

INCREASE IN DIVORCE

CENSUS BUREAU SHOWS NEARLY A MILLION IN TWENTY YEARS.

Gaining About Three Times as Fast as Population—Description and Drink Leading Causes—Rise in Marriage Rate.

Washington.—Divorce and marriage statistics for 20 years, from 1887 to 1906 inclusive, are embodied in a compilation just completed by the United States census bureau.

The report is the second of its kind issued under federal authority, and embodies the results of its predecessor, beside presenting new and more recent data.

The total number of marriages recorded during the 20 years from 1887 to 1906 inclusive was 12,832,044. The number annually reported increased from 481,068 in the year 1887 to 853,240 in the year 1906.

The marriage rate in the United States in the year 1906 was 93 per 10,000 population.

The total number of divorces reported for the 20 years, 1887 to 1906, inclusive, was 946,625. For the earlier investigation, covering the 20 years, 1847 to 1866, inclusive, the number reported was 328,716, or hardly more than one-third of the number recorded in the second 20 years.

At the beginning of the 40-year period, covered by the two investigations, divorces occurred at the rate of 10,000 a year; at the end of that period the annual number was about 66,000. This increase, however, must be considered in connection with increase in population.

An increase of 30 per cent in population between the years 1870 to 1890 was accompanied by an increase of 79 per cent in the number of divorces granted. In the next decade, 1890 to 1900, the population increased 25 per cent, and divorces 70 per cent, and in the following decade, 1890 to 1900, an increase of 21 per cent in population was accompanied by an increase of 65 per cent in the number of divorces.

In the six years from 1900 to 1906, population, as estimated, increased 16.5 per cent, and divorces 29.3 per cent.

It thus appears that at the end of the 40-year period divorces were increasing about three times as fast as population, while in the first decade (1870 to 1880) they increased only about two and two-thirds as fast.

The divorce rate per 100,000 population increased from 29 in 1870 to 82 in 1906. In the former year there was one divorce for every 3,441 persons and in the latter year one for every 1,218. Since it is only married people who can be divorced, a more significant divorce rate is that which is based upon total population but based upon the total married population.

The rate per 100,000 married population was 81 in the year 1870 and 200 in the year 1906. This comparison indicates that divorce is at the present two and one-half times as common, compared with married population, as it was 40 years ago. A divorce rate of 200 per 100,000 married population is equivalent to two per 1,000 married population. Assuming that 1,000 married people represent 500 married couples, it follows that in each year four married couples out of every 1,000 secure a divorce.

This does not mean that only four marriages out of 1,000 are terminated by divorce. The rate, it will be noted, is an annual rate, continuously operative, and comes far short of measuring the probability of ultimate divorce. The available data indicate, however, that not less than one marriage in 12 is ultimately terminated by divorce.

Divorce rates appear to be much higher in the United States than in any of the foreign countries for which statistics relating to this subject have been obtained.

The most common single ground for divorce is desertion. This accounts for 38.9 per cent of all divorces (period 1887 to 1906); 49.4 per cent, or almost one-half, of those granted to the husband, and 33.5 per cent, or one-third, of those granted to the wife.

Drunkenness was the ground for divorce in 5.3 per cent of the cases in which the wife brought suit, and in 11 per cent of the cases in which the suit was brought by the husband.

Of the divorced couples known to have been married in the United States, 88.5 per cent were married in the same state in which they were divorced, and 21.5 per cent in other states.

Pig Does Police Duty.

Kansas City, Mo.—Ever hear of a pig that's a watch dog—or that is a watch pig? Thomas Kerens of 200 Orange avenue, in Kansas City, Kan., has no need for a dog, he asserts, because Fannie, an educated pig, does police duty in his yard. Fannie does not allow strangers to enter the yard. Of course she doesn't show displeasure by barking or grunting even, but she has a certain repulsive expression that makes people hesitate before entering when she runs toward them. Fannie is a clean hog, Mr. Kerens asserts, and doesn't care about wallowing in mud. Instead she prefers a nice clean bed of autumn leaves.

Harry Lehr Starts New Fad.

Paris.—Harry Lehr, whitom wine agent of Baltimore, Md., latter social favorite in New York and leader of fads at Newport, has a new one. He lately carries a string of beads and begins to count them industriously as though in penance when he perceives some one catemmed a bore. The fad is attracting imitation.

