

RELIGIOUS BODIES SHOW BIG GROWTH

Washington, March 31.—America apparently is growing more religious. Figures made public today by Dr. E. O. Watson, statistician of the Federal Council of Churches, show that the religious bodies in the United States made their greatest growth during last year. The increase is 1,220,438 members over the previous year.

The present membership of all religious bodies, according to the latest available figures, is 47,461,558. This increase is approximately 50 per cent greater than the average for the preceding five years. There was a gain of 5,591 congregations and 15,252 ministers. The total number of congregations is now 243,590. They are led by 211,583 ministers. According to these figures, church representatives point out that each day in 1922 an average of 3,345 persons joined the various religious bodies; 12 ministers were ordained or licensed; and 29 congregations were organized.

The shortage of clergy is not as great as the public has been led to believe. There are 29,007 more ministers than ministers would indicate. Many ministers, especially in rural districts, have charge of two or more congregations. Besides a number of missions and evangelists, the statistics reported by Watson show the following as one of the significant features of the year:

Hard to Make Comparison.—Owing to different methods adopted by the various bodies in computing their membership it is hard to make comparisons. The Roman Catholic church shows a membership of 18,104,804 persons. Its figures represent estimated church population and including all baptized persons. Evangelical Protestant churches show a membership of 27,454,080. They count communicants only.

The 39 bodies related to the Federal Council of Churches report a total membership of 20,722,142 persons. They have 149,196 congregations, served by 119,077 ministers. Their gain in membership over last year is 869,351. Their total constituency is now 29,021,718 persons.

The total religious constituency of the country is placed at 28,878,307 persons. Church officials define constituency as those all baptized persons, all communicants and all those who in the opinion of the body are members.

When the figures of the various churches are placed on a comparative basis, through methods agreed upon by ecumenical and government officials, the constituency of the great bodies is reported as follows:

Protestant, 28,104,451; Roman Catholic, 18,104,804; Latter Day Saints (Mormons), 901,082; Eastern Orthodox (Greek and Russian), 456,054.

The Jewish figures are the same as used last year. They are computed on a different basis from the various Christian bodies because of their great variation in methods of counting membership.

The Jewish authorities estimate the Jewish population of the United States at more than 3,300,000.

Raise \$505,052,975.—The great increase in membership is due largely to the gains of the Roman Catholic church, which shows an increase of 219,158; the Methodist Episcopal church, 122,975; the Southern Baptist convention, 173,116; and the National Baptist convention (negro), 74,620.

The Roman Catholic figures indicate a decrease in the rate of gain as compared with the annual average for the preceding five years, which was 4.27 per cent.

The Methodist churches have the largest constituency in the country; their figures showing 27,454,080 persons. The Baptist form the second largest group and are pressing the Methodist closely with a constituency of 22,807,000 persons. The Roman Catholics are third with 18,104,804 persons. The Lutherans make up the fourth body with 7,013,854 constituency, and the Presbyterians are fifth with 6,726,698 constituency.

Probably the most remarkable gain of the year is that of the eastern orthodox church, which show a 10 per cent increase, jumping from 411,951 to 456,054 members. This is apparently due to the fact that the Greek orthodox church is more effectively organized and is reaching the Greek immigrants in America. The Methodist Protestant church turned a loss during the preceding five years into an increase of 8,000 members. While the Disciples of Christ and the Congregational churches both had a reduction in the number of congregations, they gained respectively 8,829 and 19,046 members. The Episcopalians doubled their increase of the preceding year, making a gain of 26,818. The Unitarians show a gain of 4,624, which is not quite four per cent. This brings their total membership to 108,560.

No Membership Figures.—The Christian Science church reports 1,799 congregations and 3,598 readers, but gives no figures as to membership. The statistics of the Adventist bodies indicate a loss of 2,567 members, their present membership being 133,666 against 136,233 reported last year. The Latter Day Saints (Mormons) show a constituency gain of 16,164.

