

RELIGION SWEEPING NATION, CENSUS FIGURES SHOW

Nearly 45,000,000 Persons of the 105,000,000 Population Directly Affiliated, a Vast Increase Since 1890

FIGURES from the last United States census have furnished many interesting articles for readers of THE NEW YORK HERALD recently. Herewith is presented what is probably the most important article of all gleaned from the dry statistics gathered by the Government—the actual facts about religion. Truly astonishing are the findings.

Critics of present day morals, professional pessimists, those of Bolshevik trend of mind, will be confused and abashed when the accompanying article is analyzed. That the United States is easily the most religious country in the world; that the number of those interested in the several denominations is increasing far faster than the population; that the value of church property and the money spent annually for church work runs into the billions, is a revelation of the American public's morals.

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AN army of nearly 45,000,000 men, women and children now is enrolled on the membership lists of churches of the United States. Forty-two out of each one hundred persons, according to data of the United States Census Bureau, are reported as actively affiliated with congregations, parishes, missions or other organizations conducting services regularly to encourage the spread of religious training and practice.

Militant membership in churches has practically doubled in the United States in the last twenty-five years, although during the same time the nation's population has increased only 69 per cent.

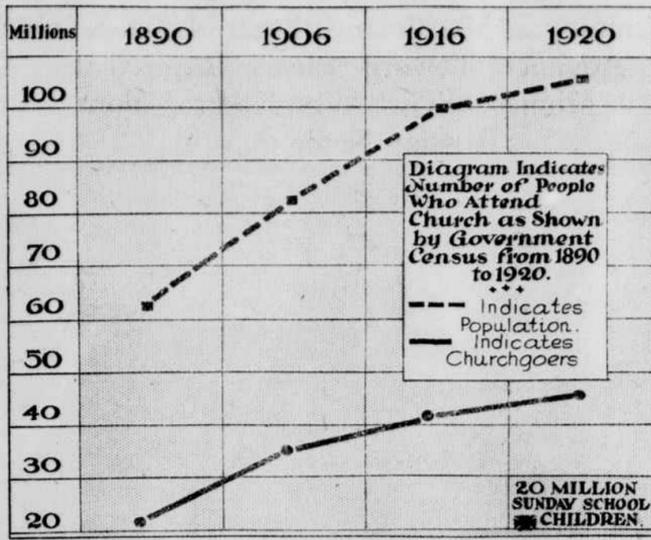
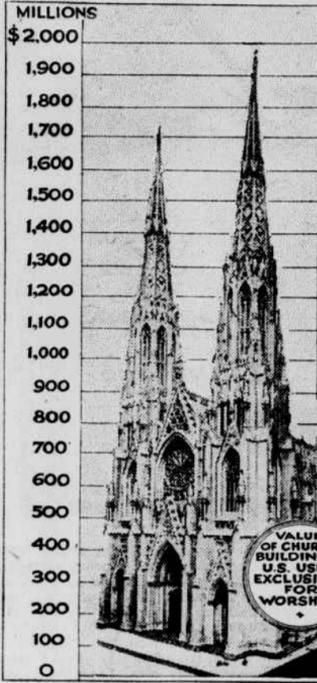
Church membership is climbing at the rate of 1,000,000 individuals a year. Nearly 7,000,000 persons became members of religious bodies in the ten year period ended December 31, 1916, according to the Census Bureau, which period included two years when the great war was spreading its influence over the nations of the world.

Ministers and officers of churches familiar with the Census Bureau investigations, which are presumed to be impartial, point to this data in answer to the many times repeated question as to whether the world war proved the church movement a practical failure.

World Is Getting Better, Figures Show, Not Worse

The steady growth of religious training, the rapidly growing army of converts who openly avow their purpose to live according to the teachings they elect, say church officials, gradually is making the United States and the entire world better instead of worse. Manifestations of evil and wickedness, small and large, are seeming only, it is argued.

The foibles of fashion, scanty dressing, divorce coming in what seems like a wave in the wake of war, extravagance, law breaking and violence, are only petty outbursts in the view of thoughtful churchmen. Such manifestations will pass, they promise, thrust into the background by the



The Census Bureau is established and operates. Special investigations have been made under the amendment at regular intervals since, apart from the regular decennial census count, which is made up on the basis of information supplied by individuals.

The church or religious census is based on questionnaires distributed to denominations, congregations and divisional organizations within the denominations. It is taken with great difficulty, census officials say, because of lack of uniformity of method in the denominations in obtaining

constituted 42 per cent. of the total population.

