

MUST GROW A HEAP.

Our Population at End of Century Ought to Be 300,000,000.

Estimate Made by Robert P. Porter, Using Previous Records as a Basis—Does Not Expect Prophecy Will Be Realized.

"Taking all previous records as a basis," said Robert P. Porter, the former director of the census, "the population of the United States at the close of this century ought to be at least 300,000,000, but no one can prophesy this with the hope that it will be approximately correct. At the beginning of the nineteenth century statisticians of prominence estimated that the population of the United States at this time would be 100,000,000. These predictions were based on increase prior to that time. The natural increment of a healthy country like England is 1 1/2 per cent. a year, or about 13 per cent. a decade; by this meant the augmentation by birth, giving no consideration to the growth by immigration.

"If we should increase at the rate of 1 1/2 per cent. a year by natural means and continue along these lines for the next 100 years the population would be 300,000,000, not counting the increase by immigration, but there is much in the census statistics of ten years ago and the present to cast doubt upon the anticipated heavy increase.

"In the larger cities of the country, for instance, the tendency is apparently to small families. In some of the large cities the size of the families has decreased from five to four children. Suppose that in the next 30, 40 or 50 years the decrease in the number of children to the family is from four to three, the effect would be great. Then later, if the decrease should be to two children, as is the tendency in France, the increment in population would almost stop.

There is no doubt that as the population of the country increases the fight for life becomes more bitter and serious. In France, as is well known, the population is at a standstill. In the course of a few years the young people of this country might conclude, by reason of a desire to evade too much responsibility in family affairs, that they will not marry until they are several years older than the average period of marriage now. A wait of one year would make a difference of 1,000,000 children alone in a decade."

BUYS FAMOUS PAINTINGS.

William C. Whitney's Collection Fast Becoming the Most Celebrated in Existence.

William C. Whitney's collection of pictures bids fair to become one of the most celebrated in existence, not for its size or its importance in the illustration of a certain school or period of art, but because of the fact that it includes certain masterpieces of extraordinary pecuniary value.

A few days ago Mr. Whitney's purchase of a notable example of Van Dyke for a sum exceeding \$100,000 was made public. His recent acquisition of a Raphael at figures approximating \$150,000 is now announced. The canvas in question was shown for the first time at the present owner's "house-warming" function the other evening.

This Raphael was on exhibition a year ago at the Agnew gallery, Old Bond street, London, and attracted great attention, because there were scarcely any doubts as to its authenticity. European experts have been unanimous in declaring it to be genuine, and the consensus of opinion is that it is one of the few portraits which the master painted during his Florentine period—and is, in all probability, the one of the brother of Angelo Doni, all traces of which had been lost.

RUSSIAN BUYS AMERICAN COAL.

Test of Virginia Fuel to Be Made by Russian Warship—First Shipment Made.

The Russian government is to try American coal aboard its American-built warship, and other vessels of the czar's fleet will also test the product of Virginia mines. The first cargo to be shipped to the imperial admiralty was cleared at Norfolk, Va., the other day in the British steamship Ferdinand. Capt. Jones, which cleared for Port Arthur. Should the trial be satisfactory, it is stated that the Russians will stock all their coaling stations with Pocahontas coal, and the use of the famous fuel will become general for the fast ships of the Russian navy.

England has already had success with American fuel. The French fleet in western waters has already been supplied, and other governments than Russia are now contemplating the partial adoption.

A Boston Poet's English.

I shall not pass this way again, Although it bordered be with flowers. This is another kind of English, says the Chicago Times-Herald, that we urgently advise Emperor William to exclude from the German schools.

Illiteracy in Kansas.

The percentage of illiteracy in Kansas is less than it is in any state in this union or in any country on the globe save Belgium.

College-Bred Mrs.

According to recent statistics, there is one man in about five hundred in the United States who receives a college training.

Buying Toys in America.

London is this year buying many toys made in the United States. It was not that way formerly.

TO BUILD HUGE SHIPS.

The Queen and the Prince of Wales Will Each Be of Eighteen Thousand-Ton Displacement.