The last available figures regard-

MOON GOD SHRINE FOUND IN OLD CITY

Philadelphia, March 31.—Interesting reports are being received here on the archaeological excavations being made in Ur of the Chaldees, the ancient city that is being explored by the joint expedition of the University of Pennsylvania and the British Museum.

Letters from C. Leonard Woolley, head of the expedition in Mesopotamia describes the progress of the excavation, where diggers into the misty past have unearthed a portion of the wall of the temple of the Moon God, said by Mr. Woolley to be the oldest and largest temple of Babylonia. While it is too soon to give details, it is believed that the excavation of this temple will undoubtedly show continuous service dedicated to the Moon God covering several thousand years, and reaching backward possibly beyond the third millennium B. C.

The walls shows several reconstructions at different periods. On the upper part an inscription was found giving the name of Nebuchadnezzar as the restorer of the upper portion, while another part was built by Ur-Engur in the third millennium B. C.

While the chief popular interest of the Chaldees comes from the fact that it is mentioned in the book of Genesis as the birthplace of Abraham, scholars will find even greater interests in tracing its history backward through the millenniums that preceded Abraham, whose date was about 2,000 B. C.

The joint expedition of the British Museum and the University of Pennsylvania was organized last summer and reached Mesopotamia in November. Work proceeded until the present time, as the climate has been particularly favorable for excavation. One hundred and fifty natives have been kept at work, a light railroad has been laid down, and a house erected to accommodate the members of the expedition, which consists of Dr. Woolley, John Newton, archaeologist and architect, and Sidney Smith, reader of ancient writing.

Ur lies on the border of the Syrian desert, 25 miles from the Euphrates and but far from the head of the Persian Gulf, the nearest point of contact being Basra.

It is believed that the excavations will show a continuous history of the city, and furnish an abundance of material for historical reconstruction.

There was an elaborate ritual connected with the worship of the Moon God. A large number of priests were employed under the authority of the high priest and, according to an ancient inscription, the first king of Babylon, Nabonidos, who lived in the sixth century B. C., consecrated his daughter as high priestess and prophetess in the temple at Ur. The inscription tells how she lived in her own house close by the temple, where a guard stood perpetually on watch. She was not only the high priestess, but the living grade of the god.

As the calendar was based on the moon, it is supposed that the study of astronomy was one of the activities of the priesthood of the temple.

The membership of the larger churches and their gains or losses during the year are:

Adventist bodies, 133,666, loss 2,567; Northern Baptist convention, 1,274,956, gain 15,815; Southern Baptist convention, 3,371,165; gain 97,116; National Baptist convention (negro), 74,620, gain 74,620; other Baptist bodies, 265,387, loss 633; Brethren—German Baptist (Dunkers), 136,432, gain 2,322; Christian church (General Christian convention), 94,173, loss 2,931; Church of the Nazarenes, 17,912, no gain indicated; Swedenborgian bodies, 7,626, gain 776.

Congregational churches, 838,271, gain 19,046; Disciples of Christ, 1,213,819, gain 8,829; Eastern orthodox church, 456,054, gain 45,000; Evangelical church (merger of Evangelical association and United Evangelical church), 259,417, gain 9,421; Evangelical Synod of North America, 137,986, gain 42,126; Evangelical associations, 15,708, gain 183; Friends, 196,548, gain 930; Latter Day Saints (Mormons), 904,082, gain 16,164; Lutherans, 2,515,662, gain 49,017.

Methodist Gain 122,975. Mennonite bodies, 91,603, gain 321; Methodist Episcopal church, 4,279,586, gain 122,975; Methodist Episcopal church, south, 2,405,257, gain of 59,190; Methodist Protestant church, 186,275, gain 8,000; other white Methodist bodies, 85,297, gain 109; African Methodist Episcopal church (negro), 551,750; African Methodist Episcopal Zion church (negro), 412,328; Colored Methodist Episcopal church in America, 266,315; Moravian bodies, 32,820, gain 597.

