

The paucity is easily accounted for by the censorship. In Germany the actual number of professional writers is estimated at 12,000, of whom 400 are poets. It is claimed for France that she provides the international literature, inasmuch as half the copies of French novels printed are exported, while two-thirds of her historic and scientific works also cross the frontier, the latter for the most part supplying countries, which are unable to provide themselves, with from 20,000 to 30,000 volumes of history, criticism, and science, which is necessary for complete national development. Poland, Servia, Bulgaria, and Roumania, among others, are quoted as examples of countries where works costing from 15,000 to 20,000 francs are beyond the means of nationalities which number only a few millions of population.

THE MAHARAJAH OF BENARES' HISTORIC suit of white ivory furniture has stirred up considerable trouble for Viceroy Curzon. This furniture recently came into Curzon's possession and the London correspondent for the Chicago Inter-Ocean says that the question concerning it was raised in the house of commons. This London correspondent adds: "The official explanation offered in the house of commons was that on seeing this suit of furniture lying in a very dilapidated condition, and hearing that the Maharajah took no interest in it, Lord Curzon offered to buy it. Thereupon the Maharajah sent it to him as a present, and Lord Curzon in return gave the Maharajah a sporting gun worth \$410, the furniture being valued at about \$500. Mrs. Smeaton, wife of Lord Curzon's finance commissioner, says the Maharajah's minister told her that Lord Curzon signified a desire to possess the suit, which expression, to a native gentleman, was equivalent to a command to hand it over. This the Maharajah accordingly did, receiving in exchange a rifle that cost \$150, she says. The suit now is practically priceless, and cost originally \$5,000. Mrs. Smeaton adds that the Maharajah was most reluctant to part with it. It may be added that it is well known that most Indian viceroys and their wives have been accustomed to levy tribute of valuables on native princes, as any jewel or article they admire is always sent to them. In Curzon's case it is unfortunate that this transaction has been exposed."

THE RECENT LABOR TROUBLES IN CONNECTION with the government printing office developed the fact that unlike the heads of other bureaus, the government printer is responsible only to congress. The Washington correspondent for the Chicago Record-Herald says that the president nor any cabinet officer has any direct authority over the public printer and that the nearest approach in the direction of placing him under the supervision of a cabinet officer is the law which requires him to furnish a bond to the secretary of interior. It is pointed out that the secretary cannot say whom the public printer shall employ, how many hours a day his employes shall work, what he shall pay or how he shall manage them. In congress alone rests this authority and in the committees on printing in the senate and house abide the real power to direct the policy of the office. It is reported that President Roosevelt will, in the light of these facts, recommend enactment of a law that will place the printing office directly under the supervision of the secretary of commerce and labor, but it is pointed out that Senator Platt of New York is chairman of the senate committee on printing and that he is not likely to surrender without a struggle the opportunity placed in his hands by this chairmanship to exercise much influence in the management of an institution that employs many hundreds of men and women who, in a greater or less degree, represent votes in the districts from which they are appointed.

A STRANGE STORY FROM ELKHART, IND., comes to the Chicago Record-Herald. It is said that Valentine Marx, a farmer living near Elkhart, and a veteran of the civil war, who carries in his left lung a bullet received at Stone river, lost his voice suddenly four years ago, only being able to speak in a low whisper and with the greatest difficulty. Two weeks ago he dreamed he was bled at the wrist and when the hemorrhage was stopped he could speak as well as ever. Convinced that it was worth trying, he had Dr. John Greene of Mishawaka bleed him Wednesday and all the details of his dream were fulfilled. Subsequently Mr. Marx visited friends in Elkhart and it is said that he talked in a normal manner, having almost perfect control of his voice.

THE GENERAL IMPRESSION HAS BEEN that the lynching habit has been growing in this country. The Churchman, however, says that the general trend of lynching statistics is downward. According to these statistics, there were 2,516 lynchings in the United States from 1884 to 1900. Of these 1,678 were of negroes. More than a fifth of these lynchings were in northern states. The Churchman says: "It is notable, however, that the proportion of whites is decreasing, owing to the diminution of lynchings for horse and cattle stealing in the west. Contrary, also, to popular opinion, hardly a fifth of the cases were for assault, and even if we include the categories, attempted assault, alleged assault and assault aggravated by murder, we shall still find less than a fourth, 619, attributable to this cause. It may be worth noting also that forty-two states are represented in the statistics of lynching."

DURING THE YEAR 1897 THE NUMBER of lynchings was almost exactly that of the average for the sixteen-year period, to-wit: 166. The Churchman says that in 1898 it fell to 127, in 1899 to 107. There was a slight increase in 1900 and in 1902, but in 1902, for the first time since accurate record began, there were less than 100 lynchings, and the first six months of 1903 show only 45, which suggests that this year may be even freer from this social crime than 1902. We must record with regret, however, that nearly a third of the six months' total have occurred in June. Tabulated by states, the figures show Georgia in the lead, with Mississippi, Louisiana, Alabama, Texas and Tennessee following. In no other states has the number of lynchings for the past twenty years reached 100. But, though lynchings are decreasing in number, the area in which they occur grows. They are met with in states where a generation ago they would have been thought impossible. This reveals an evil no longer sectional, but of national concern. One touch of moral heroism illuminates the Wilmington incident. The father of the victim, when he learned that there was talk of lynching the confessed criminal, published an open letter begging all good citizens to await the orderly process of law. He is a minister and, suffering under a provocation hardly thinkable, showed himself worthy of the Master he had undertaken to set before others as an exemplar.