The British admiralty has decided to build two battleships which are intended to be the largest in the world. The distinction of having the largest warships has hitherto been held by Italy, with the Lepanto and the companion ship, the Italia. Great Britain's two projected large warships, to be respectively named the Queen and the Prince of Wales, will be 2,000 tons heavier than the Italian ships mentioned, reaching the enormous displacement of 18,000 tons, which is 3,500 heavier than America's biggest armored vessel.

These tremendous British vessels will carry nothing larger than 12-inch guns. Their batteries will chiefly be composed of these guns and of 7.5-inch and six-inch guns. The determination to increase the bulk of the battleships was only arrived at after much discussion, for since the days of the Royal Sovereign, of 14,150 tons, the admiralty has been inclined to favor battleships of smaller displacement, of which the Canopus, of 12,950 tons, is the best type.

In the meanwhile, Russia, France, the United States and Japan have all been increasing their displacements, still Great Britain has been almost left behind. Now she steps in, taking the lead with the Queen and the Prince of Wales, to say nothing of the London and the Formidable, both of 15,000 tons, now nearing completion.

SOON TO TEST SPEED.

Battleship Illinois Expected to Prove Herself a Fast Ship Next Month.

About February 15 the battleship Illinois, which is nearing completion at the Newport News shipyards, will be ready for its builders' trial. This trial has been postponed because of the delay in furnishing the armor plate for the ship. Much interest is manifested in the trial of the Illinois, as it is expected that this magnificent fighting machine will exceed the speed record of the Kearsarge and Kentucky, which are the sisters of the Illinois.

No commander has been selected for this ship, although it was believed that Capt. Robley D. Evans would be its first commander. It is more likely, however, that Capt. Evans will succeed Rear Admiral Schley in command of the South Atlantic squadron.

Rear Admiral Schley will be detached from his present command in a short time in anticipation of his retirement in October. Capt. Evans is well up in his grade and will become a rear admiral in a short time. With this advanced rank he would be entitled to a more important command than that of a single vessel, although no officer in the navy would be averse to accepting the command of a ship like the Illinois.

FROM BATHTUB TO FIRE.

Newark (N. J.) Truck Driver Neglects His Toilet and Rushes to Blaze.

Herman Hanke, the driver of truck No. 4, Newark, N. J., distinguished himself the other day by driving his apparatus to a fire attired in nothing but a rubber coat. He was taking a bath on the upper floor of the truck-house when the gong clanged for a fire. The horses ran to the pole, the men took their places and Hanke shot down the brass pole absolutely naked and leaped to his seat. As he did so he slipped on his rubber coat. Within two minutes the driver's hair was frozen stiff; he had never even waited to put on a cap. The water on his legs froze, but with one bare foot upon the gong and the other upon the brake he sent his horses flying down the street.

A WIFE IF NOT THE CUP.

Said That Sir Thomas Lipton Will Take a Bride at the Hub After Yacht Races.

Boston papers declare the rumor to be persistent nowadays that Sir Thomas Lipton, the English sportsman, will take to his own country, when he returns from the yacht races, a bride from the Hub. Mrs. Roland Adelbert Stuart, widow of a Boston artist of some note, was entertained on the Shamrock when Sir Thomas was attempting to carry away the America cup, and it is said a warm attachment between the two was the result. Mrs. Stuart was Edith Wyman Brackett, of Boston, and her mother and brother still live in that city.

Dynamite in Her Washbasin.

Mrs. William Clark, of Lost Creek, Pa., is in a serious condition, the result of an explosion of several dynamite caps. Mrs. Clark was washing her husband's work clothes, and while putting them through a wringer the caps, which were in a pocket, exploded, tossing her several feet against a hot stove with terrible force, blowing off her left hand, and so badly injuring her otherwise that it is feared she cannot recover.

Day Nursery for Blind Babies.

It is planned to establish in Boston a day nursery for blind babies, who are not received in other nurseries because they require more care than the matrons can give.

American Flour for Hong-Kong.

In 1900 1,400,000 barrels of American flour were shipped to Hong-Kong.

JEFFERSON, JR., RUNS AWAY

Grandson of the Famous Actor Tires of a Military School in One Day.

