SOME LABOR FOR LOVE

Inadequately Paid Federal Employes in Responsible Places.

[From The Tribune Bureau.]

Washington, March 23.—In the government service in Washington, hidden away in more or less obscure positions and drawing modest salaries, are many men whose attainments are of the highest order, whose service is invaluable and to whom the money remuneration is in every respect a secondary consideration. In the face of the fact that the Vice-President, the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Senators and Representatives for the ensuing term are to have an increase in pay of 50 per cent at a single bound, the humble salaries of these men have remained unchanged and their service is continued uncomplainingly.

Representatives now receive $7,500, for which they serve three or six months in the year irregularly and with the greatest latitude. They are mostly lawyers and are able to practise their professions in the interim and gain large clienteles through the advertisement they receive in public life and profit in various other ways. This other class of men, doing a high grade of constructive work, but dependent for adequate remuneration on Congress, have only the satisfaction of work well done and the enthusiasm of the specialist in addition to their salaries.

This contrasted class is that which is composed of the men holding positions of responsibility in the executive departments and shouldering those responsibilities on meagre salaries uncomplainingly; of men of science who devote their learning to the furthering of ventures taken up by the government for the benefit of the whole people; of men of culture, who give their attainments, illy paid, to such work as that included in the scope of the great Congressional Library.

To this class belong such men as United States Treasurer Charles H. Treat, who is responsible for larger sums of money than any other man in the world. Treasurer Treat receipted for more than a billion and a quarter of money when he assumed his present place. There are two millions in mutilated money coming in for redemption each working day in the year and a corresponding amount of new money is issued. It would require a long train of freight cars to haul the coin that is stored in his vaults and for which he is responsible. Yet so unquestioned is this man's character that he is required to give a bond of only about $150,000, and none of his subordinates are bonded. He is a man of power in finance, and his position in any private concern, were it possible for a place of such responsibility to exist privately, would draw a king's ransom. Yet the Treasurer of the United States draws only $6,000 a year, $1,500 less than the man who represents, or, as is occasionally the case, misrepresents, his crossroads district in Congress.

Under Treasurer Treat there is a corps of men who are responsible to him for the safekeeping of the vast sums of money that are handled at the Treasury. These are men of unquestioned standing and integrity, whose lives are as open books and whose every action has been known to the sleuths of the department for a score of years and who have never made a misstep. Some of them have struggled for forty years to attain the positions of trust that they now hold, and have got them as a reward for definitely known qualities.

A. R. Quaiffe, who is a veteran of the Civil War, entered the Treasury in 1865, and his service has been without interruption since that time. He has advanced to the position of vault clerk in the cash room. He has handled more money than any other man ever handled in the history of the world, according to the reckonings at the Treasury. Each day there is a sum approximating $2,000,000 that passes through his hands. Yet his salary is only $2,500 a year, and he seems entirely satisfied with that amount.

J. E. Staples is chief of the issue division of the Treasury, and must account for the entire issue of the Treasury each night before he leaves the building. Through a service of thirty-eight years he has never failed in an accounting, and the accuracy, skill and responsibility that he exhibits would call for a salary in the five figures in private life. Yet he gets only $2,500 a year, one-third the salary of a Congressman. His example is only one among many at the Treasury.

ILL PAID SCIENTISTS.

The Department of Agriculture in its scientists offers an example of devotion to work and disregard for salary that has few parallels. Men holding such positions as that of chemist in the department have been known to leave the service and enter private employ at salaries as high as $12,000 a year. Inducements are constantly held out to these men to take such places, and yet the chief chemist, Dr. Harvey W. Wiley, a man of international reputation, has worked diligently and unremittingly for the benefit of the human race generally at the humble salary of $3,500, and has only recently had it raised to $5,000.

The solicitor of the department, the man who drafted the Meat Inspection bill and the famous Pure Food law, is George P. McCabe. Until recently he drew $3,000 a year, and has just had an increase of $500. His time is so taken up that no leisure is left for outside practice, yet he draws less than half as much as a Representative.

Gifford Pinchot, Chief Forester of the department, is a man of independent fortune and gives his service, time and talents to the work of forest preservation because of a fondness for it and a hope of being a public benefactor rather than to embark in private enterprises for profit. The government pays him $3,500 a year for guarding the incalculable forest wealth of the nation from timber thieves. David Fairchild, of the division of seed and plant introduction of the bureau of plant industry, is another man of wealth and fine attainments who gives himself to an unprofitable work with the hope of adding to the prosperity of the nation through the introduction of new varieties. A find such as the navel orange means hundreds of millions to the nation, and he regards the prospect of being of such service as above money, and toils incessantly at $2,500 a year.

