

The Mount Airy News

VOL. XXIX

MOUNT AIRY, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1908

NO. 21

MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE.

Exchange.
There has just been compiled under the direction of the census department alone satisfaction on the subject of marriage and divorce which will doubtless prove of interest to the sociologist in particular, and the public in general. It is shown, among other things, that in North Carolina from 1887 to 1906, there were granted 7,047 divorces, while from 1867 to 1886 there were granted 1,338 divorces. The bulletin is quite lengthy, and we shall present only such facts as are likely to prove of general interest. The marriage rate in the United States in the year 1900 was 93 per 10,000 population. Based upon the adult unmarried (single, widowed, or divorced) population, the rate becomes 321 per 10,000, indicating that in each year something over 3 per cent, of the unmarried adult population marry. The marriage rate based on the total population is higher in the United States than in any other country for which reliable statistics are available. But taking the marriageable population as the basis—that is, the population which is of marriageable age but not married—the rate in the United States is not as high as it is in Hungary, is about the same as it is in Saxony, but is still higher than in any of the other countries included in the comparison.

The total number of divorces reported for the twenty years, 1887 to 1906, inclusive, was 945,625. For the earlier investigation, covering the twenty years, 1867 to 1886, inclusive, the number reported was 328,716 or hardly more than one-third of the number recorded in the second twenty years. At the beginning of the forty-year period, covered by the two investigations, divorces occurred at the rate of 10,000 a year; at the end of that period the annual number was about 66,000. This increase, however, must be considered in connection with increase in population.

An increase of 30 per cent, in population between the years 1870 to 1880 was accompanied by increase of 79 per cent in the number of divorces granted. In the next decade, 1880 to 1890, the population increased 25 per cent and divorces 70 per cent., and in the following decade, 1890 to 1900, increase of 21 per cent in population was accompanied by an increase of 66 per cent in the number of divorces. In the six years from 1900 to 1906, population, as estimated, increased 10-3 per cent, and divorces 29-3 per.

It thus appears that at the end of the forty-year period divorces were increasing about three times as fast as population, while in the first decade (1870 to 1880) they increased only about two thirds as fast.

Divorce rates appear to be much higher in the United States than in any of the foreign countries for which statistics relating to this subject have been obtained.

Two-thirds of the total number of divorces granted in the twenty-year period covered by this investigation were granted to the wife.

The most common single ground for divorce is desertion. This accounts for 33.9 per cent. of all divorces (period 1887 to 1906), 49-4 per cent., or almost one-half of those granted to the husband, and 33-5 per cent., or one-third, of those granted to the wife.

The next most important

ground of divorce is, for husbands, adultery, and for wives, cruelty. Of the divorces granted to husbands (1887 to 1906) 28.8 per cent. were for adultery; and of those granted to wives 27.5 per cent. were for cruelty. Only 10 per cent of the divorces granted to wives were for adultery of the husband, and 10.5 per cent of divorces granted to husbands were for cruelty on the part of the wife.

Drunkenness was the ground for divorce in 5.3 per cent of the cases in which the wife brought suit, and in 1.1 per cent, of the cases in which the suit was brought by the husband.

The number of divorces occurring in the first year of married life during the entire period, 1887 to 1906, was 18,876; the number increases to 27,764 in the second year of married life, and reaches its maximum in the fifth year, when it becomes 67,770. From that point on the number diminishes year by year, but does not fall below the number granted in the first year of married life until the eighteenth year is reached.

The total number of marriages recorded during the twenty years from 1887 to 1906, inclusive, was 12,832,044. The number annually reported increased from 483,069 in the year 1887 to 853,290 in the year 1906. The increase year by year was by no means uniform. The marriage rate is quickly responsive to change in economic conditions. A small increase shown for 1893 and actual decrease in the succeeding year reflect the influence of the general economic conditions do not appear to have been restored in the matrimonial market until the year 1899.

Big Deal in Timber Land.

Asheville, Nov. 26.—A big deal was successfully consummated here late yesterday afternoon when William Whitmore & Son, Inc., of Philadelphia, a tract of 35,000 acres of timber lands in Swain county. It is understood that the price paid was in the neighborhood of half a million dollars. It is also said that the purchasers contemplate finishing the railroads now building into the boundary and the establishment of an acid plant, a large double-barrel sawmill and a pulp and paper plant. The railroad leading into the timber boundary was commenced some time ago and much of the rail has been ordered. Mr. Arbogast and associates retain about 30,000 acres of timber lands which originally was a part of their purchase two years ago.

Three Shot in a Brawl.

