

EMPIRE CARNIVAL, MOSGIEL

The Empire Carnival, which had been organised for the purpose of assisting in liquidating the debt on the property of the Sisters of Mercy, was opened in the Coronation Hall, Mosgiel on Wednesday evening of last week. As the name suggested, the stalls were representative of various parts of the Empire—England, Scotland, Ireland, Canada, and New Zealand; each being decorated according to the nation represented, whilst the stall-holders and assistants wore emblems appropriate to their different nationalities. The stalls were laden with attractive stocks of useful and artistic goods, and, with the tasteful decorations, made a very pretty *tout ensemble*.

The proceedings began by the Rev. Father Liston inviting the Mayor of Mosgiel (Mr. H. H. Inglis) to open the carnival.

The Mayor said it gave him very great pleasure to be present in his capacity as Mayor to open the carnival. Referring to the first establishment of the school in aid of which the carnival was being held, he said that many years ago Very Rev. Father O'Neill, who was then in charge of the parish, asked his Bishop's permission to start the school, but this was refused until a sufficient number of children were promised. This number was soon obtained, and he was sure that if Father O'Neill came back to Mosgiel he would learn with extreme pleasure that the school had grown to its present proportions. He trusted that the carnival would be largely patronised by the people of Mosgiel, and he congratulated the ladies on the successful way in which they had furnished their stalls.

The following were the stall-holders and their assistants:—

England Stall.—Messrs. J. McGettigan and B. McCann, and Mesdames O'Brien and Mowatt, and Misses Gossage (2), and O'Brien, Messrs. O'Brien, Toner, S. Hopwood, John McGettigan, Jun., Sequin, and Marcella.

Ireland Stall.—Mrs. Walls, assisted by Mesdames McCann and Pringle, and Misses O'Connell, Doherty (2), Dillon (2), Toner, A. Harty, Murray, McCann, Daly, Fox, and Eileen McGettigan, and Messrs. J. Curran, J. Columb, O'Leary, Keys, Donnelly, Pringle, Gibb, and E. Walls.

Scotland Stall.—Mesdames Stevenson and McLachlan, and the Misses M. O'Brien, M. Ellis, K. Harty, L. Harty, D. Harper, Vera Stevenson, Winnie Cheyne, A. McLeod, J. Simon, and Messrs. T. Fitzpatrick, G. Restieaux, and John Harty.

Canada Stall.—Mesdames Hawke (2), and E. O'Neill, and the Misses G. O'Neill, Agnes Fitzpatrick, E. Crowley, Hawke (3), N. Harty, E. George, McLean (2), F. McLachlan, K. Curran, and Messrs. Hawke (3), and E. O'Neill.

New Zealand Stall.—Mrs. Quelch and Miss Knott, and Mesdames Cunningham and Keppell, Misses Knott (4), K. Houlehan, O'Donnell, Lily McGettigan, M. O'Donnell, T. O'Brien, L. Quelch, and C. McLinden, and Messrs. D. O'Neill and R. Gilligan.

The secretaries were Messrs J. P. Wall and A. F. Quelch, who left nothing undone to make the carnival a success.

A great attraction was the tug-of-war for which seven teams competed. On Thursday night the Mosgiel Bowling Club beat the Catholic Church Choir, the railway men defeated the quarry men, Dunedin Christian Brothers' Football Club were victorious in their pull with the Invincibles, whilst Wingatui had a bye. On Friday evening the Bowling Club men went down before the railway men, and the Christian Brothers' football team had to lower their colors to Wingatui after a very close contest. For the time allotted neither side could claim the victory, and an extension of five minutes being granted, the Wingatui team succeeded in beating their opponents by an inch. The final pull on Friday night between the Wingatui and railway teams resulted in a win for the latter. It was originally intended to bring the carnival to a close on Saturday, but owing to the large quantity of goods on hand it was decided to continue it on Monday evening, when there

was another large attendance, and excellent business was done.

The result of the carnival has been highly satisfactory. The net proceeds are £600, to which has to be added a sum of £170, received at the opening of the school, making in all close on £800. Rev. Father Liston, the stall-holders, and their assistants, and the secretaries are to be warmly congratulated on the success achieved, by which the parish convent and school are now free of debt.

WHERE LARGE FAMILIES ABOUND

M. Leroy Beaulieu, one of the best-known French economists, recently said, 'Give us 10,000 French-Canadians and we will re-people France.' In this sentence (says Eugene Rouillard in the course of an article in *Extension*), he has stated the truth of the situation. France has deliberately restricted its birth-rate; the French-Canadians have not. As a result the French-Canadians have grown quantitatively as well as qualitatively.

In 1754 the last census under French regime was taken; the French in Canada at that time numbered 55,000. Guiltless of any race-suicide tendencies this number has doubled every twenty-five years, so that now the French-Canadians number 3,300,000. Of this number 1,600,000 are in the Province of Quebec; 232,000 in the Province of Ontario; 60,000 are scattered through the western Canadian provinces, and 200,000 Acadians inhabit the Maritime Provinces of the Dominion. About 1,200,000 have settled in the New England States.

When we compare the increase as regards numbers among the French-Canadians with the situation in France there is but one explanation to be made. The French-Canadians have kept the faith. The early French settlers had to endure all the hardships of pioneer life. During these early days the French clergy constituted themselves the guides and protectors of their people. They instructed them; the sound principles of morality they taught became interwoven into the very fabric of the social life of the French-Canadians. Even to-day this deep attachment between people and clergy exists, and the salutary influence exerted is everywhere felt.

Thus spiritually fortified, the French-Canadians have victoriously withstood the forces that have weakened others. Their faith is pure; their morals uncorrupted, and their home life reflects Christian ideals. It must not be imagined that there cannot be found individuals of French-Canadian birth or descent who have departed from the ways of their fathers, but the number is so small as to be almost negligible here. The one fact stands out that the French-Canadians as a race have preserved their purity and integrity; and in proof of this it is but necessary to point to the big birth-rate among them.

In 1890 the Government of the Province of Quebec passed a law granting a piece of land to every head of a family that could boast of twelve or more children. This grant was later changed to a cash premium. Until 1905 a total of 5,414 families received the premium. Of this number 150 families had 14 to 18 living children; in some cases where one or the other of the parents was married twice, the number of living children ranged from 18 to 27 children. Since the foundation of Quebec in 1608 there have been entered upon the parish registers up to 1883, a total of 2,900,000 births, or 67.25 per one thousand population. French-Canadian families of eight and ten children are not uncommon. The average size of a family is five children.

The fact that the French-Canadian families have not yielded to any considerable extent to the tendencies of the times, one can not repeat often enough is due entirely to their splendid Catholic faith. The fear of God has actuated them in their lives. The dread of poverty, so frequently associated in the minds of some with the existence of a large family, has not influenced them to thwart the laws of nature or to outrage the laws of God. Their reward has been a progeny that is physically, mentally, and morally equal, if indeed not superior, to any people on the face of the earth.

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