

PROOF THAT MARRIAGE IS NOT A LOTTERY

Marriage is not a lottery.

So far from it that a man with a statistical bent and the ever ready sources of compiled information may take up the subject of marriage on a piece of paper and with a pencil outline its conditions, probabilities, and possibilities to a surprising finish.

For the average man who has hopes in his affinity it would be a poser under certain circumstances for him to attempt to figure his own one chance of marriage at any age. With

women as men, due to the fact that the women marry much earlier in life and lead a much less hazardous existence.

The figures on how much earlier in life women marry than do men may surprise the reader. Considering the ages from 19 years to 54 years, in periods of ten years each, one may get an idea of the chances of the two sexes in the United States to find partners, early and late. Out of the 1,000 weddings, representing a thou-

the man improve materially in his showing of 255 to 208, while at 54 years he has 220 chances of finding a bride where the woman has only 103 chances of some husband taking her.

In contrast to these figures are those of Great Britain, from which there has been so much emigration of the males in years past. At 20 years old 149 women and thirty-five men will have married; at thirty years the figures will be 680 women and 731 men; at 40 years the chances are for

a guess so seemingly wild that May is the poorest of all the months for wedding festivities. But, grouping the thousands again, the figures are conclusive that the slowest month and the gayest month of the year are side by side on the calendar.

"Marry in May and repent for aye," may be an old couplet that has influenced Cupid, but in 1,000 weddings only forty-one have been celebrated in May, as compared to the 145 to the credit of June, the month of roses. July, with its summer resort opportunities and its outings and picnics, cuts a considerable figure in the accompanying chart, while December, with 119 weddings, and January, with 139, rank next to June.

Once married, the prospects for married life of long duration are good, taking the 1,000 representative group. In the United States the average term of wedded life is a little more than twenty-eight years. Counting the differences in the ages at which women and men marry, the proportion of the life period for the married may be approximated in the United States as at least half of the individual life period.

How this compares with the wedded periods in other countries may be shown in the figures from Holland and Belgium, giving only twenty-three years as the period of married life, twenty-six years in France, twenty-seven years in Great Britain, and thirty years in Russia. In this respect the dominion of the czar shows a longer wedded period for its subjects than does any other European country, accountable to the fact that marriages are made earlier there than in any of the other countries quoted.

As to married life in the United States, more than one economist has made his observations upon the decreasing number of children in the homes of the nation. In the last ten years, despite the increase in the immigration to this country, the birth rate has dwindled distinctly. Taking the occupants of homes, the enumerators of the last census found only 47 persons to a home. Accounting for the loss of father or mother in a home, this probably would give to the United States an added population of 3,000 for each 1,000 couples married.

