

COUNTING UNCLE SAM'S BIG FAMILY

This is the Year When the Census Man Makes His Round of the Country. Question He Will Ask, and Why.

By CALEB JOHNSON

Uncle Sam will begin to count his nephews and nieces on the first of April, 1939, and this year he is going to find out a lot more about them than has been known before.

Some time during the month of April an enumerator of the United States Census Bureau will call at every dwelling in the nation and ask the head of the family twenty-four questions. Some of them might be considered impertinent if asked by a stranger, or even by a neighbor, but the census enumerators are under oath not to disclose any facts learned by them except in their official reports. And those reports are not open anywhere to public inspection. Like the figures in your income tax return, they are official secrets which prying gossips have no access to. Uncle Sam is concerned, for census purposes, only with totals and averages and not at all with individuals. But a clear picture of the people of the United States as a whole can be obtained only by getting the facts about each individual inhabitant, to start with.

For example, one of the things which it is important to know, besides the number of persons in the United States, is the average age of our people. It is higher or lower than it was when the last census was taken, ten years ago, and how much? This average age has been increasing steadily. But if the census of 1939 should show a decline in the average age, it would be a danger signal, a warning to speed up public health measures, a call to investigate the cause and apply all of the resources of sanitary science toward improving and guarding the general health.

So don't think it is impertinence when the census taker asks your age! Uncle Sam wants to know, not your individual age, but the average age of all of the people.

Another question the enumerators will ask is "Who is the head of the family?" That doesn't mean what it sounds like. Uncle Sam isn't interested as to whether the wife wears the breeches or not, but does want to know how many men are dependent upon the earnings of their children, how many women are self-supporting. The head of the family, from the census point of view, is the one who earns the money.

Whether you live on a farm or in a town, whether you are white, black, red or yellow, male or female, married or unmarried, able to read and write, where you were born and where your parents were born, when you came to America if you are an immigrant, what your native language was and whether you can speak English are questions the reasons for which are clear enough. On the totals compiled from these answers depends, among other things, the number of persons from your native country who can be admitted to the United States in the next ten years.

Everybody who is employed will be asked to give his trade or occupation and the particular industry in which he or she works, or if working on his own account or as an employer, to say so. But a question on that line this year will be: "Are you employed now?" That is as of the first of April. There will be for the first time an accurate record of unemployment, figures on which heretofore have been largely estimates.

Another new question will be whether you own your home. In a general way the proportion of home owners has been estimated in the past, but nobody has ever had exact figures. The figures have decided bearing on the important subject of our national prosperity. And if you do not own your home, the census man will ask you how much rent you pay. That is another useful index of the size of the national bankroll. Taking the two together, the Government will be able to tell us whether home ownership is on the increase, whether there is a demand for more individually-owned dwellings, and those facts are a bearing on the lumber industry and the production of all other building supplies, as well as on the market for all sorts of household equipment and furnishings.

Another new census question is whether you own a radio set. Nothing could better illustrate the speed with which new inventions take hold, once they strike the public fancy. Ten years ago, when the census of 1929 was taken, there wasn't a radio set in the world except experimental ones; there was no such thing as broadcasting; nobody but a few experts knew the difference between heterodyne and a screen-grid, if any. Now look at the blessed thing! There are so many receiving sets in the United States that Uncle Sam is going to count 'em, to find out how many of his family he can talk to at once.

For the first time, the census taker will ask how old you were at your first marriage. The information will be more important ten years from now than it is now, because the second set of answers to it, in 1949, will disclose whether the average age of marriage is getting older or younger. Our grandparents married

in their teens, as a rule; today 25 is nearer the average age, in all probability. Will the young folks of the next ten years continue to postpone marriage or will they revert to the youthful marriages of their ancestors?

You will be asked whether you have attended school of college since last September. The figures for education have been climbing steadily ever since the first census was taken. Beyond question they are still climbing, but how fast?

And as a final question every one of Uncle Sam's nephews will be asked whether he has served as a soldier, sailor or marine in any war in which his country was involved. We will know for the first time just how many veterans of each war are still living. And that will help to estimate future demands on taxpayers for pensions.