Except for these scientific bureaus, there is probably no branch of the government service where the salary compensation is at greater variance with the grade of work performed than in the Library of Congress. Further, there is no department in which those performing their work do so with more enthusiasm, with more energy and with less complaint at the salary paid.

The work is largely technical and scientific, there being few positions that are merely clerical as yet, yet the subordinate salaries paid are from 20 to 40 per cent lower than those paid in the executive departments. In the technical positions the employes are mostly college graduates, many of them holding degrees from more than one institution. Handling books in a hundred different languages and dialects, they must be competent linguists and they must be equipped with an expensive education.

Yet the majority of such employes draw salaries between $700 and $1,200, entering the service at the former sum and rarely advancing beyond the latter. The congenial work and educational opportunities account for their willingness to accept such salaries. Most noticeable among those who follow library work not for the compensation are the chiefs of divisions, who have the added satisfaction of feeling that they are contributing to the fund of knowledge that will reach far and be enduring. These chiefs receive from $2,000 to $3,000 for a service that elsewhere would receive many times that compensation.

Among them are such men as Worthington C. Ford, chief of the division of manuscripts, and brother to the late author, Paul Leicester Ford. Mr. Ford was educated at Columbia, became of wide repute as an economist and statistician, and for several years was chief of the bureau of statistics when under the Treasury Department, and later the head of the division of documents and statistics in the Boston Public Library. His chief interest, however, was in American history, to the sources of which he was in effect born, for he was the son of Gordon Leicester Ford, of Brooklyn, whose great collection of Americana went later to the New York Public Library. He is an acknowledged authority, and one of the leading ones, on the sources of American history, particularly of the Revolutionary and post-Revolutionary periods. Mr. Ford edited the definite editions of the writings of Washington, and has written much in the way of monographs. His expert editorship is enabling the library to publish what will be the definitive edition of "The Journals of the Continental Congress," a work of the highest importance to the investigator of American history. His knowledge also of the whereabouts and signficance of manuscript sources of American history and his expert conduct of the collections already in the library have drawn to it as a gift many a manuscript collection of a value not calculable. The multiple service rendered by such an official is out of proportion to his pecuniary emolument, which is only $3,000 a year. The two simply cannot be balanced against each other. They are in different categories.

SOME CONNOISSEURS.

Another official whose mere association with the library has helped to enrich its collection is A. J. Parsons, chief of the division of prints, a man of private means, to whom the pecuniary compensation of the position is no compensation at all, and could not be an inducement to the sacrifice of his leisure to the routine of government service. Himself a connoisseur and collector, he can meet other collectors on a common ground and speak to them in their own language, and by demonstrating to them that the government service includes adequate appreciation of the real value of the works of the fine arts and a capacity for treating in an expert way the prints in its possession, his presence in the library has induced both gifts and loans which are of great value. His pay is $2,000.

The position at the head of the division of music, like that at the head of the division of prints, carries a salary of only $2,000. This position is held by O. G. T. Sonneck, who is a specialist of high rank and a unique knowledge in his field. He was born in the United States, but educated at Kiel, Heidelberg and Munich, specializing in music. Later returning to this country he became a contributor to the literature of its history, theory and criticism. Undertaking a special study of American music of the eighteenth century he has become a leading authority upon it. For the department in the library he has laid out a plan of systematic development which is making the collection one of the most important in the world. It is already so in some respects—for instance, in operatic scores, where it is the leading one in the United States. With an ample knowledge of existing and many and varied sources of increase, it is being more rapidly developed than any collection elsewhere, yet he is paid only $2,000 annually. These are only a few of the hundreds of instances that might be cited.

Charles D. Walcott, the new head of the Smithsonian Institution, now retiring as director of the Geological Survey and the Reclamation Service, says that among his engineers there are men who constantly have offers of salaries far above those they are receiving, and who are as regularly refusing them. The reason given for this is purely a sentimental one, having to do with the great things that are being accomplished in the service and the professional pride of the men in being connected with enterprises that will stand through centuries as monuments to their skill.

There has been a great dearth of good engineers for a number of years past, and constantly the railroads are applying to Dr. Walcott for suitable men to take responsible places. Recently he was asked if there were in the service engineers competent to handle a certain great enterprise, and he mentioned two men he was able to recommend. A salary of $20,000 a year was offered to each of these men, though they were working for the government for $4,000. The offer was in each case refused.

L. C. Hill is supervising engineer of the Roosevelt dam and irrigation system that is being developed in Arizona. He is a young man of energy and promise. He draws $4,800 a year. Recently he has had an offer to enter private employ, and the salary was practically five times that now received, but he refused.