HAS CORNER IN COON DOGS.

Alton (Ill.) Man Displays Much Shrewdness as a Financier.

Alton, Ill.—Got a good coon dog? If so you can bring him to Alton and sell him for \$100—the highest price ever offered in this vicinity.

The bull market for coon dogs is due to the fact that Willow Ben Sawyer, monarch of Missouri Point, has cornered the market. A week ago the price was \$40, but since Ben started barking up the high financial tree there has been a big bulge and there are some shrewd operators on the dog exchange who think a further rise may be expected.

Those who got in on the ground floor are cleaning up handsome profits amounting to 150 per cent on the original investment.

For several weeks Willow Ben has been quietly snooping around neighboring islands and West Alton buying up the dogs which heretofore have been rented out by their owners to hunters.

His refusal to sell or even rent one of his dogs has given rise to the rumor that his cornering of them is only a step toward bigger things and that he is preparing to control the market for coons. He is the only person around Alton who is killing any coons.

These little animals, which many regard as a delicacy, are worth \$1.50 in the market. Of that amount 75 cents is paid for the meat and 75 cents for the skin.

The hunter who rents a dog for one dollar and kills one coon has a net profit of 50 cents. But as Willow Ben owns his dogs outright his business will be all profit when he shall have killed enough coons to make up the amount which he paid for the dogs—\$500.

Or if he doesn't kill any coons at all he will still be ahead, as his dogs at the present market price are worth more than he paid for them.

In order to break Ben's corner Alton is clamoring for everybody to send their coon dogs there.

"BOMB" IN CHURCH CELLAR.

Caused Big Excitement, But Was Merely Pocket Electric Light.

Philadelphia.—"Look out! He's got a bomb!" This was the cry that greeted Patrick Morris as he ran through the streets uptown with a mysterious-looking box under his arm. Men, women and children gave him a wide berth as he sped toward the Tenth district police station at Front and Master streets. And a number of policemen looked the other way as he passed them. House Sergt. Lins dropped his pipe and two policemen fell off their chairs as Morris dashed in and gasped: "It's a bomb!" He laid it on the desk and retreated to the door.

For a few minutes the policemen looked at the infernal machine without moving. The bomb throwing and the firebug crusade were fresh in their minds. Finally the cops approached it cautiously, while a crowd outside—at a safe distance—waited to see the station house go up in the air.

Sergt. Lins finally approached to within three feet of the box. Then his courage returned. He pulled out his penknife and gently lifted the lid, while the cops squeezed in behind the doors.

Very gingerly Lins put his hand in the box and pulled out a long cylindrical black object. It was a pocket electric light.

Morris then re-entered the station house. He is janitor of the immaculate Conception church, Front and Master streets, and found the light on the cellar floor when he went to fix the fuses. It had evidently been dropped by a workman who was repairing pipes in the cellar.

RESENTS TAKING OF CHEF.

His Kitchen Artist Decoyed Away, Man Builds Spite Fence.

New York.—A spite fence, 15 feet high, is rising in East Orange as a silent and unique testimonial to talents of a much-prized cook of that suburb of the great metropolis.

The cook in question, who is of the gentler sex, was until lately in the service of George H. Watson at his home on Prospect street. One day recently the Watsons found their table not decorated by the usual array of tempting viands. The cook was gone. There was dismay when one of the servants reported that familiar culinary odors were floating over the grassy lawn from the kitchen of A. Ward Brigham, whose folks dwell next door.

Resenting, it is said, the change of allegiance on the part of the chef, Watson tried to adjust matters with Brigham so as to recover his kitchen artist. The negotiations fell through, and a fuss developed between the two families.

After a heated argument, it is said, Watson decided the best course open to him was to build a fence so high that no appetizing odors could be wafted across.

"Mental Anguish" Law Good.

Little Rock, Ark.—Federal Judge Jacob Trieber has sustained the constitutionality of the "mental anguish" act of the Arkansas legislature of 1903. The case decided was that of C. M. Ivy of Hot Springs, seeking \$10,000 damages from the Western Union Telegraph Company for mental anguish caused by the non-delivery of his telegram to a Terre Haute, Ind., undertaker to forward the body of Ivy's son to Hot Springs. Because the telegram was not delivered the son was buried in the potter's field at Terre Haute.