In 1916 the church membership had jumped to more than 41,000,000 persons. An unusual factor in the present church situation is seen in the fact that more than 20,000,000 persons, mainly children, are enrolled in Sunday schools. This is within 1,000,000 of the total church membership in 1890.

More Than 20,000,000 Enrolled In the Nation's Sunday Schools

More than 2,000,000 persons devote a whole or part of their time to teaching in Sunday schools and Bible classes. On this basis approximately one in each fifty persons in the United States is actively engaged in advancing the cause of religious training, not counting ministers, missionaries, church secretaries and volunteer workers.

The movement to give religious training to children has obtained an unheard of impetus in the last fifteen years, reports show. Sunday schools always have been maintained by most church denominations, but in recent times special attention has been given to them. The Sunday school extension movement soon was made international in scope, so that there now is direct connection between the younger generation of the United States and the young of the nations of Europe.

The idea that development of the Sunday school extension work would result in larger membership rolls for churches seems to have been proved reliable by the census investigation.

In addition to Sunday school teachers there are more than 200,000 persons who give practically their entire time to church work. These are ministers, speakers, readers, rabbis, priests and others described by different ratings according to the denominations, but authorized to solemnize marriages, preach and perform other works generally regarded as those of the church head. Assisting the ministers are several million lay workers, secretaries and volun-

Church Property Valued at \$2,000,000,000 With \$500,000,000 for Endowment and 200,000 Employed in Teaching Morals

ter helpers, who devote their time to the work because of interest and enthusiasm and who receive no or practically no compensation.

Dovetailing the church investigation with the data of the regular decennial census count, church officials rate the United States as the greatest churchgoing country in the world. The regular decennial census shows that there are roughly 20,000,000

is more than one hundred. Probably no other country in the Occidental world has as large a number of denominations.

On the Pacific coast, for instance, are 6,000 Buddhists among the Japanese and Chinese. They have more than a dozen temples and church edifices. Among other denominations represented are Bahais, several subdivisions of German Dunkers, Christadelphians, Icelandic Evangelical Lutheran Synod and Defenseless Menonites. More than sixty of the main denominations reported in the census a total membership of 1,000,000 persons or more each.

The various denominations are divided into nearly 230,000 congregations or local groups, most of which hold services in their own buildings owned by them.

The position occupied by the church as an institution in American life is illustrated by the ownership of upward of \$2,000,000,000 in buildings where services only are conducted. This does not include hospitals, colleges, schools and structures used for purposes other than meeting. Mortgages on this total only about 10 per cent.

Many congregations have two or more buildings in which services are held, while a few have none of their own, but meet in rented halls and theatres. In some places two congregations reported joint ownership of a church auditorium.

In addition to ownership of auditoriums and meeting places, approximately \$500,000,000 is at the disposal of churches in endowments and other properties for home missions, hospitals, colleges, etc. A sum more than one-tenth as large is invested for the benefit of missionary work in foreign fields.

The annual expenditure of more than \$50,000,000 a year for special extension work in the United States long ago became a common thing for churches. Reaching the churches in contributions, this represents more than one dollar a year for every enrolled member. It does not include the collection and expenditure of nearly \$16,000,000 additional on account of foreign mission work or the annual overhead expenses of maintaining meetings halls, paying ministers and other workers in the United States. This last item alone absorbs more than \$400,000,000 a year.

Missionary work in foreign fields was interrupted to a large extent by the great war, but now is being resumed by most denominations. Before the war American church members were carrying their principles to more than 1,500,000 members of 13,000 native churches.

Nearly 10,000 American ministers and their families were undergoing voluntary exile to make possible the foreign missions. Toting all hours, in the midst of hatred frequently, and confronted by epidemics of sickness, complicated by famine, these missionaries consecrated their lives to their faith and their work.

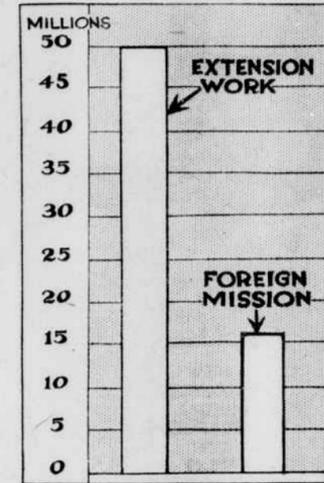
Country Districts the Bulwark of American Religious Life

The great bulk of American church members are found in the rural sections and in small towns of less than 25,000 population, the census data show, contrary to what might be expected. The largest number of congregations also is reported from outside of the great cities.

Less than 40 per cent. of the total church membership is enrolled in the big cities, indicating that churchgoers there number only about 18,000,000 persons and that the best field for recruiting is in the urban sections.