The engineers who have left the service at vastly increased saparies are without number. In many instances they have done so against their desires, but because the financial demands upon them were such that they felt called upon to meet them.

Homer Hamlin was project engineer at Yuma, Ariz., in the government service. He drew $3,000 a year and lived on the desert, away from his family. He had an offer of $6,000 a year as city engineer of Los Angeles, where his family resided, and accepted the position. There are many instances of this kind, but they are more than offset by the number of men who refuse to leave the government employ of this department and cast outside opportunities and money compensations to the wind. A notable example has been that of Mr. Walcott himself, who some time ago refused an offer of $20,000 a year and retained his government position. He now becomes secretary of the Smithsonian for life at $7,600 a year.

Such men as these are giving their life's service to special work, with no thought of the compensation and little care for it. They are doing real constructive work that will leave its impression upon the generations to come, and with this end in view compensation is a secondary matter. They are men of large enthusiasms, and in these enthusiasms are lost to material things, and in their turn are forgotten when there is a distribution of salary advances.

SOME GOVERNMENT EMPLOYES TO WHOM MONEY IS A CONSIDERATION SECOND TO THE LOVE OF THEIR WORK.

CHARLES R. TREAT. Treasurer of the United States. Salary, $6,000.

GIFFORD PINCHOT. Chief Forester, Department of Agriculture. Salary, $3,500.

WORTHINGTON C. FORD. Chief of the Division of Manuscripts. Salary, $3,000.

DR. HARVEY W. WILEY. Chemical expert, Department of Agriculture. Salary, $5,000.

RUSSIAN FAMINE RELIEF.

Active Work to Raise Fund in This City.

Every report from the land of the Little Father serves to show that Russia is locked in a deadly struggle compared with which the suffering and losses of the war with Japan sink to insignificance. Thirty million people—peasants all, inhabiting a district comprising twenty-one provinces and covering an area almost half as large as the whole United States—are in the grasp of the destroying hunger. Their one means of livelihood is farming, and when heaven denies the rain for the crops, as was the case last year, their only means of sustenance is gone. Last year, over more than 1,500,000 square miles of Russian territory, there was sowing but no reaping. The earth was dry and unproductive, robbing the peasant of even the little store of seed sown which otherwise he might have used for food.

As a result of the visit to the United States of Nicolas Shiskoff, in behalf of the famine sufferers, an organized movement is already on foot for the collection of funds. The Russian Famine Relief Fund is now an actuality. With headquarters at No. 135 East 15th street, this city, and with Bishop Potter as president and Dr. Samuel J. Barrows as secretary, it has begun the collection of money for the fight against starvation. There will be no "graft" in the administration of these funds, for they will be applied by the society's officers and not turned over to the Russian government or its officials. Every contribution will be acknowledged by the Morton Trust Company, which is acting as treasurer of the fund.

Much is hoped for in the way of contributions, and a single sentence tells their power. "Eight dollars will save the life of an adult until the next harvest—$5 the life of a child," said Mr. Shiskoff. Such is the sum that represents a human life. What in this country means a visit to the theatre, or a couple of pairs of gloves, in Russia means a chance to live. It is a striking comparison of relative values, and of the final value of life in Russia. And it is the belief of Dr. Barrows and the other workers of the Relief Committee that the chance to save a human life at a cost of $5, to provide for months of sustenance for starving beings at a cost representing hardly more than the price of a single day's outing, is one which will appeal to Americans.

LIFE AT LAKEWOOD.

Springlike Weather Experienced—Many Visitors Expected.

Lakewood, N. J., March 23.—(Special.)—The weather at Lakewood has been so balmy and springlike that everybody has lived outdoors this week. The lobbies of the Lakewood Hotel and the Laurel House now present a deserted appearance in the daytime. Even the rocking chair brigades have been tempted out of doors this week.

Easter bookings at the Lakewood Hotel assure a list of arrivals even larger than on Washington's Birthday, when the parlors were converted into sleeping apartments to provide accommodations for those who had failed to make early application for rooms. At the Laurel House and the smaller hotels extra preparations are being made to take care of the Easter throng.

Several small dinner parties given in the palm room restaurant of the Lakewood Hotel have been the principal items of the social programme this week. Mr. and Mrs. William B. Coster, of New York, entertained a small company on Thursday evening at the Lakewood, and Mr. and Mrs. Herbert G. Malcom welcomed their friends on Tuesday evening in honor of the tenth anniversary of their marriage.