MILLIONS IN CANAL

BIG SUM ALREADY SPENT ON PANAMA WATERWAY.

Annual Report of Commission is Made Public—Immigration Exceeds Emigration and Death Rate is Cut More Than One-Half.

Washington.—It has thus far cost the United States \$84,572,998 for the construction of the Panama canal, according to the annual report of the Isthmian canal commission, in which the various phases of the construction work are taken up in detail.

The federal government has made total appropriations of \$120,964,468 for the canal, and there is thus a balance of more than \$36,000,000 still available out of the old appropriations.

The report shows that work has been pushed in a vigorous manner at all points during the year. A reorganization of the work in the canal zone is in progress, under which authority will be concentrated better, responsibility in any specific instance fixed more accurately and the cost of administration reduced.

The canal zone has been divided into three parts, each of which is to constitute a division under the department of construction and engineering, the division engineers reporting directly to the chief engineer.

The report states that the labor question may be taken as solved on the isthmus, inasmuch as the total excess of immigration over emigration last year was nearly 18,000. In regard to labor the report also says:

"A net decrease in the skilled force was made during the year, yet there were almost as many new employes as in the preceding year, the number of men employed being 5,200 and 5,800 respectively for the two years, indicating the shifting character of the force and showing that it is practically renewed every year. A radical change, however, has taken place in the source of supply. Here were 1,828 men employed in the United States, as against 3,038 the year before, while the number employed on the isthmus has increased from 2,780 to 3,382."

A large amount of sanitary work has been done and the death rate greatly decreased. In the cities of Panama and Colon streets have been cleaned and paved, garbage removed, drains built and water works constructed.

In regard to the death rate the report says:

"If, with the shifting character of the population, the death rate and sick rate can be taken as a criterion for general health conditions, they have been considerably improved, for with an average of 43,057 names on the pay rolls the death rate per thousand was 18.32, less than half that of the previous year. For the white force, taken at an average of 12,058, given by the pay rolls, the rate was 15.34 per thousand, and with a force of blacks averaged at 31,999, the death rate was 19.18 per thousand, less than half that of the previous year. The large decrease in the death rate among the blacks is attributed to better sanitation, but, primarily, according to the statements of the doctors, to the better food, enabling them to offer greater resistance to disease."

Further municipal improvements in Panama and Colon are declared to be necessary, at an estimated cost of \$1,000,000. Thus far the improvements have cost a little over that sum.

Since the last report the projected dimensions of the locks have been increased from 100 feet in the clear to 110 feet. This was done in accordance with a request from the general board of the navy, in which it was stated that 100 feet was insufficient for the probable ships of the future.

The report states that relations with the republic of Panama are satisfactory and that the "officials of the republic have manifested at all times a desire to aid the work of the commission."

Of the entire amount of more than \$84,000,000 which has thus far been disbursed for the work in the canal zone, the construction and engineering features have cost \$68,000,000, the civil government has cost \$3,700,000, while sanitation and hospitals have cost \$8,000,000. The remainder is represented by miscellaneous expenditures.

The report of the commission is signed by Lieut. Col. George W. Goethals, U. S. A., chairman and chief engineer.

Horse Develops Taste for Beer.

Burlington, N. J.—Bob, a cab horse belonging to Bert Brotherton, a hackman, has been fed on grain mash mixed with beer to keep him in fine appearance and has developed an almost human craving for beer.

While returning from a long trip with passengers the cab passed a brewery wagon at High and Federal streets. Bob got a few whiffs from the keg and immediately became unmanageable.

Brotherton says the horse had "blind staggers," but spectators believe Bob tried to jump into the beer wagon in a frantic effort to accumulate a real "jag."

"The horse refused to be urged past the brewery wagon, and finally made a leap that demolished the cab against the heavy wheels of the wagon and spilled passengers and driver into the road. Then Bob dashed down High street, bumping other carriages, until Patrolman Fitzpatrick caught him.

Brotherton took Bob home and ordered him put on a strict prohibition diet.

MATHEMATICS IN SEX MYSTERY.

