

**THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE IRISH CENSUS, AND ITS
NATIONAL IMPORTANCE.**

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THE people of Great Britain and Ireland are accustomed every ten years to the taking of the Census, occurring, as it does, in the first year of each decennial period. To a majority of the population this may seem a comparatively routine business, and to many, no doubt, a great trouble, as the head of each family is required to give certain information by means of a Form which must be filled up on a specified day. The information received, however, from this Form, troublesome as it may have appeared to some individuals to give, is of the greatest importance from a social, statistical, and national point of view.

We find that the institution dates back to early ages. There is evidence in the Old Testament of various numberings of the people ; in ancient Greece enumerations of the citizens were made for political purposes ; while in the Roman Republic, about 400 years before Christ, the two highest magistrates were called " Censors." Their duty was to take a Census of the citizens, to estimate their property, and impose taxes in proportion to what each possessed ; to take cognizance of the bad cultivation of land ; of the number and respective classes of all free persons, their domestic position as husbands or wives ; fathers and mothers ; sons and daughters ; celibacy ; and other inquiries. This was considered so important that it was usually conducted at intervals of five years.

Since the fall of the Roman Empire, the principal compilations which, in the Middle Ages, partook of the nature of a

Census were the Breviary of Charlemagne, and the Record of the survey of England, known as Domesday Book, which was made by order of William the Conqueror, about the year 1086. The latter was carried out by Royal Commissioners, who, in pursuance of a decree issued at Gloucester, were sent to each Shire with a list of interrogatories, to which sworn answers were to be obtained from local juries. The statements supplied by the juries, whose verdicts were often supplemented or corrected by the villagers present at the enquiry, were written out and transmitted to the King. These were subsequently summarised and transcribed in the volume of Domesday, which is still in existence, as fresh and perfect almost as when it was first written.

Having so far traced the history of "Census," I shall confine my attention to that of Ireland, the first authentic Record of which is the Book of Survey drawn up in 1672 by Sir William Petty, and now preserved in the Public Record Office, where a recent historian says it is in frequent, almost daily, use. His estimate of the population was 1,100,000, an estimate which would appear to have been calculated at an average, roughly speaking, of 5 or 6 persons to each family, the number of families being reckoned at 200,000. He estimated the number of Smoaks or Chimneys at 250,000.

He further sub-divided the families as follows :—

Such as have no fixed Hearths	160,000
Such as have but one Chimney	24,000
Such as have more than one ..	16,000
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	200,000

The Smoaks or Chimneys were classified as under :—

The single Smoak-houses ..	184,000
Those houses that have more than one Chimney, have but one with another above four in each house	66,000
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	250,000
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He further added—"A more particular Account of the Houses in Ireland, which have more than one Chimney, viz. :—

"The Castle of Dublin hath Chimneys	125
"The Earl of Meath's House in Dublin	27
"The Houses of Dublin which have above 10 are	164"

He also arrived at a valuation of the Houses in accordance with the number of Smoaks, but excluded in this regard the cabins, 160,000 in number, which had no Smoaks.

He made an interesting calculation, or rather might we say, estimate, viz. :—"That there was in nature but one in 500 at most who were blind, lame, and under incurable impotence," which would fix the number of such in Ireland at about 2,000. The number of young children under 7 years old and not fit for labour was reckoned as one-fourth of the whole population.