In the cities, however, nearly as many men are church members as women, the latter being only slightly in excess. In the country and small towns the women members far outnumber the men.

New York appears to be the most deeply religious State in the Union if the number of church members is an accurate test. About 10 per cent. of the total number of church members live in that State. Thirteen other States have memberships totalling more than 1,000,000 persons each: Pennsylvania, Illinois, Ohio, Massachusetts, Texas, Missouri, New Jersey, Georgia, Michigan, Indiana, Wisconsin, North Carolina and Alabama.



family groups in the nation's population. Taking this into consideration in connection with the total church population of 45,000,000 and the Sunday school attendance of 20,000,000, it is argued that every family must have at least one member connected in some way with a religious organization, church or religious society. Whether this is actually the case the census data does not show exactly.

Modern methods of church recruiting, disapproved by some ministers, are given credit for part of the large increase in church membership. One of these is the recreational church plant, with gymnasium, bowling alley and game rooms, where young women and men meet, organize clubs and engage in special study. This class of religious work may be studied in the next census if Congress authorizes the Census Bureau to do it. The membership and work of organizations like the Y. M. C. A., the Y. W. C. A., the Young Men's Hebrew Association and like societies now are not included in the studies of the Census Bureau.

Advertising Important Factor Developed Only Recently

Adoption of advertising methods by churches also is credited with being an important factor in increasing church membership. In most large cities newspapers are carrying a page devoted to church advertisements and church news at least once each week. In some cities the newspapers donate to each church an inch of space classified in this special page. In cities where the space is not donated the charge is comparatively small.

A few years ago church newspaper advertising would have been regarded as out of keeping with church practice. The change in public sentiment illustrates the fact that churches are keeping abreast of modern methods.

Campaigns for converts and new members now are a regular part of the annual programmes of most churches in the United States. The campaigns are conducted on systematic lines, worked out by professional campaign managers. Most denominations now have within their ranks ministers and evangelists who have learned how best to stage campaigns for new church members and who travel from one section to another encouraging and helping local workers.

The Census Bureau returns show there are roughly sixty-nine denominations of religious faith in the United States. If the many subdivisions within the denominations are taken into consideration the total

Three Interesting Nature Stories

TRUESART, of the Paris Museum of Natural History, has pointed out that the dog, whose respirations in repose number only twenty-five or thirty a minute, may in running acquire a rate of respiration as high as 350 a minute. The effect of this acceleration favors the dissipation of animal heat by evaporation from the pulmonary vessels.

The dog perspires very little or not at all by the skin, pulmonary taking the place of cutaneous transpiration. It is this fact that enables the dog to pursue its game so long and persistently. Animals of the cat family, on the other hand, do not possess this peculiarity, and for that reason tigers, panthers and lions lie in wait for their prey, but do not pursue it over long distances. The bird possesses pulmonary transpiration in a very high degree.

THE camphor output of Formosa, combined with that of Japan, constitutes the bulk of the world's supply of this valuable gum. The most valuable of the camphor forests, it appears, are within savage territory. An American consular officer who visited a Formosa camphor forest has made an interesting report on the subject.

After climbing a steep and slippery hillside he came upon a large camphor tree lying felled across his path. It was about four feet in diameter and had been sawed longitudinally in two portions. Two men were engaged in paring off with a kind of

rough shaped adz chips measuring some six inches in length and about the thickness of one's little finger. The whole air was pervaded by a strong odor of camphor. A little further up the hill he found the stumps themselves, situated by the side of a mountain stream, amid the most luxuriant vegetation.

The process by which the camphor is extracted from the wood is simple and inexpensive. The chips are placed in an iron retort and heated by a slow fire. The camphor vapor given off from the chips passes along a bamboo tube into a cooling box, where it condenses in the form of snowlike crystals. The cooling box is partially immersed in a stream of running water. The chips are renewed every twenty-four hours, and every eighth day or so the fire is extinguished and the crystals scraped off from the sides and bottom of the crystallization box.

NO white pigments have been found in feathers, and the whiteness of white feathers is ascribed to total reflection of light from their exposed surfaces. Some have supposed the reflection to be from air spaces, or bubbles, in the feather structure, but one authority contends that the white effect is mainly dependent, as in the case of snow or powdered glass, upon the small size of the structural elements. These have a large number of surfaces so placed for any position of the eye that there is a maximum reflection to the eye, and almost no absorption by the unpigmented feather substance.