Harvard Scientist Declares Precise Rule Governs Reproduction.

Boston.—That the mystery of sex is due to the operation of a mathematical and precise rule is the conclusion which Prof. William E. Castle of Harvard university has reached through recent experiments in breeding two absolutely unheard of varieties of guinea pigs.

By the production of these two freak animals Prof. Castle gives to the world the first positive tangible evidence of the truth of the assertions of Gregor Mendel, the monk, who a few centuries ago, through his experiments, advanced the theory contrary to that of Darwin, that fixed laws and not the rule of the survival of the fittest governed character in sex reproduction.

The breeding of the two new animals, according to the tests of Mendel's laws, is looked upon as being especially wonderful from the fact that the two hybrid guinea pigs are of exactly the same character, as Prof. Castle predicted they would be last year, when his theory was flouted by the National Breeders' association.

The main points in Mendel's theory are that a hybrid reproduced by the union of two pure blooded parents can give off no hybrid germs, but only two kinds of pure germs, those of the male or the female parent; that with very few exceptions only the dominating character between the two parents, which shows itself in the general appearance and color, is apparent in hybrids; that a flock of hybrids breeding all together will produce offspring in a certain fixed ratio.

Upon this ratio theory Prof. Castle has based his experiments.

MAN JOKES IN HIS WILL.

Civil War Veteran Leaves Five Dollars to Buy Whisky for Pastor.

Bridgeport, N. J.—In dying Charles A. Murray, a civil war veteran, who answered the last roll call, determined to have some fun at the expense of some of his former neighbors, even if he could not be there to enjoy it. His will, among other humorous provisions, contains these:

"I give and bequeath to my pious Presbyterian friend, mayor, doctor, druggist, preacher and all-around saint, Joseph Conwell, the sum of five dollars to buy two gallons of fair-to-middling whisky for the use and delectation of himself and sanctimonious brethren. It may be a revelation to some of them, and possibly give them the rudiments of a liberal entertainment."

"I give, bequeath and devise to Lyon Post No. 10, Department of New Jersey, Grand Army of the Republic, the sum of \$25 to buy some fun—even if they have to jump into the aquarium to get it. Their time is getting short, so they had better get a move on."

"To all my other friends and relatives I leave my blessing and assurance that I will do all I can for them up there as soon as I find 'where I am at.'"

Vineyard, where Murray lived, has been a prohibition town for years, and Dr. Conwell was noted for his "dry" tendencies.

Seed Shower for Panama.

Washington.—Gradually all the comforts of home are being bestowed on the canal zone. The latest evidence of civilization which has been provided for the natives is the extension to that territory of the "free seed" system of the United States government.

The resident of the zone who does not now secure some early rising morning glories or seedless pumpkin plants is not availing himself of the opportunities that the government is offering him.

The Isthmian canal committee has just announced that it has secured from the department of agriculture for immediate shipment to the zone 500 packages of vegetable and 250 packages of flower seeds. Each package consists of five smaller packets of various varieties.

Girl, 17, Blacksmith, Weds.

St. Louis.—Miss Minnie Hegemann, the 17-year-old girl blacksmith of St. Louis county, was married to Alfred H. Smith, a wealthy St. Louis county man and neighbor. Miss Hegemann is known throughout the county as the girl blacksmith and has assisted her father regularly in his work. She can shoe a horse, mend a wagon tire or shape a plowshare with the skill of a practiced smith and handles a heavy hammer with the ease of a muscular man. She is athletic and a fine shot with any kind of firearm.

Calls Session of Unemployed.

St. Louis.—James Eads How, heir of Millionaire James E. Eads, who built the Eads bridge here and the jetties at the mouth of the Mississippi on his return from the east, where he has been in the interest of the unemployed, announced that a national convention of the "casual workers and the unemployed" has been called to meet here early in January to take steps to provide ways and means to meet the conditions of what promises to be a severe winter.

Productive Natural Gas Wells.

Boulder, Col.—One well in the natural gas field near this city has produced in the past 12 months 32,000,000 cubic feet of gas, and the pressure at this time is said to be stronger than at any time since it was opened, about five years ago. This amount of gas has been sold and consumed by the citizens of Boulder. During the past ten days another well has been opened about five miles north of the well first mentioned, with a greater pressure than this first well ever had.