Finally he enumerated the following different occupations and the numbers engaged in them :—

Those employed in Tillage and their wives	100,000
Cowherds and Shepherds, &c., and their wives	120,000
Employed about the taking of 5,000 Hogs heads of Pilchards, Boats, Nets, &c., and their wives	1,000
Employed about making 1,000 Tuns of Iron and their wives	2,000
Smiths, as by account, and their wives	15,000
Their Servants to the trade and their wives	7,500
Taylor and their wives	45,000
Carpenters and Masons and their wives	10,000
Shoemakers and their Servants and their wives	22,500
Millers and their wives	1,600
Workers of Wool and their wives	30,000
Tanners, &c., and their wives	10,000
Trades of Fancy and Ornaments and their wives	48,000

These are some of the details of the first Census, which I think give us cause for reflection. We find that one person out of every five adults appears to have been dependent on agricultural pursuits, and that one out of every 37 people was dependent on the woollen trade—last Census the proportion for agriculture was one in every five of the population, and for the woollen and worsted trade one in every 834. There were 10,000 tanners and their wives returned by him out of a population of 1,100,000, while according to the Census of 1901 the number of tanners, curriers, &c., was 711 only.

Various subsequent attempts were made to arrive at an enumeration of the people—by Captain South in 1695, Mr. Thomas Dobbs in 1712, 1718, 1725, and 1726, while in 1731 the task was entrusted to the Magistracy and the Established Clergy by order of the Irish House of Lords. There were also Censuses taken, more or less successfully,

on different occasions between 1754 and 1805, but it was not until 1812 that an Act was passed by Parliament for the taking of the Census of Ireland. This Act was similar to that which was passed for Great Britain in 1810, and, as a result, owing to the different circumstances of the countries, the Census which was taken for Ireland was very incomplete, not being confined to one year and being taken for portions of districts only.

The first Irish Census which gave results that may be regarded as satisfactory was the one taken in 1821. The Act of 1815, under the provisions of which this Census took place, was drawn up with a view to removing the defects which were found to have existed in the Act of 1812, as shown by the complete failure to secure an accurate Return.

This Act of 1815 enacted that the Bench of Magistrates in each County, instead of the Grand Juries, who had had charge of the Census under the Act of 1812 should take over the superintendence of the work. They were aided in each case by an Assistant Barrister, who besides acting as legal adviser to the Bench and ensuring uniformity and consistency in their proceedings also served as a medium of communication between the Government and the Counties, on any doubtful questions which arose.

To the Magistrates was allotted the nomination of the Enumerators, and they were instructed to give preference to such persons as local Tax Collectors and the like, who, from the nature of their employment, might be considered to have a certain acquaintance with the people, and a knowledge of the sub-divisions of the country.

The 28th of May, 1821, was fixed as the date on which the taking of the Census was to commence. Prior to that date, however, Returns were furnished by the Magistracy, giving an account of the sub-divisions of the country, according to which the Enumerators were to proceed. These divisions comprised Counties, Baronies, Parishes, and Townlands, which in some counties were termed Ploughlands. This division of the Country was followed until last Census—1901. The areas constituted under the provisions of the Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1898, were then adopted. This introduced District Electoral Divisions, and the administrative Counties were arranged by Poor Law Unions, District Electoral Divisions and Townlands in the reports of that Census.

The Magistrates, according to the Act of 1815, were to decide whether the Account should be taken by Baronies or Parishes. Some counties adopted the former method, while others, thinking greater accuracy would be secured if the Enumerator had a smaller district to deal with, chose

the latter mode. The result proved that the enumeration by Parishes was the more satisfactory.

The Enumerators appointed to each district were called upon to make a preliminary Return, with a view to testing their suitability for the post. By this means it was ascertained that each Enumerator was qualified to make a satisfactory Return, and printed instructions were accordingly issued.

On the date arranged, the 28th May, 1821, the enumeration of the districts commenced, each Enumerator being provided with Note Books in which the required particulars were to be entered, viz., the Name, Age, and Occupation of every individual then resident in his district.

The following extract from the Abstract for 1821 shows that a certain latitude was allowed to the Enumerators who had to use their discretion on many points, notably in their inquiries regarding age :—

“ It was evident that the filling up of the column of the Return, which was to contain the Ages of the persons named in that preceding, must prove a point of much delicacy. The Instructions therefore directed that the Enumerator should decide as to them, according to the best information he could procure, either from the individuals themselves, from his own knowledge, or from other sources ; and that in so doing the greatest attention should be paid to the feelings of the parties concerned.

