and other deficiencies of Henderson's enumerators, we are not surprised that, when they had merely to ask how many persons sleep in each house, they found the total of Winnipeg residents to be 78,367, six months after their employers had declared it to be 97,401. Hitherto the Henderson Directory estimate of our city population has generally been from ten to fifteen thousand in excess of the more careful estimate made by the city assessor. But this time the Henderson house-to-house count made in the middle of June 1905, falls 1538 short of the assessor's estimate based on data collected at the end of October 1904. This estimate—79,905—was published in April and was therefore unknown to us when two months before, we rejected, for the reasons given above, Henderson's fanciful total of 97,401, and basing our calculations on the assessor's estimate for the previous year, viz., 67,265, and on the general inaccuracy and exaggeration of the Henderson Directory, we estimated Winnipeg's population at 80,000 (see Northwest Review, Feb. 4, 1905, p. 1, col. 6.) Judging from the rate of increase shown in the assessor's estimate for the last four years, the population of Winnipeg will be 90,000 before the end of this year.

Applying to the new total found by the Henderson enumerators, viz., 78,367 the divisor, 3, which they formerly used as a factor, we find that the number of individuals whose names ought to have been counted as Winnipeg residents is 26,122, which is 6,345 less than the total (32,467) given in the preface to the Directory. The difference is enormous, amounting to almost one-fifth of the total; and yet the factor is not likely to be far wrong, especially if we remember that the Henderson people purposely reduced the factor generally accepted by the Association of American Directories (which was a fraction above 3) because the total would then have been absolutely unbelievable even by themselves. But it seems never to have occurred to them that the fault lay with their own inaccurate enumerators or compilers. From what we know of their work, from the blunders we are continually coming across in our city Directory, we have no difficulty in supposing that one-fifth of the entries are wrong. Nor can we hope for any notable improvement so long as the enumerators know no language but English. In such a cosmopolitan city as Winnipeg if all the enumerators cannot be expected to know several languages each of them should at least have facilities for calling in educated assistants conversant with French, German and the Slav languages, and as many as possible of the enumerators themselves should know at least one of these widely spoken languages. But the most crying need is somebody with enough intelligence and memory properly to compile and check the data handed in by the enumerators. If the Henderson people cannot find capable men, why does not some other Directory Company step in and give us the worth of our money?

Several Poles from Russian Poland, now resident in Winnipeg, are in receipt of letters describing the wonderful movement of conversions to the Catholic Church which has been the immediate consequence of the recent ukase granting freedom of worship. Everywhere all over Russian Poland thousands upon thousands of schismatic (Orthodox) Russians are asking to be allowed to make their submission to Rome. Catholic priests are almost mobbed by the multitudes eager to be reconciled, and vast sums of money are thrust upon the clergy by enthusiastic converts. It will be remembered that in our last week's issue we mentioned (p. 5, col. 2) that 26,000 conversions had occurred in two out of the ten governments of Russian Poland; but later private advices show that the movement is general in all the governments (or provinces), so general, in fact that the censor will not allow the Polish press to speak of it. The Tsar's officers are staggered by the happy result of their master's tardy justice. At the present rate of conversions it would not take long to gather into the one fold the 400,000 Orthodox Greeks of Poland, which in 1890 contained also 445,013 Protestants, 1,134,268 Jews, and 6,214,504 Catholics.