FUTURE WAR SILENT

MAXIM COMPLETES INVENTION TO STOP NOISE OF FIRING.

"Click" Only Sound That Can Be Heard When Using Arms Supplied with "Silencer"—May Revolutionize Modern Fighting.

Hartford, Conn.—Hiram Percy Maxim, inventor of the "silencer" for firearms, an innocent-looking steel cylinder about seven inches in diameter, says that the silencer would be ready for sale in a few weeks. The factory is in this city.

Mr. Maxim said that great care would be exercised regarding those to whom the silencer would be sold, in order to keep the invention out of the hands of crooks, burglars and the like. The company will keep a record of each sale.

The first idea of a silencer, said Mr. Maxim, would naturally be an expansion chamber which would allow the gases to emerge slowly. The problem, he said, was to get something small and light that would catch these gases and dissipate them slowly. The secret of the silencer, according to Mr. Maxim, is in requiring that the energy in the gas be expanded or dissipated in doing some work. That is what has been accomplished. After he had experimented for some time he still found he had a noise to control, but, following experiments with ammunition manufacturers, it was determined that this noise will be due to the bullet and not the powder. Mr. Maxim gave details of a test which had been made of the silencer, in which "listening parties" and "firing parties" were sent out.

The position of the firing party was not known to those who were to listen. Bullets were passing within twenty yards of the listening parties, but after several rounds had been fired those who were trying to locate the sound gave it up, as the guesses they made were all wrong.

Mr. Maxim was asked if there was any limit to the size of the gun on which this "silencer" could be used, and he replied in the negative.

He said the greatest help this "silencer" would afford in warfare would be on three-inch and machine guns, for it was found in the Russo-Japanese war that as soon as the position of the small gun batteries supporting the infantry were made known the infantry was forced to retire. With this "silencer" invading parties would practically be helpless, and this would enable a people occupying a land to defend it better than formerly.

Mr. Maxim was asked if the "silencer" had been attached to revolvers. He said no, and indicated very strongly that he was not in favor of equipping revolvers with them.

So far as tests had determined, the "silencer" does not change the velocity or accuracy of the bullet. For his tests Mr. Maxim has standard rifles used by the United States, English, German, Austrian and Brazilian governments, in addition to Winchester. Standing not ten feet distant from the target a box of sand which Mr. Maxim explained would stop a bullet capable of penetrating through 38 inches of wood, in six inches, he fired the 30-30 and other heavy guns, with the silencer attached, and the only sound heard was a click.

ODES OF HORACE MERE ADS?

Yes, and He Wrote Only to Boon Wine Trade, Says Signor Ferrero.

Boston.—Horace, the Latin poet, was nothing more than an artful press agent, who extolled for gain the surpassing advantages of the native wines, according to Guglielmo Ferrero, the Italian historian.

Signor Ferrero devoted his lecture before the Lowell institute recently to "Wine in Roman History." "I wish I had some of Horace's wine poems here to read to you," he said. "The effect of them on the Roman people—not only the men, but also the women—was to make them great wine drinkers, and they also induced their friends to drink."

"Practically all of the literature of that day was written to promote the wine industry."

"The Odes of Horace were not written in striving for literary merit, but for a commercial reason. Vineyards and olive orchards in his time covered practically the whole of Italy. Consequently the people were peaceful and did not want war, because war might injure these industries."

"To realize the position of Horace in his time, imagine one of the great poets of Europe to-day writing a magnificent poem extolling the use of opium and the pleasures to be derived from that drug."

Lodge Gets Famous Bible.

Montreal, Que.—A copy of the famous "breeches Bible," published in London in 1599, and said to be the identical book on which George Washington was obligated as a master Mason, was recently restored to Lodge of Antiquity No. 1, Q. R., A. F. and A. M., the oldest Masonic lodge in Canada, to which it originally belonged. Antiquity lodge received its charter from Ireland and was instituted by officers of the Forty-sixth British regiment, which Washington was also a member. The initiation took place in New York on a visit of the Forty-sixth regiment. The book has since been kept in a vault under the care of various Masonic lodges.

BUGS TO DISPLACE L. P. S.