Justice H. A. Gildersleeve, ex-Judge Morgan J. O'Brien and Herman Ellis, of New York, came down for a few days' golfing this week and registered at the Lakewood Hotel.

Lispenard Stewart, of New York, joined a party of friends at the Lakewood Hotel yesterday for a stay over Easter. Among other New Yorkers who will spend Easter at this hotel are Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Cass Ledyard and Mr. and Mrs. Cortland Godwin. Mr. and Mrs. Ledyard will entertain a large company at the hotel over the holiday.

Lakewood is to have a new Young Men's Christian Association building, to cost $35,000. The erection of the building has been made possible by a bequest of $100,000 from the estate of Mrs. Julia MacCartee, of Albany, who spent several seasons here. A check for $60,000 was received from the executors of Mrs. MacCartee's estate this week and the officers of the Young Men's Christian Association are now considering plans for the building. It will be ready for occupancy early next season.

Mrs. Edward Shakespeare, of Philadelphia, who took an active part in the social life of the village for several seasons, made a brief visit here this week. Mrs. Shakespeare will sail on the steamship Amerika for Greece next week. She goes to attend the wedding of her niece, Miss Baird, of Philadelphia. Miss Baird is with her aunt, Mrs. Thomas Jackson, who is the wife of the United States Minister to Greece.

Miss Leslie was the hostess of the As You Like It Club at her home, Bon Respiro, in Forest avenue, on Wednesday evening. Mrs. Roswell Hitchcock, of Boston, is the guest of Miss Leslie over the Easter holidays.

Much enthusiasm was infused into the work of the Village Improvement Society at a meeting of members of the villa colony held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Lathrop Pack on Thursday evening. The cottage dwellers are much aroused over the incompetent administration of the village affairs by the township committee. The cottagers complain of inadequate police protection, an exorbitant tax rate and other abuses.

The Monday Bridge Club, which has been one of the pleasant features of the winter season at the Laurel House, held its last tournament this week, and the occasion was made particularly enjoyable by the presentation to Mrs. Park Painter of an amethyst pin and jewel box by the members of the club.

Mr. and Mrs. Theodore G. Frelinghuysen, of Morristown, are spending a fortnight at the Laurel House. Miss Frelinghuysen joined them over the week end.

Mr. and Mrs. John Hays Hammond have returned to Lakewood from Bermuda and are again occupying their cottage in Madison avenue. Mrs. Hammond is much improved in health.

For her sister, Mrs. Herman Schwartz, who was a February bride, Miss Cornelia Schwartz gave a bridge tea at her home in 2d street on Monday afternoon.

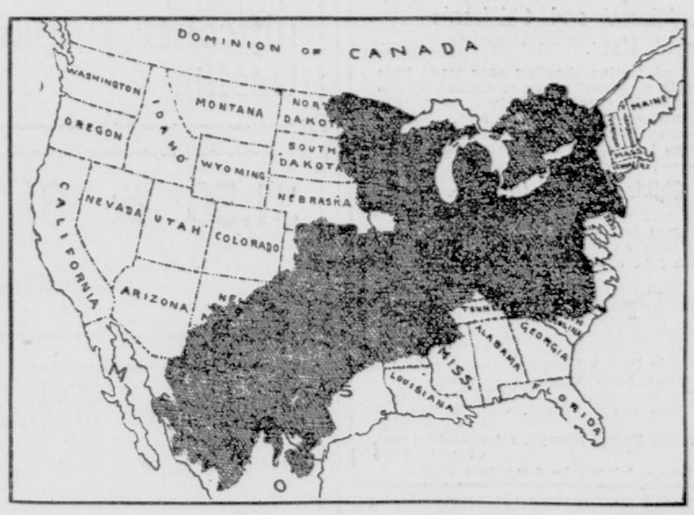
Mrs. William Bateman Leeds returned from Boston this week and has opened her cottage in Madison avenue. Her daughter, Mrs. C. Cook Kimball, of Pittsburg, will join her over Easter.

Mr. and Mrs. Augustus McDonald entertained a small company of cottagers at a dinner at their home in 3d street on Monday evening. Among their guests were Mr. and Mrs. W. Ross Proctor, Miss Singer, Mr. and Mrs. F. D. Reimer and Mr. and Mrs. J. N. S. Brewster.

Captain and Mrs. Philip Lydig, of New York, who are staying at the Laurel in the Pines, were joined this week by Mrs. Lydig's sister, Miss de Acosta.

Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Morgan and Miss Morgan are among the New Yorkers registered at the Lexington this week.

The Hotel Wrisley and the Manhattan are already well filled with Easter visitors. These are among the most popular of the smaller hotels of Lakewood.



