

# DEATH RATE HIGHER

## MORTALITY STATISTICS OF CENSUS BUREAU FOR 16 STATES.

Pneumonia a Chief Cause—Tuberculosis Fatalities Do Not Increase with Population—Figures Given for 1907.

Washington—The bureau of the census has just published its eighth annual report on mortality statistics, which presents the figures for the calendar year 1907, together with comparative data for the years 1903 to 1906 inclusive.

The statistics given in the report do not cover the entire country, but only that portion of the United States known as the "registration area." This area includes the states in which the laws requiring the registration of deaths have been accepted as giving practically complete mortality returns, and those cities in non-registration states in which satisfactory returns are required by the local authorities.

The registration area in 1907 included 15 states, the District of Columbia and 76 other cities.

The aggregate population of the registration area for the calendar year 1907 is estimated at 41,758,037, or 48.8 per cent of total estimated population of continental United States for that year.

The statistics for 1908 will cover two new registration states, Washington and Wisconsin, and as a result of this addition the registration area will, according to the estimates, include for the first time a majority (51.6 per cent) of the total population.

The total number of deaths reported for the registration area in 1907 was 587,024, corresponding to a death rate of 16.5 per 1,000 of estimated population. In 1906 the rate was 16.1.

Among the foreign countries for which rates for 1906 are available Australasia (10.6), Denmark (13.5), Norway (13.7), Sweden (14.4), the Netherlands (14.8) and the United Kingdom (15.6) had lower rates than the United States in that year; while Belgium (18.4), Prussia (17.9), France (19.9), Italy (20.8), Serbia (24.1), Hungary (24.8) and Spain (26.2) had higher rates.

The large cities with highest rates were Denver, Col. (48.6); New Orleans (33.2); Newark, N. J. (29.1); Washington (28.0); Cincinnati (26.8); Baltimore (26.2); and Jersey City, N. J. (26.1).

The highest rates for cities with less than 100,000 inhabitants were for San Antonio, Tex. (63.2) and Colorado Springs, Col. (58.0).

In the case of cities, as well as states, the health resorts are credited with more than their due share of deaths from this disease.

The high rates in larger cities in 1907 were for New Orleans, 24; Denver, Col., 23.5; Fall River, Mass., 22.5; and Washington, 20.3.

The low rates were for St. Joseph, Mo., 9.2; Minneapolis, 10.4; and St. Paul, 10.6, in Minnesota, and Omaha, Neb., 12.4.

In the case of every registration state the death rates were larger in cities than in the rural districts.

The total number of deaths reported from all forms of tuberculosis for the year 1907 was 76,650, an increase of 1,138 over the number reported for 1906.

When the allowance is made for the increase in population, however, the death rate declined slightly, falling from 184.2 per 100,000 in 1906 to 182.6 in 1907.

There were decreases in the rates of six out of the 16 causes listed, the six being diarrhoea and enteritis, diphtheria and croup, typhoid fever, old age, tuberculosis of lungs and congenital debility.

The increases in the rates for influenza, pneumonia and heart disease were decided.

All of the deaths in the registration area in 1907, 11.2 per cent, were caused by the various forms of tuberculosis; 5.8 per cent, by pneumonia (all forms); 3.6 per cent, by heart disease; 7.6 per cent, by violence, and 7.1 per cent, by diarrhoea and enteritis.

# RACE TRACK FOR AIRSHIPS.

Course on Long Island to Be Open to All Inventors by May 1.

New York—New York is to have a race course for flying machines. It is to be on grounds controlled by the Long Island Motor Parkway, somewhere between Hempstead and Farmingdale, and will provide ample room and facilities for all types of dirigible balloons and heavier-than-air machines.

Negotiations between the Aero Club of America and the Parkway association have been going on for some time, and at the meeting of the club's board of directors recently announcement was made that the lease had been signed. Committees were named, and it is expected that the grounds will be in readiness May 1.

Several buildings will be erected to be used as machine shops and shelter for the machines, and the grounds will be marked off so that accurate records of all flights may be made. The course and buildings will be under the control of the Aero club and will be available for any inventor who has a machine that gives promise of flying.