Terrible railway accidents, which used to be far from uncommon in the British Isles, long after they ceased to be so on the continent of Europe, are now almost unknown in Great Britain and Ireland, although the speed of their trains has steadily increased, so that even in these days of the Chicago-New York flyers the London Carlisle express, running 300 miles in four hours at the rate of 75 miles an hour regularly, easily leads the world. On the other hand the United States and, to a lesser but sufficiently alarming extent, our own Dominion presents the disheartening spectacle of appalling railway disasters not only not diminishing but actually increasing in their frequency. And, what is positively exasperating, they might all, or almost all, have been prevented by proper precautions. Shortly before ten o'clock on the night of June 21, the Twentieth Century Limited running 60 miles an hour, dashed into an open switch at Mentor, Ohio. Result: 19 killed, horrible sufferings of the injured. The switch was a most important one, about 30 yards west of the railway station of Mentor, through which the Limited was scheduled to fly at 57 miles an hour. Such a switch in any thoroughly civilized country would be guarded night and day; but this one was left to the tender mercies of a mere lad to open or shut and then leave unguarded. The blame is cast on some unknown foe who is supposed to have opened the switch through revenge. Thus the railway company will escape all responsibility and the catalogue of disasters will continue to grow. The recent head-on collision at Kalmar on the C.P.R., due to an involuntary blunder of a telegraph operator, would never have occurred if the block system were in use. With this system no train can leave a station till the conductor has ascertained that the line is clear to the next station. Our Canadian and American trains will never be reasonably safe till we adopt the block system, and till the law courts inquire seriously into the cause of each accident and punish according to the findings. In this latter respect we are perhaps a shade less criminally negligent than our American neighbors, as the arrest of Despatcher Morris and Operator Bowen after the jury's verdict on the Kalmar collision shows. But we have yet much to learn from the European method of preventing and punishing railway accidents.

CORRECTING A MISTAKE IN IRISH HISTORY

It is clear that several active Catholics are keeping an eye on the pages of the ultra-Protestant Toronto "News." Here is one of the most recent corrections. To the Editor of the News: Your correspondent of the 9th June—H. Bittin—makes the bold assertion that the Peep-of-day-boys (of Irish history) was a gang of scoundrels belonging to the

Roman Catholic Church. Mr. Bittin is evidently ignorant of the historical facts.

The History of Ireland, by W. C. Taylor, Esq., of Trinity College, Dublin, vol. 2, page 260, relates the following: "In 1795 a Protestant banditti, calling themselves Peep-of-day-boys, served notice on most of the Catholics in the county of Armagh to quit their farms before a certain day, threatening destruction of property, and even loss of life, in case of disobedience. To oppose this association, the Catholics formed that of the Defenders, which soon over-spread the country. Towards the close of that year the Peep-of-day-boys formed themselves into an Orange Association. . . . The Peep-of-day-boys were not checked before they had driven from Armagh several hundred Catholic families. These, seeking refuge in various parts of the country, spread through the Catholic body a report, to which appearances gave some sanction, that the extermination of the Catholics was the real object of the new Orange Association."

I could advance further evidence to prove the foregoing historical facts, by quoting the proceedings of the magistrates of the county of Armagh, and the speech of Lord Gosford, the chairman of the sessions, as related in the "Mirror of Parliament," on the debate relating to the "Battle of the Diamond," but I do not desire to trespass further on your space and the patience of your readers.

M. TEEFY.

Richmond Hill, June 17, 1905.

The editor, by making no comment implies that he accepts and approves the correction.

A certain Mr. Alex. McMillan published, on Tuesday last, the same letter in the telegram and the Tribune—the Free Press had too much self-respect to print such an ill-natured attack—grossly insulting His Grace the Archbishop of St. Boniface. In the morning edition the writer showed that he was a cad by calling the Archbishop "Mr. Langevin," but some of his friends persuaded him to introduce a "g" between the "M" and the "r", so as to observe in the Tribune edition the usages of polite society. This vulgar firebrand is so ignorant of history that he asks "what our French fellow-citizens have done for the Dominion or the West to give them rights which the rest of us may not enjoy." The answer is twofold. First, Mgr. Langevin does not ask for any rights that others may not enjoy. Others are quite welcome, he holds, to their own language and their own schools. As to the language, they use it freely and often insultingly. As to schools, they refuse religious schools, they want Almighty God, the Judge of the quick and the dead, to be an alien in the hearts of his children for six days in the week. That is their affair.—Secondly, if Mr. Alex. McMillan had read the history of Canada, he would know that the descendants of the first French settlers, no longer French in the sense of owing any allegiance to France, were the only Canadians for more than 250 years—it was not till 1867 that the descendants of English, Irish and Scotch began to call themselves Canadians—that were it not for these, the only Simon-pure Canadians, Confederation would never have taken place and even now the keystone of the Dominion is the old Canadian province. As to the West, what "our French fellow citizens have done" is just this. Without them and their firm stand against the surveying marauders from Ontario in 1869 Manitoba might still be a Crown Colony, without self-government; without those "Roman priests" whom Mr. Alex. McMillan ignorantly slanders, the rebellion of 1885 would have been general all over the territories, and might have lasted as long as the South African war. Going back further, without the French half-breeds the Red River settlement would most probably have been utterly destroyed by the Sioux. The French-speaking missionaries, in particular such heroes as Father Lacombe, time and again saved all the West to the British crown. In fact of these facts, proving how much the French Canadians have done for the civilization of that West which they discovered, how out-

