

Musings of the Metropolis

News of New York Town
Outlined in Brief Form.

"Storkville" Other Name for New York



NEW YORK.—New York's population is increasing at the rate of more than 50,000 a year through the natural cause of birth. In other words, there are 50,000 more births annually in this city than there are deaths—and even if there were no immigration to swell the population, New York still would advance amazingly in the matter of inhabitants.

These facts have been developed in view of a recent finding by the Office of Paris, the government gazette of the French republic, in which the startling spectacle was presented of a death rate in excess of the birth rate. The figures took in the five countries of France, Germany, England and Wales, Belgium and Italy, and were based on every 10,000 of population. Whereas in Germany, at the last count, there were 150 more births than deaths to every 10,000 inhabitants there were in France five fewer births than deaths.

At the offices of the board of health in this city it was cheerfully stated that there is no apparent danger of New York becoming depopulated, and

the figures for the 30 weeks of 1908 bear out this view. A study of the reports for the seven months of the year shows that the city is steadily gaining in inhabitants through natural causes, and that never in all the 30 weeks has the death rate approximated the birth rate.

There have died in New York—and this includes all the boroughs of the greater city—since the 1st of January, 44,695 persons of varying ages, and against these there have been births to the number of 72,374. This leaves a balance of 29,579 on the birth side of the ledger for the 30 weeks, or an average of an excess of births of 985.96 a week. Carrying this out to the 52 weeks of the year, it is seen that the excess of births is not less than 51,270.23. And thus, left to its own resources, and with no outstanding augmentation, New York city would steadily appreciate in population.

The highest number of births registered during the year was in the very babyhood of the year itself, the week ending January 4 developing no fewer than 3,321 births in the greater city. Manhattan, of course, led in this honor list, the stork depositing 1,632 babies on hearthstones of this borough.

The board of health officials say they can't see any signs of race suicide in the records the first 30 weeks of 1908 have produced.

Wall Street Is Deserted for Resorts



WALL STREET hath no charms for the Jersey coast broker colony on fair Saturdays. The golf links at Deal are far more inviting than New street; the surf at West End is far more refreshing than the tide of tollers in Broad street; the tennis courts at Monmouth Beach are far more desirable than the jostle round Temple court, in Exchange place.

With the substitution of the Monmouth for the Asbury Park as the Saturday Wall street boat one sees few familiar financial faces on board during the trip to the city.

Wall street in Jersey spends its Saturdays in many ways. The swimming pool at Deal Beach is one of the

favorite haunts of the brokers who spend the season down that way. At the next resort, Allenhurst, automobilizing and fishing trips are the order of Saturday.

Yachting and motor boating have many devotees. The races at Elkwood also share in the favor of the brokers on Saturdays.

At Monmouth polo is approved, while at Seabright tennis claims most of the attention. The dog show at Hollywood drew several hundred brokers from neighboring resorts and a considerable number of "Change men who are living along the Jersey coast. The horse show proved a similar attraction in keeping Wall street at the seashore.

What business the stay-at-the-shore brokers must attend to is looked after either by long distance telephone, by telegraph, or at one of the numerous branch offices that dot Ocean boulevard. In fact, Long Branch's "Little Wall" street is not an unlively district during the Saturday morning market hours.

"Convention of Criminals" Is Called



POLICE headquarters have heard that Dr. Ben L. Reitman of Chicago, who calls himself "King of the Tramps" and has spent the last 20 years doing rescue work among the inhabitants of the underworld, has issued a call for a "convention of criminals" to meet in this city next month.

To that part of Dr. Reitman's program which is directed toward the obtaining of safe conduct and immunity from arrest of delegates while they are in this city Inspector McCafferty, in charge of the detective bureau, made strong objection the other day.

"I'll order the arrest of every criminal who arrives for the convention," said Inspector McCafferty. "and I am not yet sure that I won't arrest those persons who are getting up the affair. We want no assembly of criminals in this city."

