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### Cause of Birth Rate Decrease in France

By Prof. Dr. E. DeBove, University of Paris

The number of births is annually decreasing, the number of deaths is increasing, and the population of France grows smaller every year. During the first six months of 1909 it decreased in fact with 28,203, this number representing the difference between the numbers of deaths and births. These figures are exact, but I will give some more.

In the period lying between 1886 and 1889, where the average number of male births was 456,000, this average number continually decreased. In the three years from 1905 to 1908, the number of male births in no year exceeded 403,000; in other words, a deficit of 50,000 male births annually, as compared with the eighties.

France is growing weaker. Every year she sees the number of her coming generation growing smaller. From a military standpoint, this is a veritable calamity. What are we to do?

When a patient first visits a physician, the latter always first tries to locate the causes of the illness, and when he has found them, he begins to fight them.

The causes of the great chronic illness from which France is suffering have, in my opinion, never been sufficiently looked into, but without wanting to pose as politician, I may say that the causes are political as well as social.

Our race is neither less vigorous, nor less healthy than in the past, but the conditions of life have changed. The depopulation of France is due primarily to complicated ensemble of

good or bad laws that have been passed during the last century or more.

Let us take a law passed during the revolution: the abrogation of the privileges of the first born, in many ways a just and equitable measure.

The cutting up of inheritance has changed our customs. Among the higher classes today families with only one or two children are the rule. The first born is the child, the second is accepted as an insurance against sickness or death, and the third is an intruder.

There is a more recent law, that introduced by Theophile Roussel, for the protection of infancy—a most beneficial law.

"Mothers," this law says, "must not take positions as nurses until they have nursed their own child for at least seven months."

There can be no doubt as to the excellent effects of this law, but it is nevertheless certain that it has helped to diminish the number of births.

In the country districts, where nurses come from, these are getting scarce. The young mother has ceased to be a source of income to her husband and family. This does not sound very sentimental, but it is true nevertheless.

Our workmen and peasants have always considered their children an asset as soon as they were strong enough to work. They meant so many more hands to earn money in the factory or help cultivate the farm. The most excellent law regulating the work of women and children has robbed the working classes of one of the means

which permitted them to have children that did not mean an absolutely dead burden.

In the north, where the children go to work in the mines when quite young, they are still considered an asset, and statistics show that in these districts the population is still increasing.

The education laws also have influenced the number of births, and anyone can convince himself that in the districts where they are not strictly enforced there are a greater number of children born, while the birth rate is lowest where the children are compelled to go to school up to the full age. The schools deprive the parents of the work of the children.

There is then a great difference between the causes of diminished numbers of birth in the well-to-do and poorer classes, but besides the causes mentioned, there are a hundred, not to say a thousand, others.

The actual marriage conditions, and the neglected education of our young girls, are among these, and it is squarely up to the politicians to suggest the remedies.

#### A Curious Royal Custom.

When any Spanish sovereign dies the body is at once submitted to the process of fossilization, nor can it be placed in the royal pantheon until the body has been absolutely turned into stone. Curiously enough, the period required for fossilization varies considerably. Some royal bodies have become solidified in a very short period, while others have taken years before the fossilization took place.

Special Sale of Framed Pictures at Morris & Co's Book Store.

### REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS

Ethel M. Oler to Jas L. Pearce, lots 29-31 Williamsburg—\$800.00

John M. Maxwell to Walter G. Alexander, lots 94-95 J. M. Maxwell Add city—\$1.00.

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Francis H. Edmunds to Turner W. Hadley, lots 18, 19 Home Seekers Add city—\$1.00.

Inez M. Hirshburg to Jno W. Reed et al, Pt. S. E. Qr. Sec 22, twp. 15, range 1, Boston Twp—\$25000.

Alonzo Marshall to Vine Scott, Pt. N. E. Qr. Sec. 29, twp. 18, range 13, Perry Twp—\$200.

Wm. H. Edwards to John J. Roland et al, lot 43 Christian Fetta's Add city—\$3500.

Perry J. Freeman, Gdn. to Wm. H. Kiser, lots 21-22 Blk. 16, W. of R. and S. of N. R. C. city—\$200.

Blanch J. Handel to Lewis E. Hiff, Pt. lots 319, 312, 313, Elizabeth Starr's Add city—\$2900.

Michael Kennedy to Winifred Kennedy et al, Pt. N. W. Qr. Sec. 33, twp. 14, range 1, Wayne Twp—\$1.00.

Winifred Kennedy Tr. to Michael Kennedy et al, Pt. N. W. Qr. Sec. 33, twp. 14, range 1, Wayne Twp—\$1.00.