FOR SEVERAL YEARS THOMAS A. EDISON has experimented with the X-rays. He discovered that these rays besides penetrating the object at which they were directed also affected the object itself and believing that the rays have some peculiar property of their own, Mr. Edison determined to discover what that property was. Recently Mr. Edison, assisted by Charles Dally, was engaged in trying the effect of the rays on various objects. The light exerted its power on both Mr. Edison and Mr. Dally and as a result, Edison's eyes were severely if not seriously injured while one of Dally's arms was so badly injured as to require amputation. Newspaper dispatches do not give the exact date on which the trouble occurred, but it is explained: "It was in the midst of these experiments, and at a time when success seemed to be within his grasp, that the sight began to fail. 'I guess the rays are beginning to exert their influences on me,' he told Dally, 'so I guess you had better go on with the experiments alone for awhile.' This the assistant did and Mr. Edison soon recovered his sight. One day the assistant told him he felt a burning sensation in his arm. A doctor examined the member and found that the rays had so paralyzed one arm it would have to come off. The arm continued to grow worse and finally was amputated. Mr. Edison was ordered to stop experimenting with the X-rays at once. The physicians found that the focus of both eyes was affected and things seemed much further away to Mr. Edison than they really were. After resting for a time the sight was restored nearer to its normal condition, but the inventor has not been entirely cured."

FOR THE PURPOSE OF DETERMINING THE extreme vitality of seeds, the United States department of agriculture is making extensive experiments. Describing these experiments, a writer in Harper's Weekly says: "Over 100 species of plants have been packed in a soil consisting of dry clay inclosed in pots, and buried at varying depths underground—8 sets at a depth of 6 inches, 12 at a depth of 20 and a third set at a depth of 31-2 feet. At the end of one, two, three, five, seven, ten, fifteen, twenty, twenty-five, thirty, forty and fifty years, a set from each depth will be exhumed and tested. The results of the experiment are likely to be of extraordinary value

to agriculturalists, both commercially and scientifically. Incidentally, it may be recalled that authentic cases are on record which prove that certain seeds have the power of sprouting after having been buried for long periods of time, reliable tests having shown that twelve out of twenty-one species have the power of germinating after twenty years."

A REPORT RECENTLY MADE BY THE LONDON school board reveals a deplorable condition among the children of that city. The London correspondent for the New York World says that a royal commission will be appointed in the hope of obtaining a remedy. According to this school board report 2 per cent of the pupils are declared to be so deficient as to be unteachable; 10 per cent have so defective eyesight that they are thrown back in their work; another 10 per cent's hearing is seriously defective, and 1 per cent have defects in their ears, which lead to a fatal result. Classes have been opened in sixty-one centers for feeble-minded children, while the percentages of actual imbeciles has grown so that the asylum accommodations at present available are entirely insufficient. Early marriages, underfeeding, drunken parents, bad air and neglect are mentioned as causes of this terrible state of affairs.

TEXAS CLAIMS THE BELATED TRAIN RECORD. It is not likely that any other state will undertake to wrest this laurel from the Lone Star State when it is known that this particular Texas train is said to have been 1,040 days late. The Beaumont, Tex., correspondent for the Philadelphia North American tells the strange story in this way: "On Sunday morning, July 26, the only train running on the Gulf and Interstate railroad pulled into the passenger station at Beaumont just 1,040 days late. Starting from Galveston on the morning of September 8, 1900, it has been stalled halfway between the two cities since that date. Special festivities marked the arrival of the belated No. 1. Of the passengers who started with the train many met death. In the wind, rain and weather the train has stood where it was stalled so long ago, only to be finally rescued and brought out as a relic of other days. The same locomotive pulled the same weather-beaten and dilapidated coaches through to the destination that should have been reached four hours after the start was made. When the train had to stop on account of the storm some of the passengers left the coaches to seek safety in the houses close at hand. Others remained and were joined by inhabitants from roundabout. Not a person who remained on the cars was injured. Those who left met death in the water that rose up over the land. But the track both ahead and behind the train was washed away. Not a vestige of the rails remained except beneath the wheels of the train."

THE GREAT DEVELOPMENT OF WIRELESS telegraphy has induced the United States government to appeal for recruits to become operators of wireless telegraphy machines abroad the United States warships. The first call for recruits in this line came to the middle west recently, and speaking of this innovation, a writer in the Des Moines Register and Leader says: "The government is not asking for young men who are familiar with all the principles of wireless telegraphy. They do not necessarily have to know anything about it. They are examined, however, as to their knowledge concerning the use of electrical instruments, batteries, etc., and their abilities to make wire connections and minor repairs. The navy department realizes that at the present time wireless telegraphy is not to be pushed into actual service on the battleships, but it is preparing to have bright, intelligent, and active young men ready for such service when the proper moment comes. Those who are now entering that department will be retained on land to study electricity and all of the principles of telegraphy that they may be fit for the coming positions. The navy is after promising young men who wish to develop their minds along this direction."

AN ANNOUNCEMENT RECENTLY MADE BY the state department is to the effect that anarchists cannot be naturalized in this country. The department directs attention to the provisions of the act of March 3 regulating immigration of aliens. This act became effective July 3. The law is interpreted to the effect that to render a court judgment of naturalization valid the court record must show that the person naturalized is not hostile to organized government and is not connected with any anarchistic body.