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“ In some instances, however, the inquiry failed ; a place was therefore allotted in the Returns for the number of Ages, that could not be ascertained ; from the inspection of which it will appear, that the number of unsuccessful cases is very inconsiderable when compared with the aggregate of the Population.”

The Enumerators experienced in many cases a determined hostility to their proceedings, which was only removed by very energetic measures on the part of the Government, who secured the co-operation of the several clergy. These latter were most influential in removing any prejudice or opposition which existed in the minds of the ignorant. Reports were furnished periodically to the Chief Secretary's Office by each Enumerator, showing what progress had been made in the enumeration of the district. By this means a check was kept on the Enumerators, and opportunity was afforded for discovering any omissions made by them in the course of the work.

The Returns compiled by the Enumerators were first submitted to the Magistrates and then transmitted to the Chief

Secretary's Office, where they were thrown into tabular form and summarised, the Abstract being laid before Parliament in July, 1823, little more than two years from the date of the commencement of the proceedings. This, considering the difficulty of transit, and intercommunication, and the then limitations of the postal system, must be considered very satisfactory.

The population in 1821 was reckoned at 6,801,827.

The Census of 1831 appears to have been taken on similar lines to those adopted in 1821. The Returns, unfortunately, can scarcely be relied on, as the enumeration extended over a lengthy period, and as the enumerators believed that they would be paid in proportion to the numbers enumerated, it is doubtful whether some of them were not tempted to increase the correct numbers.

The Census of 1841, however, marks a distinct advance, in many ways, in the mode of procedure.

I.—The Householder's Schedule (Form A) took the place of the notebook headings and *viva voce* inquiries of the Enumerators, and by its employment fuller details could be sought. This was a decided improvement, and was much more popular, as the insertion of all the facts of a personal nature were left to the head of the family, while, at the same time, the Enumerator was required to return, on a second form, particulars relative to buildings, dwelling-houses, &c.

The "A" form used in the Census of 1841, and in subsequent Censuses up to and including that of 1871, was divided into three Tables:—

- (1).—Return of the Members of the Family, Servants, and Visitors, who slept in the house on the night of the Census.
- (2).—Return of the living Members of the Family who belonged to the house, but who were absent on the night of the Census.
- (3).—Return of the Members of the Family, Servants, and Visitors who died while residing with the family since the night of the previous Census.

The first table contained the particulars of all persons who abode in the house on the Census night.

The second table served to ascertain the actual number of persons in each Family, though the absent members were, of course, counted for the purposes of the general enumeration in the house in which they happened to sleep on the Census night. Under this method of enumeration it is difficult to see how reduplication, in some instances, at all events, could be avoided.

The third table was necessitated by the absence of a general Registry of Deaths in Ireland, and was intended to supply, to

some extent, information which was lacking in this respect. This may have given a fairly accurate return regarding the individual members of families, but with reference to servants and visitors it can easily be seen that it was at best an approximation.

II.—This Census is also distinguished by the fact that Returns relating to the education of the people, a subject of inquiry not even to the present day introduced into the English or Scotch Schedules, were then first obtained. These Returns showed both the extent to which rudimentary education existed in Ireland, and also the number of persons under instruction. It was at this time that five years was taken as the limit of age over which all persons who could neither read nor write were returned as illiterates. The Commissioners stated in their Report—"We have fixed the age of Five years as the lowest limit, . . . in preference to seven, which might at first be supposed more suitable, as we found that, whether attributable to the prevalence of primary schools, or to the early demand upon youthful labour which now exists, and which tends to force on instruction, many would have otherwise been omitted who have, even thus early, elevated themselves above the Class who can neither read nor write." This age standard remained stationary during the succeeding six Censuses.

III.—There was also a Query in this Census regarding Marriage, viz. :—Whether "Married," "Not Married," "Widower," or "Widow," and the inquiry with respect to Occupation was very much enlarged as compared with the query regarding occupation in 1821.