It is something that aviators and aviators of New York have long been striving to get, and it is expected that the course will become national in its character and that many important records will be made there within the next two or three years.

# WILL SWEAR NOT AT ALL.

Wealthy West Virginian Refuses to Take Oath as Banker.

Huntington, W. Va.—Because of his scruples against taking an oath, Col. E. H. Sudduth, for years prominent in the coal fields of southern West Virginia, has refused to become the president of the First National bank at Welch, to which place he was recently elected.

Sudduth, who has been one of the chief promoters of many of the leading business ventures in the southern section of the state, has religious scruples of a most pronounced character.

"I would neither make oath nor affirm," he said, "and was considered unqualified for the office. No other reason, thank God, only that I would not disobey the commandments of the Saviour."

"Matthew says: 'But I say unto you, swear not at all, neither by heaven, for it is God's throne, nor by the earth, for it is his footstool; neither by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. Neither shall thou swear by thy head, because thou canst not make one hair white or black, but let your communication be yea, yea, nay, nay, for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil.'"

# PUT TO SLEEP BY A PLANT.

Man Inhales Odor of Neighbor's Botanical Curiosity.

Clayton, Pa.—Richard T. Beckett, former postmaster, has a plant known as the atropophallus rivieri, and also called the snake palm, cow's tongue, or sleeping plant. Mr. Beckett has had the bulb—which is about the size of a man's head—for four years. It was kept in with his sweet potatoes, behind the kitchen fire.

A bright sprout appeared out of the sweet potato barrel and rapidly began to grow. The bulb was placed in a jardiniere and in a few days had grown almost to the ceiling. It is now more than seven feet tall and is still growing.

The plant began to emit an obnoxious odor, which so affected the family that they placed it on the veranda, fearing that it would put them all to sleep if kept in the house.

This massive plant grew in the jardiniere without water or earth around it. The natives of Africa believe the plant possesses a fatal sporic effect. A Clayton man who inhaled considerable of the odor fell into a deep sleep on the train and was put off at Camden.

Mr. Beckett also has a tree bearing lemons which weigh two pounds each.

# TAFT KISSED SOLOMON'S PRAYER

President's Lips Fell on Significant Passage in I. Kings.

Washington—Through James H. McKenney, the veteran clerk of the supreme court of the United States, has come to light the fact that President Taft's lips fell upon a significant passage in the Bible, when, after taking the oath of office, he kissed the sacred volume. Mr. McKenney held for the chief justice the book used in connection with the administering of the oath. He presented it to Mr. Taft, who reverently leaned over and touched his lips to the open book.

They fell upon the third chapter of I. Kings, at the point beginning "Give therefore, thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad; for who is able to judge this thy so great a people?"

This was the prayer of Solomon at the beginning of his reign, and the passage closes with the statement that the prayer was answered because of its usefulness character.

Scatters Hog Five Miles. Traverse City, Mich.—When the Grand Rapids Indiana passenger train from Traverse City reached Walton a few days ago, it was thought that a tragedy had been enacted along the way, as the engine pilot was smeared with blood and pieces of flesh were clinging to the brake beams. It was learned later that a 200-pound hog had been struck and sausage had been distributed five miles along the right of way.

# BROKE SPEED LIMIT

"DEVIL WAGON" GIVES NEW YORK POLICEMAN A SCARE.

Indiana Man's One-Piece Fire Apparatus Makes Officer Lose Breath—Bells Clang, Whistle Blows and Sparks Fly.

New York—In arraighing Albert C. Webb of Vincennes, Ind., before Magistrate Harris in the Morrisania court the other day, Motorcycle Policeman Nerny declared that the young man was guilty of the most spectacular speed violation of which he or any other patrolman had any record.

Young Webb had been stopped by Nerny while in the act of driving a combination hose cart, fire engine, hook-and-ladder, water tower, chemical engine, patrol wagon, ambulance and wrecking cart at the speed of 45 miles an hour along the West Farms road.