Music as Cure for Human Ills Under Scientific Test

Continued from First Page.

know what we are to find. Who does in research work? To be valuable this work must be done by those scientists who are first able to clear their minds of any preconception. Experiments are made to find truth, not to prove a supposed truth by a strain of circumstances or conditions. And it is in this calm scientific way the experiments are proceeding.

"Every State in the Union is represented already in the data at hand. It might be possible to deduce some interesting facts from these, but we prefer to wait until all the data obtainable comes in. The charts, I should have stated before, when I was speaking of the medical side of the problem, will all go from here to the American Academy of Medicine. Dr. Gatewood will have under her supervision the final angle from the medical standpoint.

Briefly, it was Mr. Edison's idea that music, and as a natural corollary musical instruments, did not receive from the great public serious consideration. Should it be found that by music men may be influenced nobly, then the piano, the violin, yes, and the phonograph as well as the player-piano, will be regarded from a higher standard. Nowadays, these musical instruments are almost universally held to be for the purpose of entertainment only. If what we expect be found true, then these same instruments must figure as aids in education in the spread of fine thoughts, in idealism, in the diffusion of culture."

The tests recently held at Harvard and Yale universities, with groups of thirty students in each case, were not so satisfying. Mr. Maxwell said, as groups made up of persons who differed from one another widely in intellect and cultivation. The students averaged about the same and the reactions were accordingly much alike in all cases.

"It may or may not be true that all great art, in whatever form expressed, is understandable by the simple. But it is the simple who offer the strongest reactions to music, whether it is a fine kind or a tender old-fashioned melody. I, myself, if it is allowable to use a home instance, do not react easily to music. I understand nothing of it, but here's a strange phase, I do react to Russian music. How is that explained?"

The explanation Mr. Maxwell was in-

MOOD CHANGE CHART

An Analysis of Mental Reactions to Music.

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|--|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--|
| <p>Date of Test _____</p> <p>1. Place _____ (Home or Where)</p> <p>2. Time (Mark X in square) Morning <input type="checkbox"/> Afternoon <input type="checkbox"/> Evening <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>3. Weather (Mark X in square) Dull <input type="checkbox"/> Cold <input type="checkbox"/> Bright <input type="checkbox"/> Warm <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>4. What kind of music did you feel like hearing? (Mark all words which describe such music with X in square). Tender <input type="checkbox"/> Vivacious <input type="checkbox"/> Joyous <input type="checkbox"/> Solemn <input type="checkbox"/> Majestic <input type="checkbox"/> Weird <input type="checkbox"/> Martial <input type="checkbox"/> Soothing <input type="checkbox"/> Gay <input type="checkbox"/> Simple <input type="checkbox"/> Dreamy <input type="checkbox"/> Sad <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>6. As a result of the test, what were your most noticeable mood changes? (Serious to gay, gay to serious, worried to carefree, nervous to composed, etc.)</p> <table style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">MOOD CHANGE</td> <td style="width: 50%;">RE-CREATION CAUSING SUCH CHANGE</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">_____</td> <td style="text-align: center;">_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">_____</td> <td style="text-align: center;">_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">_____</td> <td style="text-align: center;">_____</td> </tr> </table> | MOOD CHANGE | RE-CREATION CAUSING SUCH CHANGE | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | <p>5. What was your mood immediately preceding test?</p> <p>Serious or <input type="checkbox"/> Worried or <input type="checkbox"/> Gay <input type="checkbox"/> Carefree <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Depressed or <input type="checkbox"/> Nervous or <input type="checkbox"/> Exhilarated <input type="checkbox"/> Composed <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Fatigued or <input type="checkbox"/> Sad or <input type="checkbox"/> Unfatigued <input type="checkbox"/> Joyful <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Discouraged <input type="checkbox"/> or Optimistic <input type="checkbox"/></p> |
| MOOD CHANGE | RE-CREATION CAUSING SUCH CHANGE | | | | | | | | |
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7. Please comment on manner in which mood changes occurred:

weight of sober, decent public opinion, built up through the national and world educational campaigns.

Bridging the world with a background of religious training, the churches of the United States and other nations will eventually bring about an era of fair dealing and international righteousness which shall make war unreasonable. This is the argument of church workers, ministers, elders and officials, who back it with their references to the Government investigations of church activity in the United States.

The Government's investigations along this line began in 1890, under a special act of Congress amending the law under which

The first church census, taken in 1890, showed a total membership of approximately 21,000,000 individuals, out of a total population of nearly 63,000,000. This showed 35 per cent. of the population was enrolled in churches.

Sixteen years later the total church going population had increased to 35,000,000, as compared with a national population of 84,000,000. The church membership then

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