IV.—This was the first occasion on which the Constabulary and Dublin Police Force acted as Enumerators, being assisted, where necessary, by competent civilians.

V.—As the houses of a Country are an index to the condition of its inhabitants, it was considered desirable to attempt some classification and, as I have just stated, an additional form ("B"), which was to be filled up by the Enumerator, was introduced. By means of this form particulars were collected regarding each structure, its roof, number of stories, number of windows, number of rooms, &c., and from these data the house accommodation of the people was classified :—

- 1st, as to the extent, as shown by the number of rooms ;
- 2nd, as to the quality, as shown by the number of its windows ; and
- 3rd, as to the solidity or durability, as shown by the materials of walls and roof.

From these facts it will be seen that the Census of 1841 was very exhaustive in its scope. It is also remarkable as the

one in which the population of Ireland was recorded as having reached its highest figure, viz., 8,196,597.

The Census of 1851 showed a still further amplification in the subjects of inquiry, an additional column having been inserted in the first table of the "A" form for the purpose of the query—whether "Deaf and Dumb, or Blind."

Returns were also asked for, by means of a note at foot of the "A" form of the number of persons speaking Irish only, and of those speaking Irish and English. This note directed that the word "Irish" should be added in the Education column to the name of each person who could speak Irish, but who could not speak English, and the words "Irish and English" to the names of those who could speak both Irish and English.

As in 1841, the results were published for townlands, parishes, baronies, and counties, the boundaries being marked on the Ordnance Maps which (as on the previous Census also) were supplied to the Superintendents of the Census districts. These districts, as a rule, were conterminat with the Constabulary Districts, it having been provided under the Census Act that the account of the population should again be taken by the Constabulary and Dublin Police Force, with the assistance of other qualified persons, where necessary.

The Agricultural Statistics for 1851 were collected in connection with the Census of that year, and the Report on these Statistics forms portion of the publications for the Census of 1851.

This Census showed a decrease in the population as compared with 1841 of 1,622,319, or of almost 20 per cent., due to the emigration and famine of 1845 and following years, and, as we know, a decrease, at a varying rate, has been recorded at each subsequent Census.

The Census of 1861 presented a feature of special interest in the institution of the inquiry regarding the religious professions of the people, a column for the purpose being added to form "A." The result of the inquiry showed that more than three-fourths of the population were Roman Catholics, the remainder being chiefly made up of Protestants of all denominations, with a small percentage of Jews and unspecified.

This Census was taken exclusively by the Constabulary and Metropolitan Police, as, a sufficient number of such officials being placed at the disposal of the Commissioners for the purpose of enumeration, the necessity of employing civilians in some districts, as had been done in 1841 and 1851, was obviated. Men of the Coast Guard Service were, however, called on to assist the Constabulary in the taking of the Shipping Census.

In the Census of 1871 the division of the "A" form into three tables still continued, as, although the Act of 1863, for

the registration of Births and Deaths in Ireland, came into operation on the 1st January, 1864, nevertheless there was a lack of information, owing to the want of registration of deaths for the entire period over which the inquiry extended, which the returns given in the third table helped to supply.

This Census appears to have been retarded, owing, in the first instance, to an insufficient clerical staff during the preliminary stages of the work, and also to the difficulty experienced in adjusting the tabulation so that the tables would be as uniform as possible with those issued in England, and at the same time that their form would be preserved sufficiently so as to afford comparison with the results of preceding Censuses.

The principle of issuing the Census publications in the form of County Books, for the convenience of those who merely wished for statistics of their own localities, was first adopted in 1871.

In the Census of 1881, the "A" form underwent some changes, the queries regarding deaths, absent members of the family, and when married, being abandoned, while a fresh column was added for the purpose of acquiring statistics regarding the Irish-speaking population, an inquiry hitherto included in the education column.