Presbyterian Church U. S. of America (north), 1,722,254, gain 34,557; Presbyterian church United States (south), 411,854, gain 14,796; other Presbyterian bodies, 268,284, gain 3,120; Protestant Episcopal church, 1,118,398, gain 36,818; Reformed bodies, 525,161, gain 14,256; Roman Catholic church, 18,104,804,

FARMER'S SUCCESS SETS NATION'S PACE

Washington, March 31.—The urgent need for a better understanding between the important groups of citizens engaged in agriculture, in industry and in general business is forcefully pointed out by Henry C. Wallace, secretary of agriculture, in a statement discussing their relationship.

More complex, he declares, "the relationship between agriculture, industry and general business becomes more and more intimate. What hurts the one will certainly hurt the others. In general, what helps one will help the others. They must work together for the common good."

"There has always been a tacit recognition of our national dependence upon agriculture. We have given an intellectual assent to such statements as, 'The farmer is the backbone of the Nation.' A prosperous Nation depends upon a prosperous agriculture. Agriculture is the basis of national life, and so on. The truth of such statements has never been driven home to us so effectively as during the last two years.

The drop in prices which began early in 1920 is familiar history. Farmers were the first to suffer and suffered most. Taking prices of 1913 as representing 100, the prices of farm products in May, 1920, stood at 228. During that month they began to fall and before the decline could be arrested they had dropped below the 1913 level, standing at 91 in December, 1921. Then we had a terribly vivid illustration of our dependence upon agriculture and the intimate relationship between agriculture, prosperity and business prosperity. Many farmers could not pay current expenses. The ratio between prices of things the farmers produced and sold and prices of the things they bought was so distorted that they were forced to practice the most rigid economy and reduce their buying to absolute necessities. Great industries which depend directly upon farm buying were plunged almost immediately into profound depression. Thousands of manufacturing plants had a similar experience. The railroads suffered through reduction in freight on things farmers buy. Business of every sort shared the disaster. Hundreds of banks failed. Thousands of bankrupts tattered along the edge of bankruptcy. Prices of many commodities were thrown out of work. The financial depression was very broad.

The year was ended in the winter of 1921-1922, a year which time there has been a gradual increase in the prices of farm products. Gradually farmers have been able to pay some of their debts and resume their buying. As a result there has been a steady improvement in business, until now there is general optimism. The ratio between prices of farm products and prices of other commodities is still abnormal. Until this ratio becomes more nearly normal the full measure of prosperity will not be restored.

"While the experience of the last three years ago has brought sharply to our attention the intimate relationship between business and agriculture, the existence of such intimate relationship is no new thing. A comparison of the farmer's purchasing power with business failure during the last third of a century tells the story in a graphic way. During the 10 years 1890 to 1900 the purchasing power of the farmer was below the 30-year average; the percentage of business failures was considerably above. From 1900 to 1920 there was a gradual increase in the farmer's purchasing power. From 1901 to 1908 this purchasing power was almost the average of the 30-year period, while from 1908 to 1920 it was considerably above. The percentage of business failures dropped below the 30-year average from 1895 to 1920 with the exception of two short periods, one in 1908 and the other in 1914 and 1915.

"We have about 6,500,000 farms. More than one-fourth of all our people work on the farms. The capital invested in farming is about 70 billion dollars. The money invested in farm buildings, machinery and live stock, not including the value of the farm land, would buy all of the railroads in the United States and in addition a considerable number of the mines.

"The number of people engaged in farming is 80 per cent greater now than in 1870, but the volume of crop

production in 1920 was 256 per cent greater than in 1870.

"Business and agriculture are dependent upon one another. A prosperous agriculture means a prosperous nation. It is to the advantage of the business man that the farmer be fairly prosperous. Conversely it is to the advantage of the farmer that business be fairly prosperous. It is not to the advantage of either that either the one or the other should be so prosperous that intemperate speculation and waste is stimulated because adversity always follows such a period."

PAYNE'S "HOME SWEET HOME"

(Valdese Enterprise.) But few men live and die in the romantic way that John Howard Payne, author of the immortal Home Sweet Home, did. Born in New York city, June 9th, 1791, his boyhood days were spent in a lowly cottage on Long Island, where "the birds singing gayly that came at my call" cling to his memory to the time he wrote his song.