When Nerny saw the thing go by he thought at first it was some passing nightmare. A locomotive bell was clanging, something was whistling, ladders and fire axes were sticking out behind, the tank of a chemical engine loomed up forward, hand grenades cropped out to port and starboard, a great mass of hose was coiled up in the cockpit, crowsbars and battering engines bristled everywhere, electric sparks sputtered from underneath, the man at the wheel wore a flaming red helmet and the man on the tailboard a combination dress parade uniform of a Long Island vamp and a Westchester chief of police.

When he recovered his breath Nerny gave chase with all the power he could get out of his sobbing machine and overhauled the vehicular monstrosity at the city line.

When he stopped the thing he saw A. F. D. painted in green letters all over the red body of the machine.

"What in thunder have you got there?" asked Nerny.

"I am the fire department," said the driver in the red helmet.

"The what fire department?" asked the motorcycle cop.

"Any old fire department," responded young Webb. "I am selling these things to cities and towns as handy one-piece fire brigades. Nothing like it on earth. We have here a combination of fire engine, hook-and-ladder, hose cart and water tower. Only two men need work it. Carries 1,000 feet of hose, pumps 700 gallons of water a minute, has 70-horsepower electric motor and develops a speed of 70 miles an hour. Greatest invention of the age. Step right in."

"Hold on," cried Nerny. "I'm not a city or town and am not out shopping for any handy one-piece fire departments. You were going beyond the speed limit, and that's all I'm here for. Spurt up your engine again and follow me to the Wakefield police station."

After exhausting further vain argument the young man ran a few of his gongs, blew some half dozen whistles and shot along in the wake of Nerny to the Wakefield station. There he deposited \$300 bail, re-embarked in his strange craft and proceeded on his way again to the village of Westchester to demonstrate to his rural smoke eaters the value of his wonderful contrivance.

When arraigned in the Morrisania court he pleaded guilty and was held for trial in special sessions. He said that he was 21 years old and representative of the Webb Water Fire Apparatus Company of Vincennes, Ind., which was founded by his father. He invited Magistrate Harris out for a flyer in his one-piece fire eliminator, etc., but the court, after hearing Nerny's description of it, hurriedly declined.

# SKUNK FARM FOR ARKANSAS.

Illinois Man Astonishes Authorities by Proposing New Industry.

Little Rock, Ark.—Arkansas is one of the most versatile states in the union for industries in the propagation of different species of animals, but the climax is to be reached by a young Illinoisan of enterprise who wishes to purchase a sufficient amount of swamp land in the state to start a coon and skunk ranch. Commissioner of Lands L. L. Coffman has received a letter from a resident of a small town in Illinois, requesting information as to the price of lands of this character which would be suitable for the purpose of raising coons and skunks.

Not being well posted upon swamp land, he being from the hills of Arkansas, Commissioner Coffman referred the writer to the county clerk of Green county, who, he stated, would be pleased to give information upon such subjects.

Arkansas has ostrich, buffalo, snake, deer, elk goat and many other kinds of ranches, but Commissioner Coffman says a skunk farm is a new one on him.

Had One Dress in Twenty-Four Years. Muncie, Ind.—When Mrs. Rachel Howard, testifying in the circuit court in her trial for divorce from Robert G. Howard, set forth that in 24 years of married life her husband had only bought her one dress, and that a calico one costing \$1.50, Judge Joseph Laffler lost no time in granting her the desired decree. The suit was not opposed. Incidentally, Mrs. Howard averred that although her husband was a trained nurse, she was compelled to support him much of the time and to buy him his tobacco.

# HOTEL FOR WORKING GIRLS.

Four Dollars a Week Will Pay for Board and Room in New York.

New York—The new hotel for working girls, to be run under the auspices of the Federation of Women's Clubs, has been opened. The hotel, which is called the City Federation hotel, occupies the big, old-fashioned three-story house at 462-464 West Twenty-second street. The building has been remodeled inside.

The hotel is intended for working girls who make small wages. No girl receiving more than seven dollars a week can be a guest. There are four big rooms on the top floor, each containing six beds. On the second floor are two rooms with six beds and two with four beds each, and one room on the parlor floor has four beds. The girls will be charged four dollars a week for one of the beds on the parlor floor and three good meals a day. Board and one of the beds on the two other floors will be given them for \$3.50 a week.

