RACE DECADENCE A DANGER.

HIGHEST BIRTH RATE IN LOWEST SOCIAL CLASS.

Sir James Crichton-Browne Draws England's Attention to Another Phase of the Problem—Support From the Rural Population Rapidly Being Weakened.

Widespread attention has been attracted by the alarmist opinions expressed on certain vital social problems by Sir James Crichton-Browne in his presidential address to the sanitary inspectors' congress, writes the London correspondent for the New York Sun. He discussed race suicide not from the point of view of a falling birth rate, but in regard to the close relationship existing between undesirable social conditions and a high birth rate.

He quoted startling statistics which proved that in districts where there was overcrowding, where there was a superabundance of the lowest type of labor, where infant mortality was greatest, where there was the most general pauperism, where signs of bad environment, like phthisis, were most abundant, and where pauper lunatics were most numerous, the wives of reproductive ages had the most children. Where there was more culture and education, as shown by a higher proportion of professional men, where there was more comfort and leisure, as shown by a higher percentage of domestic servants, there the birth rate was lowest. Wives in districts of the least prosperity and culture had the largest families and the morally and socially lower classes of the community were reproducing themselves with the greatest rapidity.

We had, he said, to deal with a reduced fertility in the more intellectual, the more prosperous, the more thrifty and cleanly classes of the community which could not be accounted for by a variation in the mean age of possibly productive wives. We were confronted by diminished fertility, lessened exercise of fertility or deliberate restraint of fertility among the elite of our people. Bearing in mind that 25 percent of the married population produced 50 percent of the next generation and that mental and moral traits were not less hereditary than corporal appearances, it was impossible to exaggerate their importance of the problems that were raised by the figures he had adduced.

If we were recruiting our population from the poor and mentally and physically feebler stock of the community at a greater rate than from the better and more capaable stocks, then the gradual deterioration of the race was inevitable. Weeds would accumulate and good grain grow scarce, and if the relationship between inferior social status and a high birth rate in towns had practically doubled during the last fifty years the outlook was gloomy.

Some hope might be founded on the fact that the operative causes of the low birth rate had not yet affected the rural population, from which we might hope to draw invigorating elements. The relative fertility of women living in the country was from 8 to 11 percent greater than of women living in towns, but urbanization was going on at a rate that must rapidly reduce and before long cut off the supplies from this source of sound, progressive human material.

The complex problem is connected with racial, industrial, economical and religious as well as social conditions, but in the main the decline must be ascribed either to physical degeneration affecting the reproductive power and diminishing fecundity or to wilful and systematic prevention of child birth. The deterioration of the moral standard which the practice of race suicide implied was itself an indication of debility and decay. If race failure was being manifested more rapidly in the superior than in the inferior varieties of the race, if the reduction in size of families had begun at the wrong end of the social scale, then national decadence and disaster must be anticipated.

We must not wrap ourselves up in racial self-conceit, he said. We must not forget Greece and Rome and the Byzantine Empire. The racial struggle for existence is not over and finally decided in our favor. The strategy of the struggle and the weapons employed in it are changing daily, but it is going on, and if the second Hague conference were to succeed tomorrow in abolishing war and securing universal disarmament it would only mask the conflict and perhaps hasten the catastrophe, and a declining birth rate, especially a declining birth rate among the best breeds, means a diminishing racial resistance.

The entire press discusses Sir James' warning in a much more sober spirit than it has before devoted to the subject. Its previous references to the problem have been largely confined to remarks in anything but a serious vein in regard to President Roosevelt's agitation of the subject.

A business in Australia is that of lending engagement rings and wedding trousseaux.

THE CANINE MIND.

Dogs Do Not Learn the Reasons for What They Are Taught.

His acquired dexterities are the best illustration of the inventiveness of instinct, while at the same time they indicate where inventive instinct falls short of rational action. He is skilful in getting a walking stick through a narrow opening in a wall or a railing. An observer, seeing him push the stick along with his teeth till he gets it at the crook and then drawing it through the hedge, might attribute the act to reflection and say, what an observer of Principal Lloyd Morgan's dog said on a similar occasion, "Clever dog that, sir; he knows where the hitch do lie."

Now this is precisely what my dog (and Mr. Lloyd Morgan's dog also) does not know. When he feels the hitch he knows how to get rid of it, but he does not understand it.