As a young man Payne lived in Washington, where for a time he was a clerk in the pension office. His talents were versatile, for an actor, playwright, poet and editor. He wrote his "Home, Sweet Home" in about the year 1822 while occupying a small room at the top of a lodging house near the Palais Royal, in Paris. In a spirit of homesickness he expressed the beautiful sentiment of this song.

The famous Jenny Lind sang it at a Washington theater about 27 years later, when many notables, including President Filmore, Daniel Webster, Henry Clay and Gen. Scott, were present. When the great singer finished her audience with her last encore, which was "Home, Sweet Home," the author was the center of wild enthusiasm. The song has since been translated to many foreign tongues.

Payne served twice as consul of the United States to Tunis. During his second appointment, Payne died April 1, 1852, after a long and tedious illness, and he was buried at Tunis. Through the effort of W. W. Coreoran, a philanthropist, who was stirred by hearing the U. S. Marine band play "Home, Sweet Home," the body was brought to America in 1883 and interred at Oak Hill cemetery, at Washington, the ceremonies being attended by President Arthur and members of congress.

WILLIAM J. BRYAN TALKS ON POLITICS

Miami Fla., April 1.—Protection of the farmer, just taxation and re-education of labor and capital are topics in the Democratic platform which won the 1921 presidential campaign. William Jennings Bryan said last night in his first address on political questions since the announcement by Attorney General Clegg that President Harding will be a candidate for re-election.

Mr. Bryan said that the Harding administration had done nothing to solve the problem of labor unrest and that it had not meted out justice to the farmer.

"The farmer does not want to borrow money," he declares, "he merely wants to sell his products at a price which will enable him to feed and clothe his family."

Taxation will be a vital question in the 1924 campaign, the former secretary of state said.

"Every Congress must deal with the question. Harding was elected with a majority of 7,000,000 votes and two-thirds of the house and senate to back him, but he couldn't

enlist their support," he declared.

"The rich are trying to saddle their taxes on the poor and the poor are fighting against increased taxation. The Republicans have taken \$540,000,000 from the rich and spread it over the backs of the poor."

Mr. Bryan described the Republican effort to squeeze through the ship subsidy bill and how the Democrats met the issue. Commenting on the labor situation, he declared that the conditions in the United States never were grave.

"One great European nation is ruled by class government and every other nation except the United States

A BIRD RECLASSIFIED.

BORN—To Mr. and Mrs. H. Stork, on September 20, a soft. We might say something about the proverbial long-legged animal, but we shall refrain.—The Nevada Lutheran.

THE RIGHT JOB AT LAST

"No, thanks. My husband does the gardening—at least he loafs around and pretends to."

"Couldn't yer gimme a job 'elping 'im?"—The Bulletin, Australia.

stands in fear and trembling of such a change," he asserted.

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50 GOOD CIGARETTES 10¢ GENUINE "BULL" DURHAM TOBACCO gain 219,158; Salvation Army 52,291, gain of 6,242; Unitarians 108,560, gain 4,674; United Brethren bodies 396,374, gain 7,143; Universalists 58,566.

Endurance Test of Pee Gee Mastic Paint This house—one of the finest in Toledo—was painted several years ago with Pee Gee Mastic Paint. Instead of repainting it, the owner had it washed at two different times. The results surprised even the experienced painters, as the paint stood this rigid test perfectly. Only a paint that produces a tile-like film, such as Pee Gee Mastic Paint, can be successfully washed. This exceptional durability of Pee Gee Mastic Paint is the result of purest and highest grade materials. A full 50% of Zinc ground in genuine Linseed Oil and White Lead goes into the making of Pee Gee Mastic Paint. It is the most economical paint for you to use on account of its great covering capacity and long years of service. For every surface that needs protection specify Pee Gee PAINTS Varnishes—Stains—Enamels BOONE HARDWARE CO.