

# CURRENT TOPICS

THE KANSAS CITY Journal prints this human interest story: "The plea of one lone little woman, praying in behalf of herself and her two children yesterday kept August Miller, a negro, from getting a saloon license at 1329 East Eighteenth street. Mrs. Bertha Walters, 1339 East Eighteenth, told the board of police commissioners there already were two saloons in that block—one each corner—and she did not think another would help conditions. Her husband, A. B. Walters, has a little second-hand store there and they live in the rear, over their store. He did not appear before the board. 'I have two children just growing up,' she told the board in broken English. 'They hear enough bad words and see enough cutting and fighting around the other two saloons without putting another one so close to us. It's pretty bad out there and we wish, for the children's sake, you would not make it any worse.'"

WILLIAM J. GAYNOR, mayor of New York City, was shot in the head and seriously wounded August 9 as the mayor stood on the promenade deck of a steamship preparing to take a voyage for rest. The shot was fired by James D. Gallagher, a discharged city employe. The news dispatch sent at the time of the shooting says: "The shot was fired at 9:45 o'clock, fifteen minutes before the Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse was due to leave her pier at Hoboken, N. J., and the mayor was receiving godspeed from a group of friends, preparatory to a vacation trip to Europe. The bullet struck him behind the right ear and split, one bit of lead remaining imbedded at the opening of the wound, the other ranging downward and becoming buried in the lower part of the mouth. Dr. Ferdinand C. Wolff, the hospital house physician, said it was improbable that an operation would be performed. The mayor's temperature is normal, his pulse good, and his mental attitude favorable to recovery. Unless blood poison develops, surgeons are hopeful of the mayor's recovery. The mayor is at St. Mary's hospital, Hoboken, surrounded by specialists, with members of his family near. All early reports from the hospital were hopeful, and this evening six X-ray negatives of the wound were taken to facilitate an operation for the removal of the bullet. Gallagher, the would-be assassin, is locked in a cell at Jersey City, held without bail. He expresses no remorse." Resolutions expressing sorrow were adopted by various official bodies throughout the country. Widespread joy was expressed when it was reported that the mayor would live.

A PLAN TO CURE the divorce evil is advanced by Judge J. D. Hinkle of the superior court of Spokane County, Washington. A Spokane dispatch to the Fort Worth (Texas) Record says: "Publicity as a precaution against fraud in actions for divorce is advocated by Presiding Judge J. D. Hinkle of the superior court of Spokane county, who announces that the rule permitting thirty days to elapse between the filing of the suit and the trial of the case, undoubtedly will be adopted by the judges in Spokane county, going into effect November 1. Judge Hinkle, who has studied the question for years, also advocates these reforms in requirements and procedure in divorce cases not only in this county, but all over the country: Six months or a year between the time of separation and filing of complaint in actions on grounds of cruelty and non-support. Two years' residence in the state to enable a former non-resident to sue for divorce. Interlocutory decree of divorce not to be made final until six months or a year after the trial of the case. Requirement that parties may not remarry within a year of the granting of the divorce. 'The requirement now is that a suit be filed at least five days before the trial,' Judge Hinkle said. 'It used to be that a case would be started one day and rushed to trial on the next. Publicity was dodged and often a year would pass before relatives or friends of a couple knew they had been legally separated. The system followed in several states of granting an interlocutory decree at the time of trial, which

does not become final except through the act of the petitioner, six months or a year later, would also be an advantage. Many reconciliations might take place under such conditions which are prevented now by the divorce becoming final immediately after it is granted.'"

AN INTERESTING story from life is told by the New York World in this way: "While a score of army officers, soldiers and citizens looked on helpless for several minutes that seemed hours, Anna Moran, a girl of twenty, struggled yesterday afternoon in the waters of Long Island Sound with a recruit from Fort Slocum who preferred death to capture after desertion. Pluck won the day. Miss Moran's remarkable efforts were crowned with success and last night she was receiving the congratulations of friends and blushing to be called 'heroine.' The man she saved spent the night bound to a cot in a cell in the fort, raving in delirium. Peter Harvey, aged twenty-one, had been drafted from the recruiting station in New York a few days ago to Fort Slocum near New Rochelle. He evidently tired of army life quickly, for early yesterday morning, burdened with full uniform, he swam the three-quarters of a mile that separates the fort from Glen Island. He walked around the island until his clothes had dried and then boarded the ferry for New Rochelle, forgetting that immediately upon the discovery of his absence patrols would be sent out for his capture. As soon as he stepped off the ferry boat at New Rochelle, Harvey was arrested by Sergeant Gerthereau from Fort Slocum and put on board the army steamer General Barry, which was then headed for the fort."