I put him, in imitation of Mr. Morgan's experiment, behind some railings. The dog ran at them, holding the stick by the middle, and did this more than once. Then, in the excitement of his desire to get through and join me, he began to seize the stick at random, and seizing it near the crook, he was able to bring it through. When I repeated the experiment he was clever enough to seize the sick, after a very few trials, at the right place, and I imagine that it is the rate at which the lesson is learned that makes the difference between one dog and another.

Even now, when he has become expert, he first runs at the narrow opening holding the stick by the middle, and then when he has failed he skilfully and without further waiting shifts his teeth to the right place. He learned thus how to do the action by trying repeatedly at random, and failing, until success crowned his desire, he remembered the method of success. Compare his action with the same action as done rationally by a man. In a strict sense the dog does not know how to do the action because he has not analyzed it into its means. His means are not deliberate means taken to secure an end, but they are a lucky device struck out by the urgency of desire. He has learned how it goes, but not the go of it.—Cornhill Magazine.

MR. HOAR ON THE SENATORS.

An Average Lot of Americans, in His Opinion.

Not everything that Senator Hoar thought of the Senate, its mechanism and its membership, found its way into print. He was a free commentator, and as near as any man could be, possibly, a just critic. He was a shrewd judge of men, and being an uncompromising foe of rascals he could recognize one on sight.

Riding with a friend to Boston one day, a few years only before his death, he fell to talking about the Senate and its personnel. As the train drew into New Haven, where the station was as usual bustling with busy men going to and from the trains pursuing their customary avocations, he smiled and in a reflective sort of way said:

"Now look at those men out there. They are the prevailing American type. Study them individually, and you will notice how generally alike they are and all apparently of about the same standard of physical strength and, as far as we can judge by their countenances, of intellectuality.

"Now, you know, a Senator is regarded as in a way a man apart and above the ordinary run of citizens, but I honestly believe that taking us as a body we would not rank higher than the average of those fellow citizens of ours out there. These men are looking out for their own private business interests and we for the interests of the public. We keep our ears closer to the ground and are more au fait, perhaps, than they, but I think they would average up even with the members of the United States Senate."—New England Magazine.

Not to Be Outdone.

Housekeeper—Have you any Mocha coffee, sir?

Small Dealer—Yes, mum.

"Genuine Mocha?"

"Just imported, mum."

"Import it yourself?"

"Oh, yes, mum. I send my orders direct to the—the Sultan, mum."

"Humph! How much have you on hand?"

"'Bout sixty pounds, mum."

"You have, eh, sixty pounds? I read in the paper this very morning that not over fifty pounds of genuine Mocha reached this country annually."

"Yes, mum, that's true. I had ten pounds over from last year."—New England Grocer.

His First Attempt.

oung Neurich had scarcely made debut in society when he found it ecessary to decline an invitation to reception, owing to a previous engagement. He did so by penning the following note:

"Mr. J. Henry Neurich declines with pleasure Mrs. Van Uppson's invitation for the 21st, and thanks her extremely for having given him the opportunity to do so."—Chicago News.

RECLAIMING SALT MEADOWS.

Interesting Work Now Being Carried On Near Bridgeport.

A project in land reclamation is now being carried forward near Bridgeport, the results of which promise to present many features of interest to property owners, particularly in view of the great activity in the near-by sections of Long Island, with their vast low-lying tracts waiting to to be made productive. Experiments have ben made by the Long Island railroad on barren tracts near Wadding River, L. I., and reclamation work is in progress at various other points, but this undertaking in Connecticut is important as showing especially what can be done in the reclaiming of salt meadow and making it available for farming and market gardening.

Between Bridgeport and Stratford, on the Sound shore, is a tract of 1000 acres crossed by small creeks and covered with a rank growth of salt grass. In the past this grass has been gathered and has found a market of indifferent character, being used for packing and bedding. It brought only $8 a ton, and on that basis barely paid for the work of gathering it.

About a year ago the work of reclaiming an area of ten acres was undertaken under the direction of E. J. Hollister, who was the organizer and is now the general adviser of the Winona Agricultural Institute at Winona, Lake, Ind., and who has supervised reclamation projects at many places in the United States and Canada. One of his more recent undertakings in this part of the country resulted in converting a large tract of lowland and bogs at Locust Valley, L. I., into an attractive part of W. D. Guthrie's estate at that place. Immediately in charge of the work near Bridgeport is Frank R. Sammis, representing the Stratford Land and Improvement company.