SIZE OF RUSSIA'S FAMINE AREA.

A region of equal extent in America would stretch from Canada to Mexico and include nearly half the territory of the United States.

TRAVELS OF A PACKAGE OF MONEY.

A package of money, amounting to $3,000, mostly in bills of the denomination of $20 or less, has recently ended lengthy travels in the care of a man who was entirely ignorant of its value. It arrived in this city on Tuesday last, and was thrown on the desk of the financier to whom it belonged, with the remark, "Here's your socks!" According to account this package was being brought from Trenton by a New York man, who also has an office in this city, and who stopped to converse with a friend in the railroad station at Trenton. While they were talking the New York man suddenly exclaimed, "Here's my train," and away he went, leaving the package on the window sill. The friend, assuming from the appearance of the package, that the contents were of trifling value, put it in his suit case and continued a business trip that carried him over Western New York State and to Pittsburg, and in the course of which he frequently left the package on the table of his room at hotels. Meantime the financier moved every agency to recover his money without avail, and had about made up his mind that it was gone forever when the package was restored to him as told above. He is said to have jumped a foot when the package was placed on his desk. The same evening he did the honors at a hotel dinner, the temporary and unconscious guardian of his wealth having refused any other reward.—Philadelphia Record.

VERSAILLES MUSEUM.

Efforts to Keep Up Famous Palace Which Louis Philippe Preserved.

Paris, March 12.

"Is Versailles being allowed to fall to pieces?" is a question often asked by visitors before making a trip by train or automobile to this historic spot. Your correspondent, in the last few days, made the rounds of the palace, chapel, gardens, parks and trianons and inspected the terraces, apartments, galerie des glaces, marble staircases and halls transformed into museums of art or of historic relics. The impression obtained was that, while it would be sheer exaggeration to say that Versailles was "going to ruin," nevertheless the façades are in many instances sadly neglected, the fountains are crumbling away, the two trianons are getting mouldy, the cornices show signs of decay, and, above all, the beautiful Cour des Cerfs—the interior court connected with the rooms of the King's apartments and overlooked by no other windows except from those of the royal suite, and so called because it was formerly decorated with carved stags' heads in plaster—is in a very bad condition.

On the whole, however, the palace, especially its interior, is kept up fairly well and betrays no signs of "falling to pieces." M. Pierre de Nolhac, curator of the Versailles Museum, is an enthusiastic defender of the art treasures of Versailles, and it is largely owing to his efforts that the palace presents greater interest to visitors to-day than has been the case since it was pillaged and abandoned in course of the Revolution. It should be borne in mind that when Louis Philippe came to the throne in 1830 the palace of Versailles was almost empty and was rapidly going to the dogs. The Citizen King, in order to win popularity, converted Versailles into a museum dedicated to the "glories and memories of France."

He thus saved it from being divided up and sold. The gardens had already gone to ruin. Louis Philippe expended, between the years 1830 and 1837, the date of its opening as a national museum, no less than $200,000 out of his own personal funds toward its restoration. Louis Philippe lived at a time when the style of the eighteenth century in art, in architecture, furniture and porcelain was despised. He followed the prevailing fashionable fad, and the restorations and decorations made in his reign in the palace are in exceedingly bad taste, but the good natured King managed to gather together the furniture and pictures that had been dispersed, and it was he who, after all, saved the palace from going to destruction. Since the time of Louis Philippe there has been a special curator, and also an architect, attached to the Versailles Museum, but the appropriation, amounting, as it does to-day, to $40,000, is entirely inadequate to keep the palace in proper repair. M. de Nolhac in the last few months has succeeded in obtaining twenty pieces of Gobelin tapestry ordered by Louis XIV to commemorate the military events of his reign, from the Garde Meuble of the state, and these superb works of art will soon be replaced in the apartments at Versailles, where they originally were hung.

M. Lambert, the architect of Versailles, has strengthened the walls and repaired some of the façades, but he is severely criticised for spending too great a share of the appropriations upon interior decorations of questionable taste, instead of devoting his attention to absolutely necessary architectural repairs. For instance, recently the hideous white paint that Louis Philippe had caused to be placed on the walls of the cabinet de travail of the Dauphin was removed, and beautiful panels of landscapes in Martin varnish, offering probably the only known instance of such mural decorative painting in that precious medium, were brought to light.