In 1891, the Census was published on the same lines as that of 1881, with a few slight alterations in some of the tables; the "A" form, however, remained unchanged.

The compilation of the Census returns of 1901 was involved in circumstances of special difficulty, consequent on the complete re-arrangement of the territorial divisions of the country, necessitated by the passing of the Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1898. The extensive alterations in the grouping of areas, which had been adopted since 1821, rendered indispensable the revision of the 1891 Census results, with a view to their adjustment to the new areas, for purposes of comparison.

There were no alterations made in the forms as used in 1891, with the exception of such as were necessary to comply with the provisions of the Statute. The principal feature of difference between the Act for 1901 and that for 1891 was that the Enumerators were required, in Form "B," to take an account of the number of rooms occupied by any occupier who was in occupation of less than five rooms. Through these returns tables were first published respecting tenements in Ireland.

The present Family or "A" form contains in all 15 columns for the insertion of particulars regarding the various subjects of inquiry, as, in addition to the particulars asked for in 1901, three further queries have been inserted, namely—"Duration of Marriage," "Number of children born to the existing

Marriage," and "Number of children still living." In England and in many Continental countries, especially France, the decline in the birth-rate, which, fortunately, does not affect us, is causing grave anxiety. Our birth-rate has shown a slightly upward tendency for the past 20 years, whereas in England and Scotland the birth-rate has steadily decreased.

This subject was, apparently, introduced into the Irish Census for the purpose of comparison with other countries.

The "B" form contains the same queries as regards tenement houses, as in 1901, so that there will be a means of comparison with the returns under this head for last Census. These Returns will be waited with interest, especially with reference to the housing and tenements question in Dublin.³⁴

The three additional queries very much enlarge the "A" form for the Census of 1911. The dimensions of this form used in 1901 were 16½ inches by 10½ inches, as compared with 21½ inches by 13 inches, the measurements of the new form, being an addition of 5 inches by 2½ inches. Having regard to the fact that there are almost one and three-quarter million "A" forms printed and distributed, the increased size represents, in weight alone, an addition of over 8 tons of paper. This does not take into account other forms containing the same query which required to be similarly enlarged.

We may regard the Census as an occasion on which the whole community is brought under review, each individual being, as it were, personally interviewed and allocated to his appropriate class.

An examination of the subjects of inquiry, which in Ireland are numerous, will show that every condition of the inhabitants of the country, both social and economic, is dealt with exhaustively, not merely from the standpoint of the purely scientific statistician whose interest is centred mainly in comparing the existing state of affairs here with that of other countries, but also in such a way as to furnish the data necessary for the promotion of remedial legislation.

The results of the inquiries made in connection with a Census should lead to improvements being effected for the benefit of the population under each of the various headings, such as education, house accommodation, industrial occupations, &c., and it may be laid down as a general principle that no inquiry is worthy of being included in a Census Schedule unless it has for its object the eliciting of some facts of wide material interest.

A distinguished German authority has stated that the object of the statistician's inquiries should be the politico-social life of the community of mankind, in the movement of its national population-groups, so combined as to bring out the social and economic character of the peoples.

The importance of any national undertaking must be gauged by its possible effects on the welfare of the people, and this is especially true as regards the Census, revealing, as it does, the strength or weakness of a nation, numerically, industrially, and, in our own country, educationally.

The consciousness of strength in any particular of a nation's life tends to engender self-reliance and self-confidence, and to promote boldness in enterprise and in the carrying out of industrial aims, both individually and collectively, while the revelation of its weak points must ever spur the ruling powers to greater efforts for the removal of such disabilities.

The history of our own Census shows this clearly, as in each succeeding decade we find, in many instances, a better condition of things existing than in the previous decennial period.

Let us take as concrete examples :—

I.—The Education of the People ; and

II.—The Housing Accommodation of the People ;

and let us view the progress which has been made in these directions between, say, 1881 and 1901.

