

SMALL CITYFUL OF PEOPLE DISAPPEAR IN N.Y. ANNUALLY

Records Show Total of Over 7,000 Mysterious Disappearances Every Year.

FIG TIM SULLIVAN IS FAIR EXAMPLE

Gotham Schools to Begin Training School Girls to Become Housewives.

NEW YORK, Sept. 20.—That "Big Tim" Sullivan, known by sight to more than any other of the city's 4,500,000 residents, could walk out of his house and disappear even for a short time without leaving a trace of his whereabouts calls attention anew to the fact that this is the easiest place on the continent in which to lose one's self. According to the records, and estimates of police authorities, an average of about 20 persons disappear mysteriously every day in the metropolis and no explanation is ever forthcoming as to what becomes of them. In the course of a year therefore the "lost" population of New York amounts to over 7,000, or enough to fill a good sized town. The largest single class of those who voluntarily disappear in the city's maelstrom is made up of men who desert their wives. A very much smaller number of wives similarly desert their husbands. Others find this a convenient way of avoiding their creditors or escaping the natural results of acts of dishonesty or petty crime. A large portion both men and women, have dropped into it from some higher stratum of society, changing their names and thus losing their identity en route. In a city where every family moves on an average of once in two years and a vast number change their residences every few months, it is naturally easy to drop out of sight and the records show that an astonishingly large number of persons do so effectively every year.

A world's record in road-making is probably involved in the paving of Fifth Avenue's eight busiest blocks—from 34th Street to 42d Street—in fifteen days. These eight blocks comprise 13,000 square yards, requiring over 2,000 tons of asphalt, besides other heavy materials. The old asphalt, laid in 1897, is considered to have worn better than any piece of road-making in engineering history. When ripped up it was found to have worn in some places from a thickness of two inches to a quarter of an inch, and the quarter-inch presented as smooth and unbroken a surface as new road. Repaving was restored to only because cheaper in the long run than patching. So many concrete foundations have been put on Fifth Avenue that the base of its pavement is now from 8 inches to 20 inches thick and there is the prospect of having to blast when necessary to mend gas or water leak, for as yet there has been found no better method of making such repairs than by sashing a fine pavement.

A "homcraft" course has been introduced into one of New York's high schools for girls, which is calculated to qualify the young women to spend their husband's incomes to the very best advantage. This course was suggested to the principal by the reflection that 85 per cent of the pupils will marry and that special training for this vocation is most important. Accordingly, the graduates of this school will be able not only to converse intelligently on literature, ancient history and the newest developments in woman suffrage, to appreciate music and art, and be more or less familiar with French and German—as might be expected, but also to cook a dinner, furnish her home comfortably, artistically and economically, keep it free from germs, trim her own hair, make her own clothes, keep an account book that will come out straight at the end of the month, and play her part in social service. This strictly practical course includes domestic science, domestic arithmetic, physical training and the general management of a home. It ranges from military to the fundamentals of legal procedure and will fit the non-marrying 25 per cent to make their living as up-to-date housekeepers for which the demand is greater than the supply.

Buncoing the buncoers is an art that probably has reached its highest development here. A man of boyish appearance registered at a hotel a short time ago and inserted want advertisements for a number of sales managers for a large western concern at salaried salaries and liberal expense allowances—a cash deposit of ten dollars being required to cover cost of samples. There were many nibbles and not a few bit hard and were caught before there called one representing himself as a deputy from the sheriff's office in police headquarters. He lost no time in showing his knowledge of the young man's game and frightening him into giving up the ill-gotten ten spots, the first sharper not stopping to reflect, apparently, that the sheriff's office is not located at police headquarters. Now the police are holding the buncoed buncoer and are endeavoring to locate the alleged deputy sheriff.

The rapid and tremendous growth of the "movie" craze and the business operations that foster and thrive upon it appears little short of marvelous when reduced to figures. In New York City there are more than 1,200 moving picture shows. The av-

erage daily attendance at each is conservatively estimated at 500, making a total attendance of 720,000 daily or 262,800,000 annually. The average admission of 5 cents yields an income of \$37,000 a day or \$21,000,000 a year. At least five employees are required to run the smallest of these playhouses, and the average number may be safely set at eight—making a total of about 16,000 employees. These earn approximately \$20,000 per day—about \$7,000,000 for the year. And high tide has by no means been reached.

PLAYS OF STAGE LIFE

(By Minnie Maddern Fiske.) Since the age of three I have been engaged actively in theatre work, and I have yet to see the life of the theatre presented truthfully in a play; at least, its life as I have known it. The actors and actresses in plays are, for the most part, strange, unrecognizable creatures—conventional puppets of a disingenuous intention. The dramatists who whittle them out know that there is nothing representative in them. So do the producers who place them on view. They must laugh in their sleeves at the ease with which these threadbare specimens from the old bag of tricks deceive the public that ought by now to be sophisticated sufficiently to recognize their real character.