The Martin varnish landscapes were, however, not in good condition. The architect, instead of leaving them in their original state, had them restored with a varnish in imitation of that of Martin, and the effect was most disappointing. After this experiment the modern varnish was scraped away, but this was done so clumsily that the delicate Martin landscapes were completely obliterated. Other instances of more than questionable taste are to be found in the crude colors with which the rooms of the south wing are painted. Parisian art critics protest unanimously against the pink marble framework that has been devised as a sort of cadre for the Gobelin tapestries, and complain that the sums of money so expended should have been employed in making urgent repairs to walls and foundations. The palace and grounds of Versailles are nevertheless on a solid basis, and if they continue to be cared for as they have been for the past five years they will last for centuries, and present to visitors the most complete page of French history from the time of Louis XIV to the Revolution.

C. I. B.

WITH FEW EXCEPTIONS.

Wilton Lackaye says that while on a downtown elevated train one morning recently he chanced to overhear portions of an interesting conversation between two young women occupying adjoining seats.

"I see by the paper," observed one of the young women, "that Mr. Blank, the octegenarian, is dead. What on earth is an octogenarian, anyhow?"

"I don't know, I'm sure," was the reply, "but there's one thing certain—they're a sickly lot of people. You never hear of one unless he is dying."—Lippincott's.

FAMILIES OF FOUR TO SIX CHILDREN CALLED BETTER THAN ANY OTHER

The Conclusions of a Western College Professor of Political Economy.

By Dr. Edward A. Ross, University of Wisconsin.

A century ago Robert Malthus showed that the spontaneous fecundity of man is such that, with a purely natural mortality, population doubles in twenty-five years, whereas the subsistence obtainable from a given area cannot be indefinitely increased. He showed furthermore that, since the reproductive instincts are in no wise correlated with man's power to increase the food supply, population tends to increase even when additional numbers can no longer be supported. Under such circumstances the equilibration of population with resources is brought about by war, misery, plague, famine and vice, which raise the death rate until it equals the natural birth rate. Although this cruel mode of equilibration has prevailed through human history, a milder mode is possible if, by taking thought, men will restrict reproduction until the births no longer exceed the deaths. This, however, presupposes more foresight and self-control than can be looked for in the average man, so Malthus saw no prospect of the abolition of poverty, cherished little hope for the laboring masses, and painted the future of society with a sombreness that gave economics its nickname of "the dismal science."

It is nothing to the discredit of Malthus's doctrines that he did not foresee certain social transformations—democracy, the emancipation of women, the replacement of custom imitation by fashion imitation—which have generalized his "preventive check" until the birth rate of entire populations betrays the domination of the instincts by the will. Although the population of Europe leaped from 187,000,000 to 400,000,000 during the nineteenth century, the last thirty years show a steady decline in the birth rate.

Let it not be imagined that the reduction in fecundity has been at the expense of the natural increase of population. The death rate has fallen even more than the birth rate, so that during the 90's the European peoples grew at the old rate of 1 to 1½ per cent per annum. Since, however, the influences lowering the birth rate are by no means the same as those lessening mortality, it is likely the former will continue to operate after the latter have spent their force. This is why we may look in the near future for a retardation in the numerical growth of the Occidental peoples.

PARTIAL EXPLANATIONS.

A phenomenon so widespread and striking is a challenge to the tyro and the fanatic, and hence all manner of silly, cheap or partial explanations compete for public credence. Some attribute it to physiological sterility induced by alcoholism, city life and high pressure, forgetting that the child crop of sober, rural communities is often scantier than that of intemperate mining or industrial towns, and that the falling off in the birth rate seems due to smaller size of families rather than to the greater frequency of childless couples. New South Wales, with a lower birth rate than England, has less than half the proportion of sterile unions. What means it, moreover, that the Australasian population, with its surpassing physique and vitality, shows in recent years an abrupt decline in fecundity?

Some lay the phenomenon to the industrial emancipation of women and the comfortable celibacy of cities, neglecting the statistics which show there is no marked weakening of the inclination to marry. The true cause is one that will make clear why, for example, the native married women of Massachusetts bear only seven-elevenths as many children as women coming from Germany, seven-thirteenths as many as those from Ireland, and half as many as those from French Canada. Others blame the broadening freedom of divorce, unmindful that divorceless Ireland has only four-fifths the birth rate of easy divorce Switzerland, that teeming Germany is five times as inclined to break the conjugal bond as Canada, where the size of the family shrank a twentieth during the 90's, and that prolific Japan leads the world with nearly twenty times the divorce rate of stationary France. Still others blame the postponement of marriage, pointing out that marriage at 24.5 years as with English brides, at 25.5 years as among those of Massachusetts, or at 26.5 years as among college bred women, cuts deeply into the fecund years. But they overlook the fact that the last child in the average family arrives seven and a half years after marriage, so that even the woman who weds at 26.5 years ceases child bearing with yet many fertile years before her.