Roanoke, Va., Nov. 26.—Frank Butt, a painter, of Bramwell, W. Va., was shot and fatally wounded; Judge Owen police justice of Pocahontas, Va. was shot through the lungs and Lee Carter of Pocahontas, received a bullet wound in a shooting affray at Pocahontas to-night. The trouble started in Harry Matz's saloon when Butt and James Lawson, Tazewell, Va., got into a fight Lawson shot Butt through the lungs and neck, barely missing the jugular vein. When Lawson ran from the place, Judge Owen, who was in a nearby store, attempted to stop Lawson and the latter turned on the judge and shot him through the lungs. A crowd joined in the chase after Lawson and a number of shots were fired. Lawson was slightly wounded. He was captured and jailed. Butt's life is despaired of but it is believed Owen will live. The trouble in the saloon is believed to have been the outcome of a cock fight.

Crusade Against Potato Bugs.

RICHMOND, Va., Nov. 23.—Nearly a million dollars is spent annually on potato bug poison in two small counties of this State. The farmers of Acomac and Northampton counties, which form what is known as the eastern shore of Virginia, spend each year something like \$800,000 in the war they are forced to wage against the most feared enemy of the potato crop—the potato bug.

Annually they buy more than six hundred and fifty tons of this poison, or something like 1,300,000 pounds, and the cost applying it is nearly twice as great as the cost of the poison itself.

This section of Virginia is one of the greatest potato-producing sections of the United States and each year tens of thousands of barrels are shipped to the markets of the eastern coast—New York, Philadelphia, Boston, Baltimore, and Washington, and even to many Western cities. A crop which can be marketed at a fair price means a year of prosperity and plenty to the farmers of these two counties. The reverse means oftentimes debt and want.

Almost unbelievable are some of the stories told of the battles the farmers have fought against their common enemy. But they are true.

Several years ago the "bug-pest" was particularly severe. Near the little town of Eastville there was a seventy-acre field of potatoes.

The early prices were so tempting that the owner of the field, decided to dig and ship

Across the road from his field was another, also planted with potatoes. The crop in this field was several days behind that in the first and was not ready for digging.

BUGS MOVE IN REGIMENTS.

The day after the crop in the first field had been dug vast swarms of potato bugs began to migrate to the other field. So thick were they that they covered the edge of the field and carpeted the road as they crawled toward the second field.

The owner of the field, alarmed sent hurry call to nearest store for Paris green and cheap flour. As soon as he got the poison and flour he had them mixed and, sending men down his fence line he had them construct a rampart of the poison mixture an eighth of an inch thick and several yards long.

As the invading horde of bugs crawled under the fence they waded into this poison and the execution was something mazing. They died by the tens of thousands. At first they were not deterred by the poison, but later they seemed to realize that crawling under the fence meant death and then occurred a remarkable thing.

The bugs crawled down the road until they reached a crossroad. Down this they turned, and then began to invade the potato field from a new and unprotected side.

Again the farmer had to build a rampart of poison. This occupied several days and during that time the road itself was packed with bugs, in some places to a depth of three and a half to four inches.

CRUSHED BY THOUSANDS.

There was considerable traffic over the road, and, as vehicles drove through the swarms of bugs they crushed them by thousands.

While the "Irish" or "white" potato has a deadly foe in the potato bug, the sweet potato, which is also extensively raised

on the eastern shore, has no such enemy.

The potato bugs apparently rise from the earth as soon as the potato plants have begun to grow leaves and attack the foliage. A single day is sufficient for these pests to strip every leaf from the plants of a large field, unless their work is stopped by poison.

The bug is a prolific breeder. It lays its eggs upon the backs of the leaves of potato plants and in a single day these eggs are hatched. It is no unusual sight to see large plants almost entirely covered by bugs.

At the outset of season, when the plants are small, the bugs are comparatively speaking, few, and the farmer is able to protect his plants by having a force of men sprinkle the plants with a poison solution.

Paris green is the poison usually used. To use it unmixed with water or something else would prove too expensive, and, besides the poison undiluted is so strong that it withers and often kills the potato plants itself. The general practice is to mix the powder with water or the cheapest, coarsest grades of flour or meal.

Greensboro Bar Recommends 4 New Districts.

At a meeting of the Greensboro Bar Association held yesterday afternoon in the office of the clerk of the Superior Court it was decided to petition the legislature at the coming session to create four new judicial districts in North Carolina. This action is recommended because litigation has outgrown the capacity of the courts in many counties in the State.

Primarily, the agitation is begun for the purpose of finding a way to relieve the congested condition of the civil docket in Guilford county. It is known, however, that similar conditions exist in other counties and the bar associations of other towns are expected to join in the recommendation for the creation of four new districts entailing the appointment of four additional Superior Court judges and solicitors.

It was stated by Maj. Charles M. Stedman that he has cases on the civil docket of Guilford Superior Court that have not been called in two years. It is said that it will take a year of solid court to try the cases on the civil docket in this county.

On motion of David Stern a committee was appointed to take the matter in hand, make investigations and report at the next meeting of the bar. That committee is composed of Maj. Charles M. Stedman, chairman; E. D. Broadhurst, David Stern, ex-Judge Spencer B. Adams and T. S. Beall.