But it is not this aspect of the matter that is its worst. Usually dramatic authors in plays of this description befool their own nests. They do not hesitate to draw large revenues from works that traduce and disgrace the alleged actor's calling upon whose service they must depend. Dramatic authors and theatrical producers have been willing to reap pecuniary harvests from plays that vilify the stage, projecting its people as wantons or worse, and giving it a fictitious atmosphere of vulgar immorality. This has always seemed to me a low and dastardly thing to do. There can be little question that it is base for authors and producers to seize upon and exploit for money the occasional unsavory features of certain spots in the theatre and place them before the public as representative of theater life in general.

Doubtless there are unavory things connected with the stage in a sporadic way, but many of us who have passed our lives in the theater have never come in contact with them. In "What the People Want" Mr. Arnold Bennett has approached more nearly a picture of theatre life as we know it than any other play-writer; but the real play of the theater and of its actual people is yet to be written.

On the other hand, the most distinguished of English dramatists has recently given us a play that depicts the vilest attributes of a certain department of theatrical entertainment. It is regrettable that this writer did not employ the better material at hand of which he had ample knowledge. He has had a long experience of the theater, both as actor and writer; he has won a high place in the estimation both of the public and of his own profession; and he has made a fortune through the medium of the stage. A play from his pen dealing with the real life of its followers would have come as from one having authority. Instead, he chose to compose a play that reveals an alleged phase of life with which we actors are utterly unfamiliar. He shows us only a group of hopelessly vulgar, stupid, silly, impossible persons living a ridiculous existence. It is all quite strange to us of the real theater. And one has a strong feeling, in witnessing this play, that, strange as it is, the author has striven successfully to make it even more repulsive and obnoxious than even the slightest excuse of basic fact would warrant.

The theater is not sustained by its weak elements. In all times it has been pillared by solid men and women.

"BANANAS AND DIPLOMACY"

Figures show that the world is just awakening to the value of the banana as food. If the present development continues the acreage devoted to banana growing must rapidly increase. This can be easily done, for the areas suitable have as yet only been touched. Improved refrigeration and quick steam service will continue to widen the area in which the product can be marketed, and besides its present use as a fruit it will be used as it now is in the tropics, where it is boiled green as a vegetable and manufactured into a confection known as banana figs. The development of the banana flour industry also promises to open a market for the product of areas too distant to profit by the demand for fresh fruit, just as the perfection of the manufacture of copra, the dried meat of the coconut, has opened up a new industry reaching to the farthest islands of the Pacific.

The increased production of the banana in its natural state and the diversification of its uses promise to introduce a new and hitherto neglected factor in our food supply. If the present development continues, it will raise the Caribbean region from its dependence on foreign markets for food to one of the regions from which an important part of the world's food-supply will be drawn. The wheat-fields of the Dakotas and Manitoba will meet as one of their competitors in feeding the world, the banana plantations of the American Mediterranean. * * * An immediate consequence of the development of the direct trade with Europe now just beginning to threaten the supremacy of the United States in some of the Central American markets. People buy their goods, other things being equal, in the countries where their own products find their best sale. If improved transportation facilities for the banana trade developed between the Caribbean and European ports, it is but natural that European manufactured goods will be carried on the return voyage. * * * One of the most important, and from our past experience, let us remember, one of the most delicate problems with which our men of state have to deal, is the diplomacy of the Caribbean.—Chester Lloyd James, in the August number of The North American Review.

New Jersey man weighing 300 pounds slowly dying of persistent attack of hiccoughs.

PENSIONS GROW ALTHOUGH VETS ARE DYING FAST

List of Pensioners Decreases Each Year, But Amount Continues to Grow.

SHERWOOD LAW IS CAUSE OF INCREASE

\$180,000,000 to Be Used In 1913 and \$185,000,000 In 1914.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 20.—Although it is estimated that 100 of Uncle Sam's pensioners die every day, or approximately 36,500 every year, there is a strong probability that the pension appropriation for the coming fiscal year beginning on July 1, 1914, will be larger than the amount appropriated for pensions this present year. The pension bill this year carried about \$180,000,000 not including \$15,000,000 item in the general deficiency bill which was passed in the closing hours of the last congress. Death keeps thinning the lists of names on the pension roll each year, but somehow or other the amount of money that the government has to expend keeps on getting larger, and experts are of the belief that the pension list will not show an appreciable decrease in the amount of money paid out for several years to come. Much of the present increase is due to the act of May, 1912, which provided, roughly speaking, a dollar a day for veterans of the Civil war.

This is the state of affairs that the government is confronted with fifty years after the close of the Civil war. There is a possibility that next year may prove the high water mark in pension appropriations, provided, of course, that congress does not enact some new legislation which will increase the size of the average pension paid out.

\$180,500,000 This Year. The last fiscal year the pension budget was \$164,500,000. This year it was \$180,500,000. Next year it may reach the grand total of \$185,000,000.

During the fiscal year of 1912, when the appropriation was \$164,500,000, the Sherwood law, that is the act of 1912, had not begun to operate. Hence the effects of the Sherwood law were not fully felt until the present year. It is quite probable that the estimates for the present fiscal year may develop the fact that the legislators quite underestimated the cost of the Sherwood law and a fuller financial idea of the effects of the law will be had the coming fiscal year.