Joseph Jefferson, 12-year-old son of Thomas Jefferson and grandson of Joseph Jefferson, the great impersonator of "Rip Van Winkle," was a lodger in the Yonkers (N. Y.) police station the other night.

Joseph the younger lives in Montclair, N. J. His father is starring in Indiana. His mother turned the little fellow over to the St. Matthew's military school at Dobbs Ferry the other morning. He was to have stayed at the school until June. He did not like the prospect and decided to set out for Montclair. He got permission to leave a classroom in the afternoon and struck for the railroad track. He recalled dimly the direction whence he had come from Manhattan, and headed to the southward. The sun went down behind the Palisades and Joseph began to feel lonesome, as the night was too cool for luxury-loving tramps to be afoot. He trudged along until he saw a light in a tower down the track. He went up the stairs of the tower and at the top found a good-natured towerman.

"What time is it, mister?" the boy asked. "About six o'clock my boy," the towerman said. "Come in and get warm; you look half frozen."

Then Joseph told all about himself, and the towerman hailed a pedestrian and asked him to report to the police that he had a runaway boy. The little fellow had left his overcoat at Dobbs Ferry. He refused to go back to the school. He got a good supper and a comfortable bed, and was sent to his home in the morning.

NOVEL DUNNING METHOD.

Tradesmen Post Printed Notice on Brown Stone Steps of Man Who Fails to Pay Up.

Posted in a conspicuous place upon the steps of a brown stone residence in West Seventieth street, New York city, the following notice caused some sensation before it was discovered and removed by the occupants of the building:

A man named — lives in this house Baker, butchers and grocers know him to be a "dead beat." By order of the Retail-Dealers' Extermination association.

Grocers' boys and employes of the butcher and baker who saw the placard while making early deliveries in the street laughed immoderately. Pedestrians looked at it in amazement and speculated upon the possibilities which it suggested. Residents of the neighborhood, in which live many well-to-do families, were shocked by the proceeding, and expressed indignation at the person or persons responsible for the posting of the notice. It was printed in circular form, in bold type, with the name of the alleged debtor written in it. The address of the "Retail Dealers' Extermination association" was not given, nor was there any clue as to the identity of those responsible for the novel dunning system.

CATCHES AUTOMOBILE CRAZE

Betty Green Studies the Machine, and Is Ambitious to Beat Willie K.'s "Ghost."

Mrs. Hetty Green has a new ambition. It is to become an automobilist. She thinks that if she were to undertake it she could beat William K. Vanderbilt, Jr., hitherto the most famed of American chauffeurs. She expects to own the fastest automobile in the country.

With characteristic energy she spends hours in speeding along the roads about New York, studying the details of automobiles propelled by gas, steam, electricity, liquid air and compressed air. After testing practically all the machines on the market she has eliminated all but single examples of the compressed air and electric vehicles. Her experiments have been carried on outside of New York, although she intends to appear guiding a machine in New York as soon as she has become sufficiently expert.

SALT ELIXIR HELPS OLD MEN

Beerman and Raney, at New York City, Show Marked Signs of Improvement.

Henry W. Beerman and John Raney, the aged men seeking restoration of strength through glycerophosphate-of-sodium treatment, at New York the other day showed marked signs of improvement. Both took advantage of the pleasant weather to take a stroll, and life took on added interest for each of them.

This double test of the treatment by which Dr. Robin so greatly aided former Mayor Abram S. Hewitt is attracting much attention every day from physicians who are familiar with the experiment. The fact that Beerman is 83 years old and that Raney is nearly the allotted three score and ten has increased the interest of all in the cases.

Twentieth Century Babies Best.

Of course babies born in this century are much superior in every way to nineteenth century babies, remarks the Chicago Record, as all of the proud fathers and mothers will agree.

Arrests in Louisville.

During 1900 the police department of Louisville made 8,000 arrests, and this does not count the week during the holidays.

The Oldest Bonnet.

The oldest bonnet was found upon an Egyptian mummy, that of a princess who was interred about 2,000 years before Christ.

TO NATIONALIZE TELEGRAPH.

Gigantic Scheme Proposed by Sir Sanford Fleming for the British Government.