The hotel is in charge of a matron, Miss Frances Van Duzer, who will live in the hotel. The financial part of the enterprise is taken care of by a stock company within the federation. Mrs. Belle de Rivera, president of the federation; Mrs. Clarence Burns, vice-president, and Mrs. Adelaide Giffin, treasurer, are the committee in charge of the hotel.

All the girls living in the hotel must be in bed and have their lights out by ten o'clock.

# SECRETARY KNOX EARLY RISER.

Much of His Work Done Before He Goes to His Office at Nine A. M.

Washington—Phlander C. Knox, the secretary of state, is one cabinet officer who it is understood does not appreciate the title of "Mr. Secretary." He prefers being called "Mr. Knox." Among other democratic tendencies of the new premier is his habit of early rising. Six o'clock is rather a late time for him to get up, so that before the usual office hour he has performed a large amount of work. Since taking the state portfolio he has arrived at his desk daily at nine o'clock or earlier. He will continue his practice of taking papers home with him to be studied and acted on in the early morning before he goes to his office.

An interesting incident in connection with the selection of George W. Wickersham for attorney general is being commented on by employees of the congressional library who were appealed to for biographical matter concerning him. Although the library is rich in material bearing upon public and professional men of New York, nothing could be found upon the career of Mr. Wickersham. It was explained by employees of the library that when lawyers take little part in public affairs and when they are not prominent in the political world matter concerning them is not easily accessible.

# RELICS UNDER ARTICHOKE BEDS.

Italian Digs Treasure Worth \$100,000 from \$2,000 Farm.

Rome—Six months ago a Neapolitan bought for \$2,000 a plot four miles outside of Rome which was to be devoted to the growing of artichokes. While digging recently he discovered a large marble fountain six feet high and six feet in diameter, with a frieze of dancing girls in bas relief, evidently the product of a Greek chisel. Despite efforts to keep the discovery secret the archaeological department heard of it and set a committee to investigate. This committee valued the discovery at \$100,000.

The government, which is legally entitled to purchase these finds at three-fourths of their value, offered the farmer \$75,000 but the value of the discovery was evidently purposely underestimated. The farmer refused to part with the discovery at the price named.

He also refuses to allow further excavating by the department. The government is waiting for the farmer to come down in his demands. Meanwhile the fountain is deteriorating from exposure. Artichokes are growing on land which probably contains many treasures of an ancient Roman villa.

# HAS DUCK 3,000,000 YEARS OLD.

Egyptian Mummies and Mammoths Are Now Compared with Bird.

New York—A complete skeleton of a prehistoric duck, estimated by Dr. H. C. Bumpus of the American Museum of Natural History to be 3,000,000 years old, has just been acquired by the museum. The specimen is so well preserved that the greater part of the skin of the head, body and legs may be seen. It was found near Lance Creek, Wyo.

"Mummies of Egypt 3,000 or 4,000 years old," said Dr. Bumpus, "are considered to be of respectable antiquity, and still more venerable are the mammoths found buried in the frozen tundras of Siberia and Alaska, but even the mammoth tens of thousands of years old are only creatures of yesterday compared with the antiquity of this mummy."

# To Save Gen. Grant's Cottage.

Albany, N. Y.—The legislature will be asked to make an appropriation of \$6,450 for the purchase and preservation of the cottage in which Gen. Grant spent the last days of his life, and the woodlands about it on Mount MacGregor, near Saratoga. Commissioner J. S. Whipple of the state forest, fish and game department is interested in the project and already has obtained an option on the property.

# CITY IN THE DESERT

SUBURB OF CAIRO, EGYPT, RISES FROM BURNING SANDS.

Boulevards, Flats, Electric Lights and Blooming Gardens Make a Modern Oasis in What Was a Barren Waste.