THE WORK OF compiling the thirteenth census will be completed some time during October. The work of the census bureau is enormous. The Washington correspondent for the Fort Worth (Texas) Record says: "Some people think that Director Durand practically knows now the exact number of the population, but he declares, 'really and truly,' that he does not. If so disposed, however, he could ascertain approximately the number of people somewhat in advance of his announcement to the public. This could be done by means of the preliminary count of the schedules which is made necessary for the payment of the enumerators for their services. The enumerating districts for each supervisor's area are numbered, and it is intended that each of them should contain one hundred names. As soon as these are received they are turned over to counters and a virtually accurate statement is thus made possible. Up to date the names in more than 58,000 of the 70,000 districts have been counted. The process is moving forward rapidly and when it is completed the population of the United States could be easily arrived at by footing up the total. Mr. Durand, however, is not having the figures totaled and he says that it is his purpose not to do so. He is not curious as to the outcome of his work. Nor will he make any prediction as to what the result will show. It is known, however, that the census officials generally fall in with the popular idea that there are about 90,000,000 people in the United States. Between the census of 1890 and that of 1900 there was an increase of about 13,000,000 and only a slightly larger increase would now be necessary to bring the figure up to the ninety million mark. This result is arrived at by a purely arithmetical calculation and not by any compilation of the figures recently taken. About three hundred nimble fingered young men and women are engaged night and day in determining the figures which, when the final computation is made, will show the total population. All told there are some 1,800 clerks employed in the census office in the compilation of all the facts gathered by the field agents in connection with the recent census; but, while the greatest activity is directed toward the ascertainment of the population, there is still much doing in other directions. Indeed, a large number of those at work in the population division are

engaged in classifying the facts relative to the sex, age, race and other conditions in connection with the people. Also there are many employed in the manufacturing, agricultural and mining branches. The first announcement, however, will cover only enumeration figures, and these will continue for the next two months and a half. The sociological and industrial figures will come later, and will be announced as a rule in special bulletins prepared by the bureau itself."

UP TO DATE, population figures have been given on two states only, Rhode Island and Oklahoma, but many announcements have been made for cities, towns and counties in various parts of the country. All the returns so far given to the public have been prepared to meet the especial demands of the localities affected. In Rhode Island, for instance, there is to be a reapportionment for legislative purposes, and in Oklahoma the franchise is involved. Texas has state laws affecting county administration, and has made a special demand upon the bureau. There also have been some exactions of a legal nature from various cities in Illinois, as from some other states. From this time forward, however, those requests will receive comparatively little attention, and as a consequence the regular work of the bureau will proceed more rapidly. The Record's correspondent adds: "The director's intention is first to tabulate the population of the large cities, and after the announcements for those centers of population shall have been made the figures for the states will be given out as they are ascertained. The returns for all the counties of each state will be announced at the same time that the state figures are made public. Many of the announcements are liable to be delayed beyond the time when they may be expected by the public. This delay, if it occurs, will be due to the necessity for careful scrutiny of all the schedules. All of the enumeration sheets are counted from three to four times, and if there is any error, or even if there is any circumstance indicating a possibility of an error, an investigation is ordered, and if necessary a correction is made. In two cities evidence of fraud has been discovered, and in one, Great Falls, Mont., a prosecution has been undertaken for fraudulent enumeration. In Massachusetts all of the figures have been withheld to accommodate that state in some of its own statistical work. Contrary to the general opinion all the counting of the people is done by hand. The tabulating machines, of which several hundred are employed in the office are used only in classification as to race, sex and other conditions. The census office is a busy place. The present force of clerks will be increased eventually to about 2,000. There are two shifts of them, one working from 9 o'clock in the morning until 4:30, the other taking up the work at the latter hour and going forward until 11 o'clock at night. Counting enumerators, special agents and supervisors, no fewer than 80,000 people will have been employed in the work of the thirteenth census by the time it is completed. So far about \$6,000,000 have been expended upon it, and it is probable that the total cost will be about \$15,000,000. Of this sum \$12,000,000 already has been appropriated by congress."

REFERRING TO THE democratic convention recently held in Nebraska, Louis F. Post, writing in The Public, of Chicago, says: "All who may think that William J. Bryan's influence in American politics has been killed again—this time by his own party and in his home state—had better hold their jubilating energy in reserve until the election returns come in from Nebraska. If they have reason to use this energy then, they may possibly use it to some purpose; if they have no use for it then, they may be glad that they did not rejoice over a welcome political death following so speedily by an exasperating political resurrection. The truth appears to be that it is not so much a defeat for Bryan in his own party in Nebraska that has taken place, as a victory in that party