Sir Sanford Fleming has addressed a long letter to William Mulock, postmaster general of Canada, in favor of a telegraph service to girdle the globe and owned by the state. The letter is said to be the beginning of a movement to nationalize the cable and telegraph service of the empire. The matter, the writer says, affects Canada as well as Australia.

The arrangement for the establishment of the Pacific cable has been completed. The arrangement implies joint ownership, and in the opinion of Sir Sanford it is the harbinger of a complete system of state owned telegraphs by land and sea.

With the telegraph system nationalized as suggested, Sir Sanford says that messages will be transmitted to and from the most distant British possessions at one-eighth or one-tenth the rates now levied by the companies. In concluding his letter the writer says:

"British subjects in Canada, in Australia, in New Zealand, in India, in Africa as well as in the mother country must unite in securing complete emancipation from the grasp of the great 'cable combine.' At the threshold of the twentieth century high imperial interests demand the cheapest possible telegraph transmission and the greatest possible freedom of intercourse between all the subjects of her majesty domiciled around the globe. I respectfully submit, therefore, that action cannot be taken a day too soon to nationalize our telegraph system by land and sea throughout the whole empire."

LAZARUS MOUNTAIN LIONS.

Old Cattleman Near Santa Barbara, Cal., Kills Wild Animals with Rifle.

There are few men who have had courage or skill to lasso a mountain lion on a mountain and make him captive. But there is an old cattle rider in Santa Barbara county, Cal., who the other day roped two lions, and without the use of gun or club killed both. He is Bico Bejarra, a vaquero of San Marco's ranch, near Santa Barbara. Not only did he lasso these lions, but he caught them out of two big sycamores, where, 35 feet from the ground, they crouched, treed by shepherd dogs.

The dogs got the lions up and a party went to shoot them. C. G. Lamb, a cattleman, would have killed them, but Bejarra stopped him, saying he would furnish sport for the company.

Riding his trained pony close to the tree, Bejarra lassoed one of the lions. The animal was roped around the body and as the rope tightened the beast was drawn snarling, hissing and clawing to the ground. Keeping out of its way, Bico worried it to death. It struggled and fought, but was soon brought where it was ready to have its throat cut. Meantime the second lion had been closely watched. It was next roped and the performance repeated.

MAIDENS ANXIOUS TO WED.

Joker's Act Causes a Massachusetts Man to Be Dejected with Offers.

An advertisement for a wife in a Chicago matrimonial paper may drive Christopher Harrison, city engineer of Everett, Mass., to marriage. The advertisement was inserted by some of his acquaintances as a joke, but he has been so deluged with amorous letters on pink, blue, green and purple paper that he is now seriously considering matrimony. He has received letters from Alaskan shores, Oklahoma belles, Maine teachers, Nova Scotia farmers' daughters, Honolulu girls and southern and western belles.

"If I only wanted to go on a matrimonial spree," he said, "Brigham Young would not be in it with me and even King Solomon could not trot in my class. I have a female picture gallery that could not be purchased with 10,000,000 cigarettes, and if I catch the man who advertised for a wife in my name there will certainly be trouble."

Harrison is considered a good match by Everett girls and several are angling for him. He knows it.

DELUGED WITH NEW WORK.

Locomotive Works and Car Shops of Country Unable to Fill Orders Fast Enough.

The locomotive works, as well as the car shops in this country, are overwhelmed with new orders. President Gallaway of the New York Central railroad says he is having difficulty in arranging for delivery of new locomotives, which are urgently needed on the Central system before next fall. Railroad men generally complain of the scarcity of freight cars and the lack of motive power. Although tens of thousands of new cars and hundreds of new locomotives have been built within the last two years, the abnormal growth of railroad traffic has surpassed even the steady increase in equipment. Western lines are constantly calling on their eastern connections for more cars with which to move freight eastward, but the eastern lines are not able to comply with more than half of these requests.

Oil Lamps in Paris.

Paris' latest innovation in street lighting is oil lamps. They are not the sort of lamps used a hundred years ago, when the cry was "aristocrats a la lanterne," but enormous structures that give out 1,000 candle-power each.

CAPE NOME'S FUTURE.

Enthusiast Returned from Gold Fields Draws Rosy Picture.