The results of the first season's efforts have been highly encouraging, so that Mr. Hollister feels justified in predicting that this practically worthless tract can be made to yield annually hay, or "tame grass," as he calls it, worth at least $45 an acre, with a certain increase of this amount to $100 an acre after the soil has been more thoroughly treated and made suitable for planting other crops such as sweet corn, celery and asparagus.

The work of reclaiming land of this sort divides itself into two branches —first, the keeping out of tidewater and later the bringing about of the necessary changes in the chemical make-up of the soil so that it will support various forms of plant life.

The tide is kept out by the construction of dykes, and any remaining water carried off in drains. Owing to the exclusion of the salt water, the meadow land naturally begins to "sweeten" itself—a process which is also hastened by rains, when they do not have to contend against the flooding of the tract by tidewater twice daily.

The meadow is then thoroughly plowed and the doctoring of the soil begun. Lime is introduced to complete the work of counteracting the salt, the necessary quantity of course varying in different localities. The disintegration of the soil also adds to its capacity for retaining water and absorbing oxygen.

"A salt meadow is a good deal like a piece of corned beef," said Mr. Hollister yesterday in discussing his work, "and almost the same thing happens to it when the tide is kept out as happens to a piece of corned beef if it is kept out of its tub of brine. Decomposition is hastened, and that, of course, is essential to all forms of plant life.

"Such a tract as there is between Bridgeport and Stratford is a sleeping giant—the power is there and needs only intelligent direction to make it enormously productive. After such land has been thoroughly prepared and, as it were, made of a receptive character, it is comparatively easy to continue the treatment of it by the addition of the various chemical elements in which it is lacking, this treatment being regulated to a large extent by the kind of crop desired.

"Enormous quantities of hay are now brought to this city from the west and find a ready market at $16 a ton. Even if nothing but grass were to be raised on reclaimed lands around New York large areas could be made to yield at least three tons of hay to the acre. On this basis, the first year's crop would fully pay the cost of reclaiming, and would make the future yield unusually profitable."

As to what might be done with other crops, it is only necessary to recall what was done with the bogs around Kalamazoo, Mich., which were long regarded as practically valueless, but which are now worth $900 an acre and on which celery to the value of $600,000 is raised each year."—New York Times.

The building of St. Paul's cathedral, London, is solid, it appears, notwithstanding its age, but the whole mass is gradually sinking "about half the thickness of a sheet of note paper every three years."

GREAT DEMAND FOR MICA.

Used in Manufacturing and for Scientific Purposes.

"More mica, or isinglass, as it used to be called, is used than ever before in the history of the world," observed a well known Rochester electrical engineer and contractor. "Yet it is a fact that despite the increased use of this queer looking, semi-transparent mineral, there probably is not one person who sees it now or is familiar with it, where there were ten a generation or two ago. This is due to the change in the variety of uses to which mica is put. Now it is used in manufacturing and for special technical and scientific purposes, and so is not brought to the attention of the general public. In the old days it was used in ordinary stoves, such as are used for heating the houses, and as in those days every house was heated by one or more stoves, practically everyone was familiar with mica, or isinglass, as it was more generally called in every day life.

"The chief use to which mica is now put is one not dreamed of until within a comparatively few years, namely, as an insulating material in the construction of electrical apparatus, for which purpose its use is now general and constantly increasing, and far larger than in any use to which it had ever before been put.

"Mica, made up into another form, is also now largely used for making chimneys for incandescent gas lamps placed where they should be exposed to drafts, or out of doors subject to the weather. Mica is used to make protectors for ornamental candle shades, and it is used for making fancy boxes, and, in place of glass, for covering labels and drawers, as in a desk. Ground up mica is now used in the manufacture of lubricants and of fertilizers, and of dynamite, and in other forms it is used for boiler coverings.

"Mica was long used for windows and for lanterns, and it is still used in lanterns where such use would be advantageous. It is used in place of glass in spectacles worn by stone and metal workers and in miners' lamps, and it has been in the past or still is put to various other, including ornamental, uses; but among its various modern uses the chief is in its application to electrical machinery. For this the mica is cut into hundreds of different shapes and sizes.