"Dr. Reitman said," it was suggested, "that all of the criminals will agree to do no criminal act while they are in this city."

"Dr. Reitman may believe what those fellows tell him," said the inspector, "but I won't. We can and will arrest all of them as suspicious

persons and the chances are that we'll find that many of them are fugitives from justice, escaped prisoners, men under indictment or men wanted in connection with various crimes. We'll throw out the dragnet and gather them in."

According to the prospectus of the convention, criminals from all parts of the country are to meet here to discuss their relations to society, to the police and to one another. "Brotherhood" is the watchword of the convention.

The titles of some of the addresses to be delivered at the convention, if the police forget to go around and arrest everybody connected with the gathering, are: "Twenty-One Years a Criminal, Twenty Years a Prisoner," "Dope and Booze," "Do the Police Give the Criminal a Fair Deal?" "Easier to Commit Crime Than to Find a Job," "What Society Owes the Criminal" and "The Average Income of the Criminal."

Inspector McCafferty laughed when he came upon the last named topic. "They'll all fatten their averages if we let them collect in New York," he said. "This is a hospitable city, but we have to draw the line somewhere. In this case we'll draw it before the temporary chairman of the convention begins his opening remarks. It does seem a shame, though, to stop it before the committee on resolutions gets its report ready. I'd give a month's salary to get a look at that report."

City Fire Department Most Expensive



NEW YORK'S fire department is not only the most expensive in the world, costing as it does nearly \$2,000,000 every year, or nearly \$1.75 per head of the population, but it also uses more water than any other, the quantity averaging 32,000,000 gallons a year. London's fire brigade uses but 17,000,000 gallons annually, and costs per head of the city's population not more than ten cents.

In point of numbers, Paris comes first with nearly 2,000 "ladders." St. Petersburg next with 1,250, Berlin 1,200, New York 1,100, Chicago 1,000, Hamburg about 900. The last named city supplies more than 300 firemen for every 100,000 head of population, while London supplies only 13 for the

same number. The bell prevails for a warning signal as the fire-chariots dash through the streets in all cities except London. There the brigade career through the crowded thoroughfares to the hoarse yells of "Hi! Hi!" coming from the lusty lungs of the gallant ladders.

It is not generally known in America that one of King Edward's foibles, when prince of Wales, was attendance at big fires. He was always especially notified by the fire chief of any big blaze in the English metropolis, where he was as well known to firemen as Capt. Shaw himself, the Chief Crier of the London fire brigade. It is said that he always assisted the men as far as he could, and on one occasion it is certain that a spouting hose took so active an interest in his royal highness that the prince looked anything but princely when the men had got him disentangled. It will be remembered that Charles II of England took an active fireman's part in the great fire of London.

WHERE TAFT ATTENDS CHURCH



Copyright by Walden Fawcett.
Interior view of the Unitarian church at Washington, of which the Republican presidential candidate is a member, and which he regularly attends when official duties do not interfere.

SEA OF OIL ABLAZE.

MEXICAN GUSHER HAS BEEN BURNING MANY DAYS.

Estimated Daily Loss Is \$38,000—Only Hope Is That Fire Will Automatically Smother Itself—Heat Prevents Approach.

Mexico City, Mex.—At Dos Bocas a gusher of the Pennsylvania Oil Company has been burning now for many days at an estimated daily loss to the company of \$38,000.

The flames leap hundreds of feet into the air, illuminating a large expanse of territory at night and veiling the landscape with dense volumes of smoke by day.

When a well catches because of an uncontrolled overflow of oil into some fire or flame, usually the very furnace of the boiler which has been used in boring the well, there are but two alternatives left for the owners. One is to smother the fire by means of a heavily weighted draw, which is pulled across the mouth of the well, shutting off both the air from the outside and the flow of oil from within.