New Yorker Plans Independence of Standard Oil Monopoly.

New York.—South American lightning bugs are to be used to put the Standard Oil Company out of business. W. F. Doll of Liberty, N. Y., who has arrived from Bogota on the steamship Columbia, says the natives in South America have solved the problem. They are using these fireflies to illuminate their homes, and at the festivals in the Andes mountains the natives wear the bugs on their coats, thus furnishing sufficient illumination to make them entirely independent of the oil trust.

"I have brought a supply of these lightning bugs with me," said Mr. Doll, "and it is my purpose to establish a farm at Liberty, N. Y., that will do more to break Mr. Rockefeller's combine than all of the \$29,000,000 fines that can be imposed by the federal judges. Why, just think what it means! Every housewife can purchase a pair of these fireflies, and by adopting the scheme that has been introduced by the South Americans it will not be necessary to buy kerosene. It is very simple. Half a dozen bugs will light an average sized room, and they will furnish a light that is clearer and brighter than that given by a dusty old oil lamp."

The bugs which Mr. Doll displayed are six or eight times the size of the lightning bugs in this country.

Mr. Doll, who formerly was head of the Doll Manufacturing Company of 175 Broadway, manufacturers of watches, is now building a railroad from Rio Cha, Colombia, to the coal mines 50 miles in the interior.

REMEDY DEFECTS OF WIRELESS.

Two Italian Scientists Announce Some Important Improvements.

Paris.—Bellini and Tosi, two Italian scientists, who, with the sanction of the French government have been conducting experiments in wireless telegraphy for 18 months on the coast of Normandy, announce that they have solved the problem of independent wireless communication.

This result, they say, has been secured by means of two rectangular spirals fixed at right angles and so attached to the apparatus for reception and transmission as to permit the transmission of unequal currents. By a simple law of mechanics these two electro-magnetic forces unite and produce an electro-magnetic field and the Hertzian waves are projected in a single vertical plane which can be alternated instantly by means of the Hobbins device.

The inventors say they have picked up messages at will from every English wireless station and from ships at sea, and that they have transmitted messages from Pourville to Havre and other points without the waves being perceptible at the other stations lying just off the line of transmission. They assert their system insures absolutely independent communication and opens up immense advantages in the use of wireless telegraphy. Among these are the determination of a ship in distress; the position and speed of a hostile squadron; and the reading of secret exchanges between friendly fleets and armies.

Only Rocks Were in Coffin.

Oklahoma City, Okla.—Instead of being dead and buried, J. A. Evans, noted bandit, has turned up in New Mexico, and the coffin, over which Evans' relatives mourned, has been taken from the grave and found to be filled with rocks.

Evans was supposed to have been buried in March, 1906, at the residence of his son, on Little river, and by his "death" escaped the hangman's knot. The coffin was buried with great solemnity, while Evans, under the name of John A. Wilson, was on a fast Santa Fe train speeding to New Mexico, and for the last two years he has lived there unmolested. A few days ago a Seminole farmer, who was touring in New Mexico, came across Evans in real life.

Sheriff Dotson of Womoka, who started the investigation after the report came back from New Mexico, has secured the confession of Evans' hired man, giving the whole story of Evans' mock death and burial, and has gone to New Mexico with requisition papers to bring Evans back.

Split Over Dog's Board.

Wilkesbarre, Pa.—City Councils and Mayor Kniffen are at loggerheads over the payment of the board bill of a dog. The mayor sent the dog to Dr. Stoker's canine hospital, pending its examination for rabies. The doctor boarded the dog four weeks and sent a bill for four dollars to Councils. The latter refused to pay, saying it was excessive.

Mayor Kniffen says one dollar a week for a dog's board is little enough and he will try and have the bill passed upon favorably.

Devil Fish No Man Eater.

Washington.—Contrary to popular belief, the devil fish is not a man eater, according to an official publication just issued by the Smithsonian institution after an authoritative study of the subject by Dr. Theodore Gill, associate in zoology in the National museum. "The food of the devil fishes," he said, "so far from being large animals and occasionally a man or sea, as has been alleged, appears to be chiefly the small crabs, shrimps and other crustaceans, and young or small fishes. Rarely does one prey on large fishes."