The net decrease to the roll last year was 31,804. The number of pensioners dropped account of death and other causes was 55,115, but there were added to the roll 23,311 new claims. "Claims" is the technical term applied by the experts to new pensioners who have successfully met the requirements of the government to be placed on the roll and draw an annual benefit from the United States treasury.

For some reason or other the losses to the pension roll by death in recent years have shown but little difference, although theoretically, deaths of veterans on account of their advancing age would seem to lead to the conclusion that the loss by death would show big increase from year to year.

The average annual value of pensions during the last fiscal year was \$176.15 as against an annual average the year before of \$173.55, but the average annual value of pensions paid to survivors of the Civil war is estimated to be \$97.09. The Sherwood law increased this annual average about \$72 a year.

The total number of civil war veterans who expect increases in their pensions by reason of the enactment of the Sherwood law was estimated to be 430,000. As yet it is impossible to tell whether all of these will benefit through the law, because all the claims have not been adjudicated and pension officials can not tell how many of these claims will be allowed and how many rejected. From the progress thus far made disposing of these applications for increases, it is predicted that nearly all of these old soldiers will receive an increase. This means somewhere in the neighborhood of 400,000 ultimately will get \$72 a year more than they have already been receiving. Of course, many of them already are drawing the additional \$72 a year.

The Sherwood law provides a graduated scale of pensions for pensioners according to their age, and it is necessary for the pension officials to have some proof of a man's age before they admit him to the class of pensioners defined by certain age limits. This has given rise to a serious difficulty. Many boys enlisted in the Union army during the civil war, giving fictitious ages. In a great many cases, boys of 15 and 16 who could shoulder a musket gave their ages as 18 or 21. When an application for a pension is made, many veterans produce their enlistment papers as proof of their age, but the pension officials always attempt to prove their exact age by investigating the records to determine the date of their birth.

Some difficulty has been experienced with the Sherwood law on account of the inability of the government to ascertain when a pensioner dies. Under the law, postmasters are prohibited from delivering pension checks when they know that the pensioner is dead, and besides, pension checks have to be indorsed by two citizens of the community where the pensioner resides. Despite this precaution, pension officials know that payments are sometimes made on pensions which should have been stopped by death.

Kenilworth and Taxes

Old Kenilworth, England, is just five miles from Coventry.

Coventry is a place made historic, when a village, by Lady Godiva's ride. This beautiful aristocratic woman, on a milk white horse, rode through the streets in a perfectly nude condition, her only protection being her luxuriant hair, which fell loosely over her.

She did this on a wager, as a ransom for the villagers, who had become tax-ridden well nigh to extermination.

Only one person in the village dared to peep. He was struck blind by a resentful Providence, and history put a tag upon him as "Peeping Tom" of Coventry.

Lady Godiva has been immortalized by brush and pen. But the greatest honor was done her by the villagers themselves, who made the anniversary of her act a day of public rejoicing, and kept up its observance for nearly a thousand years.

The world has moved forward from those feudal times, but the matter of taxes is one which is still constantly before us. The tendency toward higher taxation is marked—decidedly marked. Few cities, if any, are lowering their tax rate, or decreasing their public debt.

Kenilworth Has No City Taxes

It has all city conveniences, without city taxes. Being a separate municipality, it is not within city jurisdiction. The State and County tax is all you pay, and this amounts to only 90 cents on the hundred dollars.

While on the subject of separate municipality, it is in order to emphasize another advantage of living in Kenilworth: you have a part in the affairs of the young municipality more interesting than that of a mere voter. This say-so inspires municipal pride, and a home pride keener than one generally experiences in becoming a resident of a ready-made city.

Now, Listen to Me!

You can buy a high, level, woodland lot, overlooking the Swannanoa river, the Vanderbilt estate, and the French Broad Valley, at \$700 to \$1,000. The same lot in other localities, with the public improvements, would cost you \$25 or \$30 a front foot.

This difference would buy yourself an automobile. Not a "benzine box," but a beautiful 5-passenger touring car, brand new. The difference in taxes would keep you in gasoline. Now put that proposition—

Up to Your Wife

present, or prospective, and ask her which she had rather have: A "house and lot" in town, or a beautiful home and an automobile in Kenilworth. Now, a person who would follow a wagon all day to see the rear wheels catch up with the front ones, could easily guess her answer.

Then Get Busy—and Remember

That the lot you buy in Kenilworth has all public improvements: Asheville city water, sewers, telephones, electric lights and Asheville and Biltmore deliveries.

That Kenilworth's Location, right between Asheville and Biltmore, within sound of the city automobiles and street cars, makes it convenient to everything.

It's beautiful drives make the scenic thoroughfare between Asheville and Biltmore, and keep you in touch with the moving throng.

Be sure to look over Kenilworth, after you have seen everything else around Asheville.

For plats, terms, and further information, call at office on grounds, or phone 2115, or address

Kenilworth Development Co.

Asheville, N. C.