Claims Alaska Will Be to United States What South Africa Is to England—Predicts Gold Output of \$15,000,000 in 1901.

"The output of the Alaskan gold fields for 1901 will be fully \$15,000,000," said Lyman S. Allen, of Seattle, who left Nome City on October 25, at the Waldorf-Astoria, New York, the other night. "Alaska will soon be to the United States what South Africa is to England," continued Mr. Allen. "One of the vexatious things which the miners had to contend with this year was the interminable squabbles over claims. The overflow of miners from the Klondike struck us last spring and settled on claims already staked. In some cases they would rename creeks and drive new stakes, and the original owners have been fighting thousands of these cases in the courts all the year. The gold output for 1900 would have been much larger but for this. The beach claims at and near Nome have been worked out, but back on the creeks there is an unlimited amount of gold. I have a good claim on Oregon creek, 25 miles from Nome and 20 miles back from the coast. The latest important strike is on Kotzebue sound, bay of Good Hope, away off to the north of Nome. Another important strike that promises great results is in the Bluestone Creek district, west of Nome, and 20 miles south of Port Clarence, one of the two good harbors of western Alaska. The Blue Stone creek district has opened with a rush, and it seems to be fully as good as the famous Anvil creek, which cleaned up \$2,000,000 this year. One of the peculiar features about Bluestone is that it was discovered and opened up by 'tenderfoot.' An experienced miner and his nephew were asked to go and look it over. The old miner went all over the territory and told his friends that there was not anything there worth the while and came away. Afterward the 'tenderfoot' came along and opened the district, with great results. Between 6,000 and 7,000 men are wintering at Nome and doing what work they can. All last year there were between 25,000 and 30,000 in and around Nome. The general health was excellent, and in this the people were happily disappointed. The run of typhoid in 1896 led everyone to believe that disease would again be prevalent, but the deaths were exceedingly rare this year. There were a good many fights over territorial rights early in the season, but things have settled down now. Judge Stevens sits in criminal cases and Judge Noyes is the district judge. Both are doing excellent work."

TRIBUTE TO PHILANTHROPIST

Monument to Be Erected in Central Park to Memory of Baron and Baroness De Hirsch.

Plans were made public the other day for a monument in Central park as a memorial of Baron and Baroness De Hirsch, who together have given \$100,000,000 to the poor of the world—much of it to the poor of New York city. Everything has been arranged with the park commissioners, and President Clausen and Landscape Gardener Rose a day or two ago went over the plans with a commission from the De Hirsch association, and work will be begun at once.

The site will be near the Seventy-second street entrance on the Fifth avenue side of the park. Sculptor Bissell, who designed the Stuyvesant statue in Bowling Green and the statue of President Arthur in Madison square, furnished the design accepted. A female figure, heroic in size, and cast in bronze, is represented as holding a tablet in her arms, on which appear the features of Baron De Hirsch and his wife in bas relief. In front of the woman's figure, representing Philanthropy, is one of a child, representing Posterity, placing a bunch of palms before the larger figure.

A pedestal of highly-polished pink granite will support the figures. The memorials cost \$50,000, which will be raised wholly by voluntary subscriptions. Much of it has already been paid in.

MAILS MONEY IN NOVEL WAY.

P. Pierce Wraps a Bill Around a Stamped Card and It Goes Through.

P. Pierce of 6407 Rhodes avenue, Chicago, has unbounded confidence in the safety of Uncle Sam's postal service. To prove it he wrapped a dollar bill around a card, affixed a two-cent stamp and a bit of white paper bearing the address, and started it on its way to J. A. Wayland, a newspaper publisher of Girard, Kan. When the novel packet went through the Hyde Park postal station it attracted the attention of Superintendent Crumpacker, who delayed its transmission until he could get from Postmaster Gordon a ruling on the question of sending money through the mails in that manner.

A search of the postal regulations and a conference of the powers at the post-office brought forth the decision that it was a legal, though irregular and somewhat unsafe way to send money by mail, and the authorities allowed it to go on its way.

China's Debt Capacity.

No doubt, remarks the Chicago Record, the Chinese feel at this time as able to owe \$200,000,000 as any other sum.