"Mica is mined in various parts of the world, some of the mines being quite valuable. Many of the best mines have been developed within the last few years and big prices have been obtained for land where such mines have been located, although often the lands in question had been considered valueless until the owners suddenly realized the worth of the before despised mineral. India is the chief source of the world's supply of mica, with Canada next, the United States next, and Brazil and other countries following. Mica, from one source and another, ranges in color from white or transparent, through various shades to black.

"In the formation in which it exists it is found in more or less scattering deposits or in pockets. Its value depends, with regard to the uses to which it may be put, on its color, its freedom from impurities, and the size of the sheets that can be obtained from it. Now this anciently known mineral, for many years put to varied though comparatively limited uses, finds more extensive use than ever in applications peculiarly modern.

"When a person considers the many uses to which mica in various forms is put today, it is only a little surprising to remember that it was only a short time ago when mica, or isinglass, was familiar only in one limited use in every household in which there was a parlor or a sitting room stove, thin, transparent sheets of this mineral being set in the stove door. Through the 'isinglass,' not destructible when subjected to heat, as glass would have been, the glow of the fire within could be seen."—Rochester Union and Advertiser.

Took the Wrong House.

On one of the southern railroads there is a station building that is commonly known by travellers as the smallest railroad station in America. It is of this station that the story is told that an old farmer was expecting a chicken house to arrive there, and he sent one of his hands, a newcomer, to fetch it. Arriving there the man saw the house, loaded it on to his wagon and started for home. On the way he met a man in uniform with the words "Station Agent" on his cap.

"Say, hold on. What have you got on that wagon?" he asked.

"My chicken house, of course," was the reply.

"Chicken house be jiggered!" exploded the official. "That's the station."—Ladies' Home Journal.

Popular Science.

"Have you seen Professor Gabbleston, the scientist, lately?"

"Yes, I listened to him for more than an hour at the club last night."

"Indeed! What was he talking about?"

"He didn't say."—Tit Bits.

Daft, but Canny.

Frederick Ireland, a stenographer of the House of Representatives, at the convention at Atlantic City, of the National Association of Stenographers, said, apropos of a rash course:

"I can't approve of this action, because I am a foe to rashness. In handling the affairs of a great body of men I believe in prudence and carefulness. I am almost as prudent and careful as the weak-minded Scot of Peebles.

"This Scot, a silly look on his face, was skating near the famous iron bridge of Peebles on a winter day.

"Some young ladies wished to skate under the bridge, but they did not know whether the ice was safe or not. So, approaching the Scot, the youngest and prettiest of them said:

" 'Sanders, would you mind just gliding under the bridge and back, so as to test the ice?'

"The half-witted Sanders took off his cap and with a bow and a smile he replied:

" 'Na, na! If I am daft I ken manage Leddies first.' "—Philadelphia Bulletin.

The Right to Live.

At the age of fourteen Harold's father gave him a ten thousand-dollar motor car.

Harold was delighted.

He ran it about for several months to the exclusion of everything else.

After this Harold wanted another. He got it.

Next year Harold went in for motor boats. In a couple of years more, however, they had worn themselves out.

At twenty Harold was married. Divorced at twenty-two.

To sum up: At thirty there was nothing else for him to do. He had done every pleasure. And there were no new ones being invented.

Suddenly, however, Harold's parents died and left him fifty millions.

He was about to despair there being no use for the money, when suddenly he realized that the world at large hated and despised him.

"At last," said Harold with a sense of supreme satisfaction, "I am happy once more. I have a new sensation."—Life.

You will have more success leading men if you can keep them from finding out that you are, in reality, driving them.

ASSURING.

"Pardon me," said the housekeeper on a marketing expedition, "but are these eggs strictly fresh laid?"

"Absolutely, ma'am," replied the grocer promptly. "The farmer I purchase those eggs from won't allow his hens to lay them any other way."—Milwaukee Sentinel.

WHEN HE WANTED HER.

Mother (to convalescing boy)—Now, Bobbie, in case you should want me, just ring this bell.

Bobbie—But, mamma, I'm not strong enough to ring it all the time —The Reader.