In this way the fire dies of its own accord from lack of fuel and the well is then easily controlled.

Failing in this expedient the only hope is to allow the well to burn, relying upon it to clog itself after a time. Usually on low pressure gushers the accumulation of soot and lamp-black from the burning oil will so clog the aperture of the well in two or three weeks that the flow of oil is cut off and the fire is automatically smothered. Oil well fires are never of long duration.

The product going to waste is so valuable that expensive measures are justifiable to stop the flame—and money can accomplish most things.

Preparations are now on foot to smother the fire of the Pennsylvania oil well at Dos Bocas. Heavy drags are being constructed which will be drawn across the mouth of the well by special machinery, and the well will again become the servant of man. At present it runs riot and acknowledges as master no one.

So intense is the heat generated by the thousands of barrels of oil that go up in smoke every hour that no one can approach within less than 200 meters of the fire and remain for more than a few minutes at a time. Added to this are the fearful fumes and gases generated by the burning oil.

The new oil well caught fire July 4 from the furnace of the boiler used in boring the well. The oil in the well had been struck some time before, and while preparations were being made to break the cap rock and cap

the well the pressure of oil and gas from below blew out its capping and became unmanageable.

The oil was shot to a distance of 200 feet into the air, carrying the derrick and other machinery with it.

The primary loss of the company boring the well is estimated at \$200,000.

The oil has overflowed the entire surrounding plain, and is now practically a burning lake of oil, flooding the country with flame.

The shaft of oil which shoots up from the interior of the well, only to become immediately ignited, transforming itself into a fountain of fire, acts as a huge torch for the entire surrounding country. The flame is plainly visible for 50 miles and one steamer captain has reported having seen the fire at sea a distance of 80 miles from the well.

So brilliant is the light that at a distance of ten miles it furnishes light sufficient to admit of reading.

The well has been burning 30 days, making the loss more than \$1,000,000.

GOES MAD OVER HIS GUILT.

Young Spaniard Becomes Maniac When Shortage Is Discovered.

Guaymas, Mexico.—Driven mad because he had been caught in stealing \$270 from the postoffice, a young employe of the Altata office is now a raving maniac.

The work was done with the purpose of concealing the crime for some time, though ultimately it had to come out. Some one bought a postal order for \$100, and, while the draft and the notification were all right, the stub was on El Fuerte. Others followed on Rosario and Mezatlan. The maritime inspector of Altata, who also inspects the postoffice, found all accounts straight, and not until the postal orders and reports were compared in the main office in Mexico was the defalcation discovered. When the inspectors faced the young man, Martinez de Velasco, with the evidence of his guilt he begged for a moment and hastened out to secure the money. He went, instead, to the pier and threw himself out into the water.

He was rescued, however, and when released wallowed in the dirt. Then he began to draw pictures in the sand, and later, when people came to take him away, he began to show signs, and later broke out into a series of violent fits.

He was relieved somewhat with drugs and placed in prison, the inspection being continued. The young man is a Spaniard and stood well in the community.

Sixth Wife Seeks a Divorce.

Utah Man, Aged 66, Has Varied Matrimonial Experiences.

Salt Lake City, Utah.—Six wives, five of whom divorced him, and the last one now suing him, is the record of Charles Smith, whose age is 66. The one who is suing him is Margaret Mattie Smith, who is 77 years of age. They were married in the summer of 1907. Smith was before the court recently to show cause why he should not pay his wife temporary alimony pending the trial of the case.

During his examination by his wife's attorney it was explained to the court that he had had other matrimonial experiments.

"Well, I won't consider those now," replied Judge Morse, with a smile, "as I hardly judge that they are assets which can be considered in awarding temporary alimony."

The wife's attorney endeavored to elicit from the aged man whether he owned the house in which he lived at East Ninth and Garfield streets.

Smith declared that he really didn't know who owned it, and that the matter concerned him very little.