Cairo—Seven miles northeast of Cairo exists what is now called the Heliopolis oasis. When, three years ago, Cairo became so congested and there was a dearth of houses and building land, a group of financiers conceived the idea of transforming that part of the desert, arid and relentlessly barren though it was, into a spot fit for the habitation of man.

With Rofhos Pasha Nubar, the talented son of the famous Nubar Pasha, and Baron Empain, the great financier, at their head, they obtained a concession of 1,000 acres from the Egyptian government, and later a company was promoted to carry out the project.

The majority of men out here scoffed at the idea; they said insuperable difficulties would be met with, and predicted the speedy failure of the scheme. By dint of great pains the capital was subscribed. Unexpected difficulties were encountered in the water supply and the erection of the lighting plant, as also in the construction of the roads and railways.

Pluck and perseverance conquered all these obstacles, and on the spot where three short years ago there was nothing but dry sand and stones, there now stands a town—one might almost with truth call it a town—as a monument to the triumph of man's genius.

It is difficult to conceive the amount of work which the making of this new suburb of Cairo has entailed. The approach to the oasis from Cairo is along a magnificent macadamized road, which the company has laid down on the sand, and over which run electric cars to attract people to come out and see for themselves.

The oasis itself is intersected by similar roads all laid out as boulevards, and in the center is a fine avenue planted with beds of turf, verdant green. Houses and flats have been erected all over the place—many are already tenanted—and the gardens attached to each are fully planted, roses and other delicate flowers growing in great profusion.

In the main street is a line of attractive colonnaded shops, and although not yet finished, the majority are let. The company has erected a handsome casino and is now laying out a track for horse racing, and all kinds of sport. There is also a large hotel, the Palace, nearing completion. It will contain 400 rooms, and will be opened soon. From what one can see of it at present it will be a magnificent edifice. The entire oasis is lighted by electric light, which is supplied from the power station on the Nile bank ten miles away.

All the buildings are in the Moorish style, with towers and minarets, and are built of white marble and stone. As one gazes at it from afar one really thinks that this glittering white town, in the midst of the desert, is but the delusive effect of the mirage, so often seen in this country. But closer inspection soon proves that it is a very substantial "City of the Sun."

The original intention of the promoters was to entice residents to go out to live at the oasis, and very low rents and special facilities have been held out. The idea is gaining favor. But as the air is so dry and pure and the view of the country all around is most beautiful, and quite unparalleled in Egypt, it is hoped that visitors will also be attracted, and that the oasis will become a veritable health resort.

Already the natives call it "Maar Gedida" (New Cairo), and under that name this gigantic scheme, which has already achieved such great marvels out of sand and stone, and thoroughly deserves the success which awaits it, will go down to posterity.

# FIGURES SHOW ACTIVITY.

Imports of Manufacturers' Materials Grow Over 1908 and 1907.

Washington—Renewed activity in the country's manufactures is shown in figures prepared by the bureau of statistics, comparing imports of manufacturers' materials in January with those of the two preceding Januarys. In practically all cases the importations of manufacturers' raw materials in January, 1909, show a large advance over those one year ago, and in not a few cases the figures are actually larger than those of January, 1907, when all the industries of the country were running to their full capacity of production.

The quantity of wool, for example, imported in January, 1909, was more than 24,000,000 pounds, against 9,500,000 pounds in January, 1908, and 18,000,000 pounds in January, 1907. Of lumber there was imported in January, 1909, 35,785,000 feet, against 30,744,000 feet in January, 1908, and 44,742,000 feet in January, 1907.

# Ponies Wear Trousers.

Paris—The unusual sight of two ponies wearing "trousers" and "overcoats" of dark gray flannel created great astonishment and no little amusement in the Bois de Boulogne.

The ponies, which were drawing a chaise, are the property of a tender-hearted woman from Neuilly, who adopted this method of protecting them from the cold.

# ALL TRAINED AS SOLDIERS.

Switzerland Has No Army, But Could Assemble Force Quickly.

Washington—"Switzerland could assemble an army of 250,000 trained soldiers in a very short time," said Fritz Hon, an officer in the Swiss militia, at the New Willard. "We have no standing army, but every man in the country must be a soldier. When a boy reaches the age of 20 he is required to join the army, and must serve in the militia for 77 days each year if he enlists in the infantry and 90 days if he joins the cavalry branch, until he is 28, when he becomes a member of the landwehr.