Editorial Statements.

Five editors were chosen to sit in the Nebraska legislature at the recent election.

EXPERT HOUSE HUNTERS.

Several Bright Women of New York Make Their Living by Searching for Homes for Others.

There are several bright women in New York who make a good livelihood by finding flats for people. By making it a regular profession they accumulate a knowledge of city houses that is of great value. To none are they more welcome than to nervous mothers and busy housewives who wish to change their residence, but dislike the preliminary necessity of calling at a hundred places in order to find a satisfactory apartment. The most successful representative of this new calling, speaking of her experience, said to-day:

"Real estate agents are peculiarly interested in leasing property, and invariably give rose-tinted views to all applicants. Tenants themselves are just as hard to deal with. One will not live on a block where there is a saloon, another must be within a reasonable distance of a good public school, between which and her house there must be no street railway. A third desires a north and south location, and a fourth can live nowhere but in a corner apartment.

"Beyond these are the limitations respecting rent, neighborhood, the proximity of factories and churches, the equipment of the building, the right to keep dogs in the apartment, the number of children and babies in the building, the presence of musicians in the same house or next door.

"I get fairly well paid for my labor and receive from \$1.50 upwards for reports. I make regular commissions from several brokers, especially those who have a fine list of customers. I have two busy seasons corresponding to the moving days in May and October."

MAY BE MADE FOUR YEARS.

Growing Sentiment in Congress to Lengthen the Term of Service of House Members.

There is a growing sentiment in congress in favor of making the terms of the members of the house four years, instead of two as at present. It is contended by two members of the house, who claim to be disinterested, better legislation would be the result from such a change. The house would be more deliberate in its action, the members would be more likely to vote their convictions, and not depend upon the senate to amend much unwise legislation which is pushed through the house in response to the demand of public sentiment.

In discussing this subject, a western member said: "I have seen members tremble in their boots when called upon to vote upon a question pending in the house. Frequently, in deference to public opinion, they were forced to vote against their convictions. The members knew that if they did not bow to the public will they would be turned down at the polls at the next election.

"If a member had four years to serve he would have time enough to justify himself with his constituents, as the wisdom of his action would become apparent. Frequently members vote against their convictions for no other reason than that they do not have time to 'square' themselves with their constituents."

PLANS GREAT KANSAS RANCH.

Frank Rockefeller Said to Be Trying to Add More Land to His Holdings.

It is reported at Wichita that Frank Rockefeller is negotiating for the purchase of 140,000 acres of land in Kiowa and Clark counties, Kan., with a view to stocking it with horses and high-grade cattle, sheep and hogs, especially horses, for which he sees a profitable future.

The land is along Soldier creek, the fastest running water in the state, and which is fed by a great many springs, numbers of them artesian. At present he owns the land on both sides of the creek for over seven miles, but the area is too small for his present ranch, but they have so demonstrated the adaptability of the country for giving bone and wind to their kind that Mr. Rockefeller is anxious to experiment on a larger scale. It is also said that he will experiment with poultry and animals of various kinds, including some of the wild animals of the plains. At present his ranch is stocked with high-grade Hereford cattle and sheep.

OBSERVES THE NEW COMET.

Astronomer on Mich. California, Says It Is Some 80,000,000 Miles Away.

The comet recently discovered by Giovanni Ciociopoli at Nice, France, in the constellation of Theta has been observed at Lick Observatory, Cal., the last week by Mr. Aitken. It is a faint object of the eleventh magnitude, and therefore requires a telescope of considerable size to observe it. Mr. Aitken has determined the path in which the comet is moving. Its perihelion passage, or time of nearest approach to the sun, occurred on December 1 at a distance of only two per cent. smaller than the earth's distance from the sun. The plane of its orbit makes an angle of 31 degrees with the ecliptic and intersects it in longitude 193 degrees. The present distance of the comet from the earth is some 80,000,000 miles, and the distance is increasing. The brightness is decreasing, so that there is no chance that the object will be visible without a telescope.

Postman's Busy Seasons.

It is just possible, says the Chicago Record, that the post office clerks are not sorry that Christmas comes but once a year.