In the face of the hobby riders I maintain that the cause of the shrinkage in fecundity lies in the human will as influenced by certain factors which have their roots deep in the civilization of our times.

DEMOCRACY A FACTOR.

One master trait of contemporary society is democracy. The barriers of caste are down, and less and less is a man's place in society fixed by his origin. The more flourishing peoples grade men according to something that can be acquired—wealth, efficiency, knowledge, character. Wide stairways are opened between the social levels, and men are exhorted to climb if they can. In such case prudence bids each avoid whatever will impede his ascent or imperil his social standing. To the climber children are incumbrances, and so the ambitious dread the handicap of an early marriage and a large family. When, as so often in these days of anti-child labor laws and protracted schooling, the additional child is a drag on the social advancement of the family, that child is not likely to be born.

With the wiping out of sharp class lines inherited standards of living lose their grip. Wants and tastes once confined to the social élite spread resistlessly downward and infect the masses. Tidal waves of imitation carry the craving for luxuries, hitherto looked upon as the prerogative of the rich, among millions of people of limited means, and these, in their endeavor to gratify their newly awakened wants, learn to economize in offspring. The little stranger trenches on raiment, bric-à-brac, upholstery, travel, entertainment. Here the decencies, there the comforts, yonder the refinements and vanities of life compete with the possible child and bar it from existence.

Another factor is the emancipation of women. Every child taxes the father's purse, but the mother's body. A reputed inferiority of women, as in the Orient or in Eastern Europe, degrades her to a passive instrument of man, subordinates her entirely to wifely functions, so that her birth pangs do not count. The great movement that has burst the fetters on woman's mind and opened to her so many professional and industrial careers raises her value and weight in the marriage partnership and causes the heavy physiological and personal cost of excessive maternity to be more considered by husband as well as by wife. When the size of the family is determined from the man's viewpoint alone the controlling consideration is pecuniary; and hence Malthus drew his pessimistic conclusion that the prosperity of the masses tends constantly to defeat itself by stimulating the growth of numbers until poverty again reigns. But when spouses come to the woman's point of view the pain-and-worry cost of enlarging the family remains a bar even when the money cost needs no longer be considered.

NOT ALL HEAVEN-SENT.

Something, too, must be said of the decay of religious beliefs. Parents who "trust in Providence" and hold with Luther that "God makes children and He will provide for them," are rare nowadays. More and more the age chimes in with Matthew Arnold when he says:

> A man's children are not really sent any more than the pictures upon his wall or the horses in his stable are sent; and to bring people into the world when one cannot afford to keep them and oneself decently and not too precariously . . . is . . . by no means an accomplishment of the divine will or a fulfilment of nature's simplest laws, but is . . . contrary to reason and the will of God.

Piety, moreover, promoted parentage by reconciling woman to her lot as mother and drudge. The struggle of woman to realize an individuality has obliged her to rebel against her Biblical status and to spurn the counsel of submission to the curse of Eve; so that the progress of unbelief is not without a bearing on the decline of the birth rate.

Powerful as are the motives arrayed against superfecundity, they operate only in so far as they are coupled with foresight and self-control. In the modern world parents may not rid themselves of the unwelcome child, so that it is only by being foreseen and anticipated that the ever more acutely felt burden of that child can limit the size of the family. Every influence, therefore, that enlightens or enthrones reason over impulse helps to break the sceptre of Ishtar, the cruel goddess that has so unspeakably tormented mankind. In this direction work the universal instruction, cheap press, free libraries and voluntary associations that are irradiating the social deeps. Moreover, industrialism, with its enormous pressure and harsh penalties, is compelling the ignorant, the careless and the sensual to think; so that, in fact, the principal features of the life of to-day are accomplices in the restriction of fecundity.

What, now, are the effects of reducing the size of the average family?

SOME OF THE EFFECTS.

One effect is that diffusion of economic wellbeing which registers itself in a rising plane of comfort, a growth of savings and a wider diffusion of ownership. Striking, indeed, is the contrast in condition between the prudent French peasantry and the reckless mining or factory towns of central Europe or the spawning rural communities in Russia and Rumania. Among the west European peoples not only is the mean duration of life rapidly rising, but an increasing proportion of lives is rounded out to the term allotted by the Psalmist. This gain in longevity is partly due to the better support and care of the aged, who no longer need compete for attention with an overlarge brood of wailing infants. Again, a decline in fecundity lessens infant mortality, for often the sole effect of prolificacy is to fill the cemetery with tiny graves.

After all, however, the master consequence of a restricted birth rate, the one result that dwarfs all others, is that with the intelligent adaptation of numbers to prospects ceases population pressure, the principal cause of war, mass poverty, wolfish competition and class conflict.