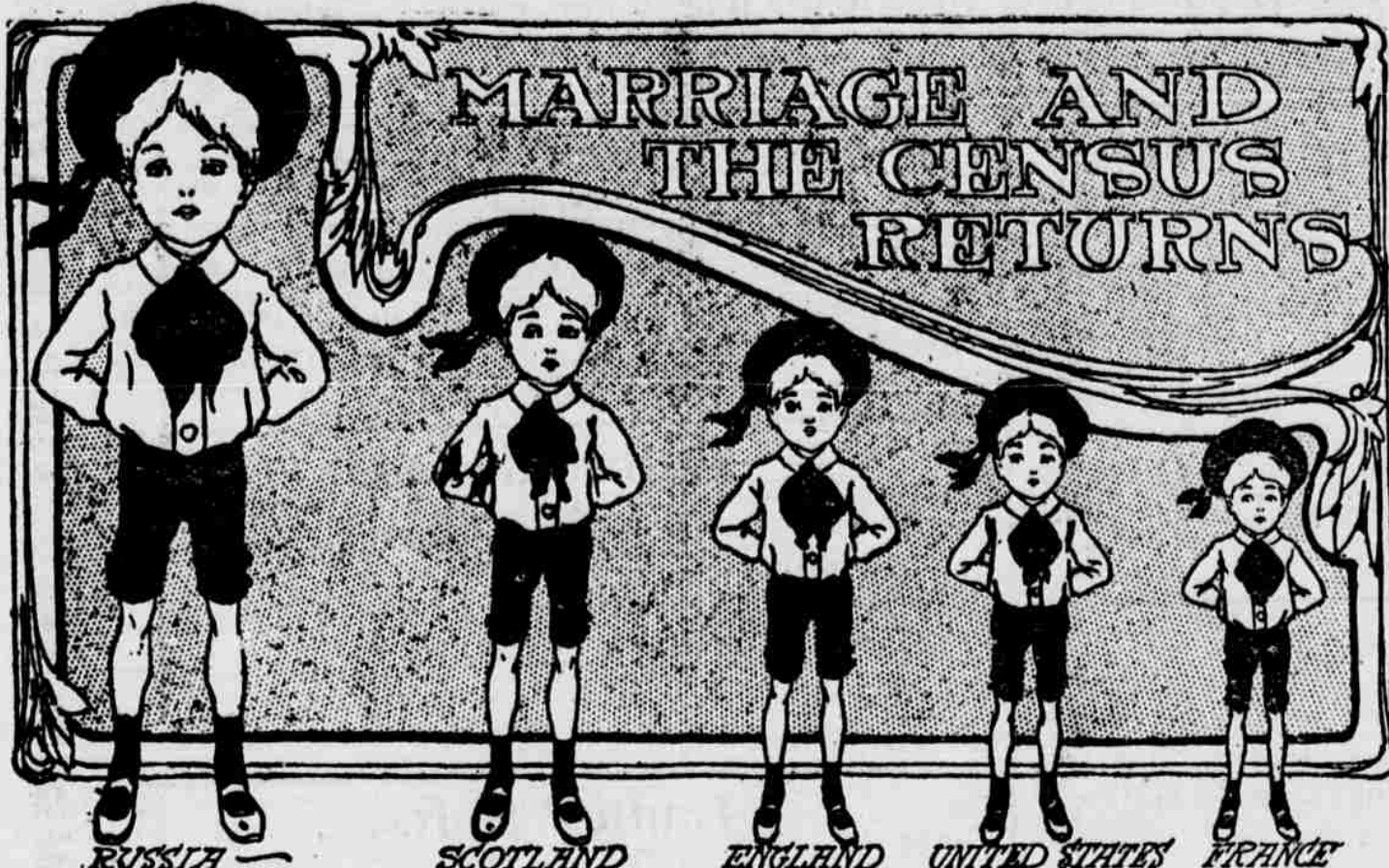
This may be compared to most of the countries of Europe to the disadvantage of America. For instance, in Russia these 1,000 couples would add to the population 6,500 souls, in Scotland there would be 4,000 children, in England 3,600, and in France only 2,700 children of the 1,000 marriages.

Of the marriages in general in the United States it is discovered that out of the 1,000 considered 139 men will have been married at least once before the celebration under consideration, while the 861 will have made the vows for the first time. Of the 1,000 women in the case only ninety-eight will have worn widow's weeds before the wedding. Thus out of the 2,000 individuals parties to the 1,000 marriages 237 will have bought or have worn wedding rings before, leaving in the chart proportions the band represented by 1,763 previously ringless fingers or undisturbed purses.

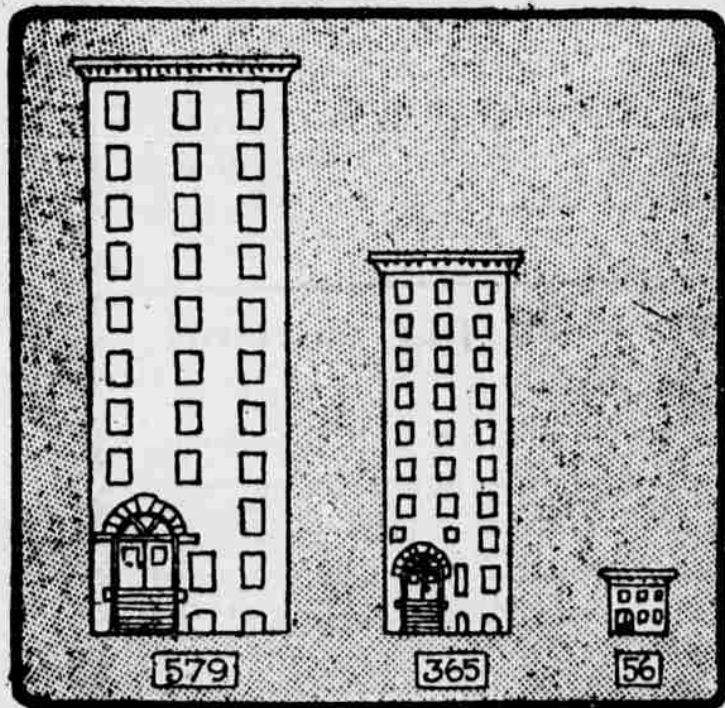
Illustrative of the married, the unmarried, and the widowed, we present some comparative apartment buildings on a scale to house all that are considered. In the unmarried figures of 579 in 1,000 it must be remembered that the young and old "unmarried" of both sexes, from babes to octogenarians, are there included.