These are two of the principal and most important subjects of inquiry, and on comparing the returns obtained from the Censuses of 1881 and 1901, the period of 20 years above selected, we find a very satisfactory progress demonstrated under each of these headings.

From the diagrams showing the percentage of pupils attending school during certain specified periods of days, namely :—

- (a) Under 20 days ;
- (b) 20 and under 60 days ;
- (c) 60 and under 100 days ;
- (d) 100 and under 200 days ;
- (e) 200 days and upwards ;

it will be seen that the attendance has diminished for the shorter periods (a), (b), (c), and has greatly increased for the longer periods (d) and (e). This indicates that the people are alive to the importance of education, which we all must admit is a most essential factor in the progress and prosperity of a nation.

The practical result of this increased attendance at school is manifest from a comparison of the number of illiterates as returned in the same Census periods, 1881 and 1901, when a well-marked and welcome decrease, amounting to more than 45 per cent. is observable.

As I mentioned in a previous portion of this paper, the age from which illiteracy was accounted was fixed, in 1841, at 5 years. This age limit will be changed on this occasion, as

the Irish Government has undertaken to re-consider the whole matter, and to fix a limit at a more advanced age.

From the Table now on the screen, the gradual decrease in illiteracy during the sixty years from 1841 to 1901 may be observed. The decline is most satisfactory, and shows that we have advanced in education by leaps and bounds. As this subject is not enquired into in the taking of the English or Scotch Census, there is no means of comparison with these countries, but, if there were, I have little doubt that the result would be favourable to Ireland.

Turning to House Accommodation, we find, for the same period of 20 years—1881 to 1901—a vast decrease in both the 4th and 3rd Class, and a noticeable increase in houses of the 2nd Class, while there is an all-round advance in the number of 1st Class houses.

Although the numbers of our population have decreased, still, with improved education and better housing accommodation, which naturally point to success and progress, we trust we are on the verge of that period when the tide of emigration will have ceased to flow, and when our death-rate will have sensibly diminished, and that future Censuses will record an increased population and continued prosperity.

To have the work of the Census effectively carried out and its returns, from which so many valuable deductions are derived, correctly and successfully tabulated, there is one essential, namely, that each individual member of the public should furnish correct and accurate information. Some authorities maintain that when all the features of a Census are duly considered it will be readily understood that its results are only approximations, but they are close approximations capable of being utilised for the good of the community.

That the returns, in some respects, may not be strictly accurate, is brought home to us very forcibly in examining the Tables published in some of the early Census Reports, which show the number of persons returned at each age period. If the ages were all correctly returned a fairly regular progression from age to age would be apparent. What we do find, however, is that, especially after middle life, a strong tendency is evident to return ages at numbers ending in 0 and 5. For instance, take between the ages 51 and 60, many more are returned at 55 than at 53 or 54, or than at 57 or 58. It must, I think, be conceded that this arises more from forgetfulness than from any desire to mislead, and, doubtless, this query, owing to the institution of Old Age Pensions, will, in the future, be answered with more exactitude.

Notwithstanding the criticisms just made, with regard to the ages given by persons in advancing years, accuracy has always been a feature of the Irish Census Returns, but to secure this it is necessary that the public should realise the

importance of the inquiry. To many the filling up of a single form may seem a small thing, but it is on the aggregate of the Forms that the Tables will be based, and it is from the Tables that deductions will be derived, which, we hope, will show an improvement in the condition of Ireland, in every respect, as compared with the Ireland of ten years ago.

To arouse public interest, Circulars, with pattern forms filled up, have been sent to all clergymen, doctors, magistrates, Chairmen of County Councils, Boards of Guardians, and other leading people in the country, with a request that as much publicity as possible might be given to the matter, and a hope that a cordial reception would be granted to this great social inquiry.