rageously insulting is Mr. Alex. McMillan's preference for the Cree savages, because, forsooth, they were the first occupants of this western soil! They occupied it, yes, as Mr. Alex. McMillan does, without improving it.

Mr. Alex. McMillan says: "The Roman Church has always been better at giving warning than at taking it." Quite true. That is just the reason why she has been founded by Christ—to give warning; that is her chief function. The Lord Himself said if any man "will not hear the Church, let him be to thee as the heathen and the publican." But the Church also takes no end of warning, takes and sheds it as an umbrella takes and sheds the rain. She is used to warnings, threats, injustices, oppression, persecution, under all of which she thrives. Mr. McMillan's gentle brethren in this province have been making her pay double taxes and support their schools for fifteen years.

Mr. Alex. McMillan also informs "Mr." Langevin that "a large number of Protestants believe that the very existence of separate schools, by means of which the French language is perpetuated, are a menace to the state," and that these good people who "keep silence only for the sake of peace" will "very easily be aroused to assert their power." Mr. McMillan thus solemnly imparts, as exclusive information, what everybody knows. If the Protestant howl that has been making the welkin ring for the past three months is "silence" what must the articulate speech of these peace-loving howlers be? The fact that they believe separate schools to be a menace to the state is no proof that their belief is right; on the contrary, the variety and multitude of their delusions on other vital subjects rather strengthens the presumption that they are absurdly mistaken in this belief.

MARRIAGE

COUTURE-TURENNE

On Tuesday morning at 8.30, the Chapel of the Grey Nun Mother House was the scene of an important wedding which interested all the leading people of St. Boniface. Miss Therese Turenne, the charming daughter of the Mayor of St. Boniface, was united in marriage to Professor Camille Couture, the celebrated violinist. Rev. Father Messier said the nuptial Mass. Miss Josephine Turenne acted as bridesmaid, Chief Justice Dubuc as witness. During the ceremony Miss Rhoda Simpson, Prof. Couture's most distinguished pupil, played a violin solo, and also played with five other violinists. The bride was gowned in a pretty travelling suit of brown, the bridesmaid wearing a white silk dress. The newly married pair left the same day for Chicago, Montreal and Ste. Anne de Beaupre.

A BIGOT BANTERED

Some fun was caused in the House of Commons recently, when Mr. T. L. Corbett, member for North Down, asked the Home Secretary if his attention had been called to "the influx of conventual and monastic institutions from France," and if the Government proposed to take steps to secure their inspection. When Mr. Akers-Douglas had answered this question to the effect that the Government intended to take no such steps, Mr. Sloan rose, amid renewed derision from the Nationalist benches. Mr. Corbett followed up this question with another, and his voice was almost drowned amid the merriment, the climax being reached when one of the Nationalists solemnly asked the Home-Secretary "whether the attention of the Government had been called to the influx of Scotch candidates into Ulster constituencies, and whether steps would be taken to secure their inspection." Mr. Corbett gave a look of rage which subsequently melted into a sickly smile, and the incident ended, as it began, in general hilarity.

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