Mosquito Still in the Ring.

Expert confidence last year that the mosquito was downed and on the way to extirpation this spring gives place to equally expert assurance that he is nothing of the kind, and that all the measures taken against him leave him multiplying his generations under the pavilion of the sun's throne as vigorously and generously as ever. His couriers came with the daffodils, and his rear guard bids far to ebb slowly out with the October asters, as usual.



Every 1,000 marriages mean an increase to the population of 6,500 in Russia, 4,000 in Scotland, 3,600 in England, 3,000 in the United States, and 2,700 in France.



Matrimonial flats, illustrating the proportion between the married, unmarried, and widowed in this country.

the statistician, however, it becomes easy, and, bunching men and women in groups of thousands, he is able to make the individual age calculation in a moment. Not only this, but he may give the best of pointers on the probable month for the marriage, how long the married state will exist between them, and just what percentage of the future population will be expected of the union.

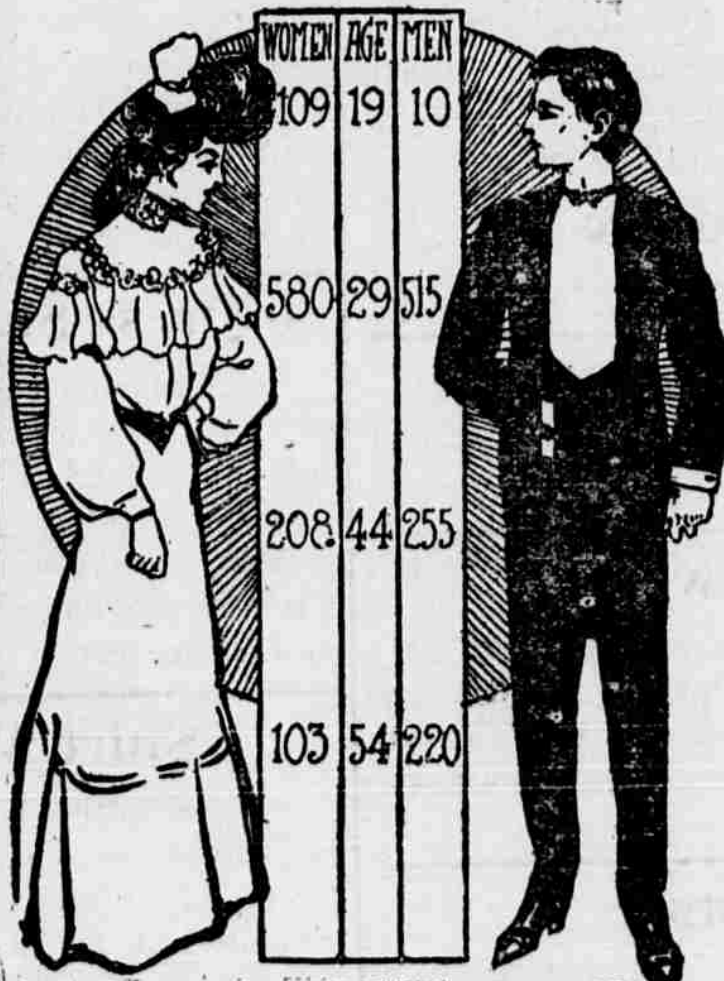
There are figures in general bearing upon several nations of Europe, but those of the United States will be given the first place. Here, perhaps, one of the most striking first statements that can be made is that, in taking up a section of the country having just 1,000 people in it of all ages and all shades and nationalities as they run, 579 of the individuals will be unmarried, 365 will be living in a state of widowhood, while 56, for one reason or another, will have been widowed. In the group of the widowed, too, there will be twice as many

sand men and a thousand women, 109 women have been married at 19 years, while only ten young men will have found the heart and the means to accomplish the evident wish. This will mean that at the least ninety-nine young women at this age will have married men older than themselves. Indeed, it may be taken for granted that 100 of them did so, for at the age of 19 years and under the young man's fancy always runs toward a woman much older than himself.

Even at 29 years old the women lead the men in marriage, the record showing 580 to 515 in comparison. At 44 years, however, the chances of

111 women and 144 men; at 50 years they are 41 women and 52 men; while at 60 years they are only nineteen women to thirty-eight men. These figures call attention to the chief fact that a few more women and nearly four times more men marry in their teens in Great Britain than marry so early in this country.

But, whatever the comparative chances of the women and the man for marriage, it is considered everywhere that the woman will name the day for the ceremony, and that in naming it she has whims and dislikes of her own. For instance, few confirmed bachelors having the poetical ideas that go with spring would make



Ages at which 1,000 men and 1,000 women marry.