He said that he was a bookkeeper and earns \$40 a month at odd jobs. He and his 13-year-old son cook their own meals.

"I live on very plain foods," he said, "and I cannot eat meat, because it

would mean that I would get into the grave, and I don't want to die.

"Everything I own is what I have on my person," he continued, "and if I knew where I had \$100 in this world I would gladly give the lady half of it."

After some more sparring with the attorney he was ordered to pay \$15 temporary alimony and \$20 attorney's fees.

Lost Ball, Took Baby.

Freeland, Pa.—Annoyed by having a baseball driven against the side of her home, Mrs. Andrew Solenski picked up the sphere and hid it in her home. The ball had come from a nearby field, where two local teams were playing a match game. When the fielder arrived looking for the ball he was ordered off the premises. All efforts to conciliate proved futile, when one of the boys conceived the idea of kidnapping the Solenski baby.

The scheme was approved and quickly executed. When Mrs. Solenski discovered her child was gone she became frantic and hastened to the office of Justice Buckley and Burgess Hartman. Patrolman Walsh, who was sent to the place, soon solved the trouble, and by diplomatic means secured the return of the child in exchange for the ball.

MOONSHINERS' PLAY

MADE OUT OF EVENTS THAT SENT THEM TO PRISON.

Author Is Man Accused of Selling Liquor Without Federal License—To Be Presented When Men Are Released.

Frankfort, Ky.—A jail for a theater, the cells for dressing rooms and the corridor for the stage form the equipment that the federal prisoners in the county jail here, practically all of them moonshiners, are using in rehearsing a play that will be staged when they are out of confinement again.

The play is called "The Moonshiners" and was written by Sam Sheppard, who is accused of selling liquor without a license from the federal government. He conceived the idea of writing the play and rehearsing it to occupy the time until the date of his trial.

The actors have met with such success in their rehearsals that they have determined to put the play on the stage as soon as they are released from jail. They are to meet in Corbin on December 1 to have their last rehearsal before the opening of the season in the mountain towns. The court houses will be used as theaters, and the members of the troupe will not be far from home if they get stranded.

The plot of the play is laid among the hills of Harlan county. The first act opens with a lot of moonshiners sitting around a still, drinking the white whisky and playing cards. During this act every detail in making moonshine whisky will be exhibited. A spy discloses the still to the revenue men, who raid the place, and the curtain falls amid revolver fire.

The second act deals with the burial of mountaineers who were killed in the moonshine raid. While the ox-cart hearse is absent in the rehearsals there is a place for it in the play. The mountain preacher, who never condemns the making of moonshine, because the moonshiners contribute to his living, has his part in this act, and sings the funeral dirge, while the men dressed as women gather around the casket to mourn.

The third act deals with the chase of the revenue men after the moonshiners. Some of the moonshiners are captured and marched into a court house. The daughter of the mountain judge pleads for their release. Her beauty impresses the revenue men, especially a young member of the party, and while she engages him in a conversation, three of the shiners make their escape. The session of court breaks up in disorder, and in the last scene the young woman, rifle in hand, leads the moonshiners in a battle with the revenue agents, who are routed, and she gives her hand to one of the bravest of the shiners.

In the fourth and concluding act of the play the spy is captured and the moonshiners hold a court and sentence him to death. He is hanged as an example of what will happen to moonshiners who give information to revenue men.

The actors and their characters are: Sam Sheppard, mountaineer of Whitley county; O. J. Whittington, revenue man of Whitley county; W. S. James, bootlegger of Rowan county; E. D. Ritchie, stiller of Knott county, who is serving a term in jail for making moonshine; Sunland Meyers of Rowan county, bootlegger; Dan Trout, revenue man of Pulaski county; Henry Boulden, bootlegger of Harlan county; Ezekiel Anderson, whisky peddler of Leslie county; Will Sturgeon, spy of Floyd county; Wick Terry, mountain judge of Rowan county; Thomas Magee, mountain preacher of Laurel county.