Bridget Dinkins to Geo. Essenmaker et al, lot 8 Lombards Sub. city—\$1200.

Rebecca C. Oler et al, to Daniel C. Moore, Pt. lot 27, Greensfork—\$200.

#### Defined.

Willie—Pa, what are "conversational powers?" Pa.—South American republics.—Puck.

### OLD ENGLISH PLAY U. S. AND WHISKY

"She Stoops to Conquer" Will Be Given by a High School Class.

#### CAST AN EXCELLENT ONE

The 12B English class under Miss Tallant presented Goldsmith's play, "She Stoops to Conquer," in the High School chapel Friday afternoon. This presentation was a trial and was witnessed by members of the faculty and friends of those presenting the play. The trial proved a success in every respect and it is probable that it will be chosen as the play to be presented by the senior class at graduation in June. Each member of the cast presented his or her part in a very pleasing manner. Miss Tallant is being congratulated on her efforts in securing the best available talent necessary in the production of this play. Following is the list of those representing the different characters:

- Mrs. Hardcastle.....Alsie French
- Miss Hardcastle.....Ruth Marlatt
- Miss Neville.....Pearl Guernsey
- Maid.....Amy Horton
- Landlord.....Blair Converse
- Sir Charles Marlow.....Percy Smith
- Young Marlow.....Willard Kemper
- Hardcastle.....Castle Hobson
- Hastings.....Paul Garver
- Tony Lumpkin.....Clarence Ferling
- Diggory.....Irvin Coffin
- Servants.....
- George Shepman, Rodney Foulke, Frank Schalk and Clifford Plummer.

(American News Service) Washington, D. C., Feb. 12.—Regulation governing the proper labeling of whiskies under the Taft decision on "what is whiskey" have been prepared by Secretaries McVeagh, Nagel and Wilson. Before they are made public, however, the whiskey interests will be given a hearing which has been set for next Wednesday.

The best investment about the house Wouldn't be without it at any price. No more cold feet in the house. Makes house like summer in winter. Used less fuel than would have used in stove. The principle is correct, the results surprising. Above are sample expressions regarding Pilgrim's furnace.

Ambition. Ambition causes a fool to jump at the moon and fall in the mud.—Chicago News.

#### ..Keep the Chaps Away..

For all redness and roughness of the skin of hands or face, use

#### Rexall Cold Cream

It is a delightful toilet cream, and is unexcelled for chapped hands or face.

20 and 35 cents.

Adams Drug Store 6th and Main. "The Rexall Store."

TRY JUST ONE BOTTLE OF

### COMMONS' PURE MILK

We might tell you that we produce and handle our milk, scientifically—that we are sure it is pure, because we watch it from the time it is produced until it is delivered—but give it a trial and you will say you can ask for nothing better.

Our wagons pass your door

### Commons Dairy Company

9 S. 5th St. Phone 1188

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Apron Gingham in all the staple checks, worth 8c, Sale price .....5c	Silver Bleached Crash, all pure linen, worth 12½c, Sale .....9c	Ladies' Fast Black Hosiery, Sale price ....5c	Boys' Suits, worth \$2.50, ages 3 to 6, choice .....98c
Ladies' 50c White Golf Gloves, Sale price 15c	65c quality 36 in. Nacirena in all the new Spring Colors .....42c	Boys Fleece Hosiery, extra heavy, regular 25c grade, Sale price .....15c	Men's Cravenette Coats, \$10.00 price, Sale .....\$6.98
Satin striped ½ wool Challie, worth 35c, Sale price .....15c	15c quality 36 in. Percales, light and dark colors, with side bands, Sale price....7c	Mill Ends Linoleums, Sale price .....38c	Men's Work Pants, Sale .....98c
10-4 Gray Blanket, extra heavy, worth 89c, Sale .....69c	White, Black, Brown and Tan, rough Silk, worth 60c, Sale .....25c	9x12 Axminster Rugs, new patterns, Sale price .....\$14.48	Ladies' Gun Metal Pat. Leather, Button or Blucher Cut, Sale price .....\$1.98
\$5 all wool plaid Blankets, Sale price \$3.38	One lot of Laces, your choice, Sale .....1c	Stair Carpet, Sale price .....12½c	Men's Dress Shoes, Blucher Cut .....\$1.89
Unbleached Linen Crash, worth 8½c, Sale price .....5c		Half Wool C. C. Carpet, worth 65c, Sale...48c	Boys' Shoes, Sale price .....98c
		Jap Mattings, worth 25c, Sale price .....18c	Ladies' Rubbers, Sale .....55c
		Velvet Rugs, worth \$1.50, Sale price ..\$1.19	

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