Once it seemed as if man's propensity to multiply foredoomed the race to live ever in the presence of vast, irremediable want and woe. However smiling the gardens of Daphne, they had always to slope down into a huge, malodorous quagmire of wretchedness. The wheel of Ixion, the cup of Tantalus, symbolized humanity striving ever by labor and ingenuity to relieve itself of a painful burden, only to have that burden inexorably rolled back upon it by its own fatal fecundity. The unlooked for promptness with which, under the influence of democracy and public education, the masses have required a sense of responsibility in the matter of family, bids us look for a time when the spectre of overpopulation, with strife, misery and famine in its ghastly train, will be finally laid, and society will for the first time become master of its destiny.

But there are disquieting effects which must be taken into account.

The sway of the will in a matter hitherto left to blind instinct works a veritable revolution and cannot but breed certain harms of its own. At first the new foresight is used wantonly and destructively. The same individualizing influences that have genially tempered the general fecundity prompt some couples to a selfish evasion of all duties to the race. Salutary is restriction so far as it springs from a wise solicitude for the true welfare of offspring; but when it springs from personal cravings and ambitions it may go too far. No one can tell where it will stop. The refusal to be encumbered in the pursuit of vanities might, if it became general, cause population to dwindle in the midst of an Eden. The fall of the birth rate in roomy New South Wales from 37 to 27 in fourteen years is a portent. Shall we live to see the mother of more than three regarded as a public benefactor and placed on the payroll of the state? This exaggerated individualism, that avoids marriage or else dodges its natural consequences, forebodes the extinction of the class, the people, or the race that adopts it. The false ideals behind such race threatening frivolity need to be combated in the name of real values. Nor may we blink the fact that in order to control the size of the family some have resorted to means fraught with grave and insidious injury to health.

THE IDEAL FAMILY.

In the matter of reproduction it is not yet possible to substitute intelligence for instinct without creating a mental attitude responsible for numerous one child and two child families, where both parents and children miss many of the best lessons of life. The children reared in such stunted families, instead of surpassing in stamina and character, fall below the average. The type to be standardized is not the family of one to three, but the family of four to six. The one child or two child ideal growingly in favor with the middle class would, if popularized, hurry us to extinction. In such families prodigious pains are taken to keep breath in defective or sickly children. Instead of being weeded out in infancy by natural process, the weaklings are kept alive by lavish care, and the national vitality is lowered.

Since it is the rising that first feel the individualizing influences, these check their increase while yet the stocks below them creed at the old reckless rate. The outcome is a numerical gain of mediocres over capables, threatening an eventual dearth of ability in the race thus impoverished at the top. This untoward phenomenon is, however, but a passing phase. The lower strata are coming or may be brought within reach of the influences that moderate multiplication. If we speed up the individualizing agencies till the unthinking and brutish have become a mere remnant the danger will disappear. Furthermore, the closer legal restriction of child labor, by making offspring expensive, instead of profitable, may check the free propagation of stocks deficient in capacity of parental altruism.

The revolt against senseless parentage is a colossal secular phenomenon of varied aspects, and few of its appraisers are competent to judge more than the one or two aspects that appeal to them. No one who envisages all the aspects of this pregnant thing, who succeeds in seeing it steadily and seeing it whole, will laud or condemn it in unqualified terms. Granted; but the question forces itself: Is the core of the thing good or bad? Is the dethronement of Ishtar as mistress of social destiny a blessing with incidental harm, or an evil with incidental benefit? So pressed, I would answer: Restriction is a movement at bottom salutary, and the undoubted evils in its train appear to be minor, or transient, or self-limiting, or curable. I shall have against me mystics, clerics, a priori moralists, sentimentalists, æsthetics, militarists, capitalists and politicians; but, nevertheless, I take my stand with those who hate famine, war, sabre-tooth competition, class antagonism, the degradation of the masses, the wasting of children, the dwarfing of women and the cheapening of men.

FAITH IN THE CLERGY.

The Highlanders' faith in the clergy has always been peculiarly profound. This characteristic is illustrated, though in rather an exaggerated way, by the story of two old women going along the road after service, who were heard to discuss the sermon as follows:

Peggy—Ah! and did you hear that most precious word, Kirsty—a most precious word?

Kirsty—No; and what word was that?

Peggy—Oh, a most precious word, and it's myself that will not forget it—the precious word Nebuchadnezzar.

Kirsty—Oh, yes; but did you hear that other most beautiful word? Myself never heard it said before—the beautiful word Belshazzar?—The Caledonian.

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