The Census is the oldest of all our Federal bureaus, as old as Congress and the Presidential office and the judiciary, for it was set up in the Constitution itself, which requires that the inhabitants be counted every ten years. The original purpose was to find out how many lived in each state in order to apportion members of Congress among the states. That is still one of the purposes, though Congress itself has been dilatory in reapportioning its membership in proportion to population.

The first Census, taken in 1790, showed fewer than four million inhabitants in the new nation; 3,929,214, to be exact. We passed the 25 million mark between 1850 and 1860; by 1880 we had almost exactly 50 million, and forty years later, in 1920, we had doubled that figure with 105,710,620 persons living in Continental United States. The Census Bureau experts have made estimates from year to year of the increase since that time, and give it as their belief that enumeration of 1939 will show between 121 and 122 million nephews and nieces of Uncle Sam.

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THOUSANDS EXPRESS GRATITUDE

On November 27th, a letter dated November 23rd, was received at the Sargon offices advertising that in one week one drug firm alone had received orders for Sargon to be shipped to Cavite, Philippine Islands; Coca-Solo, Canal Zone; Belebrog, Ireland; and Paris, France.

Only recently a well-known resident of Denver, Colorado, who had been restored to health by Sargon, sent a full treatment to London, England, to his sister, who is the wife of an executive of one of the greatest retail drug firms in the British Empire.

During the past month there appeared in the Toronto papers the statement of a well-known World War veteran whose health had been greatly impaired while in the service, who stated among other things, that he owed his restoration to health to two bottles of Sargon sent him by a friend in Minneapolis.

LETTERS RECEIVED FROM THE NORTHWEST

From the Northwest, many letters of this kind have been received advising that users of Sargon are sending it to relatives back in their old countries of Norway and Sweden.

Many such letters and endorsements have been received from men of prominence, including former governors, business and professional men, mayors, state and county officials, and even ministers of the Gospel have deemed it their duty to come forward and tell what Sargon has done for them.

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—Advertisement.

America's Healthiest Boy and Girl



Florence Smock, 17, of Lake County, Florida, and Harold Deatline, also 17, of Morgan County, Indiana, who were judged the healthiest boy and girl in America at the National Health Contest of the International Livestock Exposition in Chicago.

HENS PROPERLY HOUSED PAY BEST PROFITS

Housing the hens in a comfortable and healthy place may not seem to be of so much importance but it often means the difference between average returns and excellent returns.

"Those who have not remodeled the old poultry house or built a new one, may secure plans for a poultry house free of charge from the poultry department at State College," says W. F. Armstrong, associate poultryman. "Many growers who write to us for information seem to think that housing means merely a protection from rain or snow and I have little effect upon results. Few things

in the poultry business are of more importance or have a greater influence upon the production of eggs."

At first, says Mr. Armstrong, one must give consideration to the location. A southern slope that is well drained will provide a uniform temperature throughout the year, keeping the house warmer in winter and cooler in summer. The front of the house, or open part, should also face southward, thus providing additional protection from cold winds in winter. A house not having this advantage interferes with the production and health of the birds, especially the more sensitive breeds such as the Leghorns. It is also best to have added protection in a curtain to close or partially close the opening depend-

ing on weather conditions.

The second principle is to make the walls tight and free from cracks. A house 20 feet deep will hold its heat much better than one of less depth. Housing with thin walls or cracks in the walls is a good way for birds to contract colds. Birds living in a cold house and having their combs frosted may have the fertility of their eggs to drop 50 per cent, to say nothing of loss in egg production.

The third principle is to have good ventilation. This should be supplied from both front and back. Poorly ventilated houses are a good source of colds and birds so weakened are susceptible to any disease.

MORRISON REFUSES

Former Governor Morrison has announced that he will not be a candidate for Congress from the Ninth District and indicated he might not even be a candidate for the Senate seat now held by Lee S. Overman, of Salisbury.

"Under no circumstances will I run for Congress from this district," said Mr. Morrison, "and it is not at all certain that I will ever be a candidate for any public office."

The statement spiked rumors that the former Governor would be drafted to oppose the Republican incumbent, Congressman Charles A. Jonas, of Lincolnton, who is expected to be unopposed for re-election.

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