"In the latter a man must devote 13 days a year to military service and take place in the maneuvers. The next and last branch of the military service is the landsturm, composed of men from 35 to 45 years of age. This is a sort of reserve branch, and the men are not required to do any active work.

"Counting the three branches of the military service, it would be easy for Switzerland to assemble an army of great size, and the men would be as well trained as those of a regular army.

"Every boy knows that he has to serve his time in the military service. Just as he is required to go to school, and he enjoys it. Boys physically incapacitated, of course, are not compelled to serve, but if able, they must pay for their absence. Every year the most proficient soldiers are delegated to take an examination for promotion to the rank of corporal, and later corporals are examined for higher rank.

"There is a corps of what you would call commissioned officers in our country who serve as instructors, and these men, of course, are paid. The instructors are sent to other countries to gain experience, and they enlist in the ranks."

# GETS A \$50,000 SURPRISE.

Laborer at Furnace Feared Letter Contained Bad News.

Danville, Pa.—To be suddenly raised from the humble circumstances of a wage earner to the lot of one removed beyond the necessity of labor was the happy experience of Peter Radinger, a puddler at the Danville rolling mill, when he received word that he was the heir to \$50,000.

Radinger was a puddler who came to this city from Lebanon several weeks ago in search of work. He was not able to secure steady work, but "stood turns" at the mill. He received news that there was sickness in his family at Lebanon.

It was while he was working the red-hot iron at the puddle furnace that the news of his good fortune came. Seizing a letter that was handed him he tore it open with feverish haste, dreading to read the message it might convey. In place of bad news, however, the letter apprised him that he had been bequeathed a fortune by an aged lady of Reading, whom he had rendered a service years ago. Flung aside his tools at the first opportunity he quit the mill and on the first train proceeded to his home.

# PRAYERS CONTROL BIG DROUGHT.

Preacher Stops Rain for Six Months and Then Makes It Fall.

Bokhoma, Okla.—Like Moses of old, calling down judgments on the land of Pharaoh, Rev. Charles Ford, a Holiness preacher, publicly called down a plague on Bokhoma in the form of a drought. That was six months ago, and since then scarcely a drop of rain has fallen here until the other day, when the minister prayed for the drought to end. The remarkable prayer was made after Rev. Mr. Ford had been denied a sum of money which he claimed as back pay from the Frisco Lumber Company. During the drought business was paralyzed and hundreds of men moved their families, in actual want, to other parts of the state.

Mr. Ford's congregation at Bokhoma is small, and in addition to his clerical duties the minister worked at the mill of the Frisco Lumber Company. Last September the pastor quit work at the mill, asserting that he had not received all the wages due him. He then announced his intention of asking the Lord to withhold rain from this locality indefinitely.

# CARD CONTEST LASTS 20 YEARS.

Michigan Veteran Wins Ten Consecutive Games After Long Effort.

Traverse City, Mich.—John W. Wallace and D. W. Lazelle, civil war veterans, have just completed in their home village of Manelona, a card-playing contest that lasted 20 years. Two decades ago an agreement was made that the village championship should be accorded to the one of the two soldiers who could win ten consecutive games of pence.

Night after night, alternating between the homes of the two contestants, and omitting Sundays, the contest has gone on for a score of years. Several times Wallace had nine games to his credit, only to lose the tenth to Lazelle. But patiently and carefully the score was kept and it is said that in all the 20 years of playing not an angry word was spoken by either of the contestants.

When Wallace won his tenth consecutive game the other night Lazelle promptly challenged him for another series, but Wallace declined on the ground that neither he nor his opponent would live long enough.

# L'ABELLE DE LA NOUVELLE-ORLEANS

—Fondée en Louisiane et dans tous les Etats de Sud de l'Union—elle offre aux commerçants des avantages exceptionnels. 212 1/2 Poydras—1210 rue Poydras. Edouard Ouellet 1909.