Magee was selected as preacher because he has been converted since he came here to jail and may join the Salvation Army after the theatrical season is over.

Los Angeles, Cal.—If plans which scientists in the employ of the government are now carrying into effect are successful, engineers will have, within the next few years, what they have never hitherto had—a formula of evaporation of water under given conditions. The field of study of the scientists is the Salton sea, the inland body of water near the Mexican line which was, in ages past, a part of the Gulf of California.

The government proposes to keep from six to eight men on the ground for two years. These men will study the supply of water to the sea and will attempt to determine the recession of the body of water—how much is taken by the atmosphere in a given period.

Prof. F. H. Bigelow of the United States weather bureau has been assigned to take charge of the work, and he will be assisted by the local weather bureau members.

WATCHING THE SALTON SEA.

Engineers May Learn Formula for the Evaporation of Water.

Scared to Death by Lightning. New York.—A bolt of lightning frightened William M. Sherwood to death. The victim, 71 years old, an old-time section boss on the New York Central road, lived with his daughter in the Bronx. He had been suffering from heart disease and was lying on a sofa when a thunder storm broke.

Lightning struck a tree in the yard, and a blinding bluish light filled the whole house. At the crash and the vivid glare Sherwood sprang from the sofa and instantly fell back on it dead.

NATURE AND A WOMAN'S WORK



LYDIA E. PINKHAM

Nature and a woman's work combined have produced the grandest remedy for woman's ills that the world has ever known.

In the good old-fashioned days of our grandmothers they relied upon the roots and herbs of the field to cure disease and mitigate suffering.

The Indians on our Western Plains to-day can produce roots and herbs for every ailment, and cure diseases that baffle the most skilled physicians who have spent years in the study of drugs.

From the roots and herbs of the field Lydia E. Pinkham more than thirty years ago gave to the women of the world a remedy for their peculiar ills, more potent and efficacious than any combination of drugs.

Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound is now recognized as the standard remedy for woman's ills.

Mrs. Bertha Muff, of 515 N.C. St., Louisiana, Mo., writes:

"Complete restoration to health means so much to me that for the sake of other suffering women I am willing to make my troubles public.

"For twelve years I had been suffering with the worst forms of female ills. During that time I had eleven different physicians without help. No tongue can tell what I suffered, and at times I could hardly walk. About two years ago I wrote Mrs. Pinkham for advice. I followed it, and can truly say that Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound and Mrs. Pinkham's advice restored health and strength. It is worth mountains of gold to suffering women."

What Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound did for Mrs. Muff, it will do for other suffering women.

HIS OPINION OF FIELDING.

At Least, Only Kind Young Broker Knew Anything About.

A young broker in Boston, while visiting a certain household in the Hub not long ago, encountered a number of young women graduates whose conversation suddenly turned to a discussion of the development of the English novel.

The dealer in stocks and bonds speedily found himself "out of it." Presently, during a lull, one young woman asked him:

"What do you think of Fielding, Mr. Brown?"

"Oh, fielding is important, of course," quickly responded the broker, "but it isn't worth much unless you've got good pitchers and men who can hit the ball."—Harper's Weekly.

Only when a girl has a man where he must face the parson with her or pose as the defendant in a breach-of-promise suit will she admit that she has corns.

WE SELL GUNS AND TRAPS CHEAP & buy Furs & Hides. Write for catalog 105 N. W. Hide & Fur Co., Minneapolis, Minn.

The more cause one has for loss of patience the more reason there is for holding it.—Sinclair.

Lewis' Single Binder Cigar has a rich taste. Your dealer or Lewis' Factory, Peoria, Ill.

It doesn't pay to borrow trouble even on a friend's account.

Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup. For children teething, softens the gums, reduces inflammation, allays pain, cures wind colic. 25c a bottle.

When women argue they like to argue that they don't.