The Board of National Education, have, with their usual kindness, sent information to teachers on the subject, so that they may instruct their pupils, who can where necessary assist their parents. The Press have been most diligent in drawing attention to the utility of the inquiry, and the need for individual co-operation with the work of the Census Commissioners, and I desire, on the part of my colleagues and myself, to assure them of our appreciation, and to thank them for their valuable aid. I know, from their kindness hitherto, that they will render us still further indebted to them, and that within the next two weeks no opportunity will be missed of referring to the subject.

All the preliminary arrangements as regards the printing of the several forms and their distribution to the Superintendents of Enumeration have been completed.

The Superintendents of Enumeration in Ireland are, as on previous occasions, the District Inspectors of the Royal Irish Constabulary throughout the country, together with six Inspectors of the Dublin Metropolitan Police Force.

Each of these Superintendents divides his district into convenient areas, and allots to such of his men as he considers specially fitted for the work, particular sub-districts. The men so appointed are termed, under the Census Act, Enumerators. It is the duty of each Enumerator to visit every house and tenement in his district, and, on or before Saturday, the 1st April, to leave a Family Form with each householder, stating, at the same time, that the particulars required by the Act relating to each person who abode in the house on Census night, Sunday, 2nd April, should be accurately filled in, and that he will call to collect the form on the following Monday, the day which has been fixed for such collection to commence.

It is desirable that there should be a clear understanding as to who are entitled to a Family Form, and it may not be amiss to state:—

Where a house is occupied by one family only no difficulty arises, as one Form only is required.

If a house be let or sublet to separate families or lodgers (not boarders), each lodger is regarded as the head of a family and must make a return for his portion of the house upon a separate Form.

Where there are persons boarding in a house they are returned on the Family Form filled up by the head of that house.

In the same way those who are stopping in a hotel will be returned on the Family Form filled up by the Proprietor or Manager of the hotel.

Also those who are stopping at Clubs will be returned on the Form filled up by the Steward.

As regards Institutions the resident officers with separate quarters will each fill up a Form for their own family. This applies whether the quarters are in the main building or outside.

The same applies to servants or employers of private individuals occupying premises independent of the residence of the employer and boarding outside, as they will also fill up separate Family Forms.

The duty of making a return of the inmates of institutions, such as hospitals, asylums, &c., has been imposed by Statute on the Secretaries or Registrars of these establishments. The returns, when completed, must also be collected by the Enumerators.

It should be here stated that no question shall be put by the Enumerator for the purpose of obtaining information other than the information required by the Form and Instructions issued under the authority of the Census Act, and that if any person employed in taking the Census communicates without lawful authority any information acquired in the course of his employment he is liable to punishment under the Official Secrets Act, 1889.

With these safeguards and precautions, even the most sensitive should have no diffidence in answering the several queries.

Should any difficulty arise as to the construction to be put on any direction contained in the heading of the columns or the endorsement of the Forms, the Census Commissioners will only be too pleased to give every information to anyone communicating with them on the subject.

The forms when collected are summarised and arranged in a certain definite order, and forwarded by the Superintendents of Enumeration to the Census Office, Charlemont House, when the work of tabulation commences. The arrangements for this part of the work necessitate the

organisation and employment of a temporary staff of about 200 clerks.

Former Census Commissioners have been indebted to the invariable courtesy and cordial co-operation of public officials, householders, and others who have assisted, directly or indirectly, in this great social inquiry. The present Commissioners, whom His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant has been graciously pleased to select for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of the Act, have no doubt that the same good-will and hearty concurrence will pervade the different operations of this Census, and that they will thus be enabled to place before the public most useful, reliable, and far-reaching information.

The deep interest Their Excellencies take in every detail relating to the advancement and welfare of Ireland, and how perseveringly, unselfishly, and nobly they work for the good of the Irish people, is well known and appreciated by all. We feel certain that nothing will give them greater pleasure than if the results of this Census show an improvement in the numbers, education, and housing of the people, demonstrating a material advance in the condition of the country during the last decennial period