A motion was adopted that each member be assessed two dollars to create a fund with which to carry on a campaign for the relief of this county and district, N. I. Eure, J. J. Parker and C. A. Hines were appointed a committee to raise the necessary funds.

Major Stedman said that he has a letter from Judge Neal offering to help the Greensboro bar devise means to relieve the congestion of the civil docket.

The matter of creating new judicial districts and the appointment of additional judges and solicitors will probably be one of the most important matters to come before the approaching session of the legislature.

It is probable that in the event new districts are created that A. L. Brooks, of this city, late Democratic candidate for Congress in the Fifth district, will be named as one of the judges. T. B. Bailey, of Mocksville, and T. B. Finley, of North Wilkesboro, are also mentioned in connection with judicial honors in the event that it becomes necessary to appoint additional judges.

Ship Becomes a Roaring Furnace.

Valetta, Island of Malta, Nov. 25.—A terrible disaster, in which more than a hundred persons lost their lives, occurred at the entrance to this port, this morning. The British steamer Sardinia, of the Ellerman line, hailing from Liverpool and bound for Alexandria, with a crew of forty-four Englishmen, eleven first and six second cabin English passengers and nearly 200 Arab pilgrims, aboard, caught fire and within a few minutes was a roaring furnace, and flames bursting upward to a height of 300 feet from frequent explosions in the hold.

So rapidly did the fire spread that the frantic efforts of the crew to operate the apparatus, proved useless, for it seemed but a moment before the upper works and masts crashed down upon the deck, while the ship's boats were crushed by the falling debris, or set fire, and quickly burned.

Safety lay only in the sea, for no one could save himself except by jumping and taking the chances of being picked up. Assistance was hurried to the burning vessel from all the warships in the harbor and from the shore but the work of rescue was greatly impeded by the strong tide that was running.

Even the naval launches were unable to go alongside. Among the Arabs there was a panic that could not be controlled. Many of them were too frightened to jump over-boards and they were burned to death. Others cast themselves into the water and perished.

The crew behaved with admirable courage, serving out life preservers to the last, and working the pumps.

When the pumps became useless Captain Charles Littler, commander of the Sardinia, took the helm and directed his ship towards the shore so long as it could be navigated. He perished at his post.

First Officer Frank Watson, all three engineers Seagraves, Hislop and Neil 18 of the ship's company, and two first class passengers, one of them a boy named Grant, are missing. Fifty or more bodies have been recovered and seventy persons were rescued.

It is impossible at present to say just how many were drowned or burned to death, but the number will doubtless far exceed a hundred.

The vessel drifted around three times and finally was beached broad-side on the rocks at the mouth of the harbor. She is still burning and will be a total loss.

The British vice admiral, Sir Ashton Curzon Howe and Admiral Fisher directed the rescuing boats which did gallant work in saving those who were yet alive and bringing the bodies of the dead ashore.

Captain Littler's body; which was terribly mutilated, was landed this afternoon. The other bodies were also mutilated and buried.

Fifty-six of the injured are being cared for in the hospitals. One of the rescued passengers

gave a graphic account of the disaster.

"The Sardinia," he said, "left Valetta at 9:45 this morning. We were just outside the harbor and the crew were securing the anchor when the cry of 'fire' was heard. Flames could be seen issuing from a ventilator on the port side. A hose was promptly brought up and a stream poured down the ventilator, but this did no good. In less than ten minutes flames were streaming out of the other ventilators. The whole vessel amidship was wrapped in flames. The Arab passengers were told to leave the hatch to which they clung desperately, but they refused to move. All who remained forward perished, except some of those who leaped into the water.

"In the meantime, naval pinnaces hurried to the scene. They could not approach closely on account of the high seas and falling sparks. The great majority of the European passengers succeeded in reaching shore. The Arabs, among whom were many women and children, clung together shrieking, and but few of them would jump overboard although urged to do so.

"The ships boats were rendered useless by the flames, and no attempt was made to get them over the sides. Soon the hatches were blown off with loud explosions, throwing the Arabs into the air and killing and injuring many of them. After a few minutes had been spent in trying to put out the fire nothing remained but to jump over-boards."

The cause of the disaster is known. Unquestionably explosions occurred, as it was first believed that the rapid spread of the flames was due largely to the flowing naphtha.

From Locomotive to Pulpit.

Spencer, Nov. 29.—Mr. C. E. Lumsden, of Spencer, a highly regarded locomotive engineer on the Southern Railway, with a run between this place and Monroe, Va., has left the cab for the pulpit and has entered Rutherford College for a thorough preparation for the ministry. Mr. Lumsden is prominent in the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and is well known up and down the main line of the Southern. He has given much thought to the matter and decided only recently to prepare himself for the ministry before asking for admission into the Methodist Conference. Mr. Lumsden makes the third man to leave the railroad service at Spencer during the past few years to enter the ministry, the other two being Rev. W. P. Campbell of Seven Springs, and Rev. C. E. Hyper of Cleveland, who are meeting with success.

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