

## AFRO-AMERICAN CULLINGS

Improved housing conditions and increase in individually owned homes have decreased the death rate among Negroes in the United States 3.9 for each one thousand population, in the last census decade, according to a bulletin on Negro mortality soon to be issued from the bureau of the census at Washington.

In an area representing 19.7 per cent of the total Negro population of the United States, from which comparative figures were available, the department found that in 1910 the death rate among Negroes was 25.5 to each one thousand population, while in 1900 the rate was 29.4.

The decrease in death rate among the Negroes of the prescribed area was greater than the decrease in white deaths, although the death rate among whites is much lower than that of the Negroes, from 1900 to 1910.

The mortality rate for all races is greater in southern cities than in northern, the report shows, but every city in the South except Memphis and Key West showed a decrease in deaths in the last decade, owing to improved housing conditions.

It is discovered that the diseases which prove most fatal to Negroes over the country are malaria, all forms of tuberculosis, pneumonia and whooping cough. The other diseases and causes of death, including accident, homicide and suicide, are more evenly distributed among the whites.

One of the chief causes of the decreased death rate among the Negroes in the South is believed to be an increase of 31.4 per cent in home ownership. That increase, along with improved sanitary and housing conditions, is believed to have been in direct ratio with the abatement of dangerous epidemics.

The idea of having their own church, with their own pastor, with a Negro presiding elder and a Negro bishop, appealed to the Negroes many years ago, and everywhere there were free Negroes the church rapidly spread—into New England, into Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, Missouri and the West.

A church was started in New Orleans in 1848. In fact, the church in that city was the first one started in the South. After the Civil war, however, this organization grew by leaps and bounds.

Soon it took not one bishop, or two, but six, then ten, then twelve and now fifteen to supervise the work. Churches were organized in every state in the Union and these at once became centers of great uplifting influence for the newly emancipated people. The preachers became the recognized leaders, so regarded by both races, and much of the progress of the Negro is due to their intelligent and unselfish aid.

But not only in America has the African Methodist Episcopal church been active, but in Africa, South America and the islands. As early as 1820 Daniel Coker, one of the members of the first meeting in 1816, went to Liberia, West Africa, and started a church. In 1824 a minister named John Gordon went to Jamaica, Cuba, British Guinea, South America, Sierra Leone and Gold Coast West Africa, Cape Colony and other parts of South Africa. So great has the foreign work grown that it is now looked after by resident bishops. Bishop J. Albert Johnson is resident bishop of South Africa, and has his headquarters at Capetown. Bishop William H. Heard, a native of Georgia, is bishop of West Africa, and has his headquarters at Monrovia.

Six hundred and ninety-one names have been added to the roster of the colored Y. M. C. A. as the result of a six-day membership campaign which came to a close last night, says the Washington Star. The organization has set out to obtain 500 members in six days, and at an enthusiastic meeting last night received the reports of the various teams, which showed that this number had been exceeded by nearly two hundred. The total number of memberships provided for in reality will be in excess of seven hundred, as a number of Washington business men, headed by H. S. Omohundro, promised to contribute one membership for every ten over five hundred brought in by the campaign workers.

John R. Hawkins, general chairman of the campaign committee, presided over the closing exercises, which were held in the gymnasium of the colored Y. M. C. A., Twelfth and T streets northwest. The festivities opened with a banquet, after which the various membership teams made reports. Early reports indicated that the 500-membership goal would be reached.

The families most closely tied by relationship in St. Louis are those of the Heuers and the Johnsons. Harry Heuer, who is soon to be married to Bertha Johnson, will be the fourth Heuer brother to marry one of the Johnson family. In addition, Minnie Heuer, a sister of the four brothers, is married to John F. Johnson, a brother to the four Johnson girls.

The coal required for one journey between New York and Liverpool by a modern liner would fill 22 trains each made up of 30 ten-ton cars.

Resenting the criticism against colored people made by Professor William Starr Myers of Princeton university, in a lecture at the Academy of Music on February 27, several leaders of that race met at Washington and formed a committee to conduct a campaign against defamers of their race there. The campaign will be carried on by ministers, lawyers, physicians and business men, as well as by all the associations of colored people in Brooklyn.

The statement which aroused the indignation of the colored people was that in which Professor Myers said: "A Young Men's Christian association leader of the South said he estimated that 98 per cent of Negro men in some localities of the South are immoral, and that the percentage of the immorality of the Negro women was as great." He is also reported to have said that "the ballot and whisky are the two great curses of the race. The Negro race is not merely an inferior race; it is a backward race. Even the educated Negro is nothing but a grown-up child."

As a consequence of this, the colored people are determined to disprove what Professor Myers said. The Citizens' club and the Carleton branch of the Y. M. C. A., as well as other organizations of colored people, will act together in this matter.

The first move will be to hold a mass meeting at the Academy of Music, at which prominent colored people will speak. The people in charge will also try to obtain as speakers one or two white men of influence to uphold their side of the case.

The program committee in charge of the arrangements for the meeting is headed by Rev. Dr. A. P. Coles. R. M. Merony, superintendent of the Carleton branch, Y. M. C. A., is secretary. Before going actively into direct opposition to Professor Myers, Secretary Merony was instructed to write to Professor Myers and have him confirm the statements he made, as reported in the newspapers the day after he lectured. Among those who were present at the meeting were Rev. W. M. Moss, G. F. Miller, W. H. Jones, W. A. Lee and George E. Wibecan, president of the Citizens' club.

Rev. Dr. S. Parkes Cadman of the Central Congregational church and Park Commissioner Raymond V. Ingersoll have already signified their intention to address the mass meeting for the colored people, if possible.

White men and colored men alike are being fed daily at the dinners which the Ebenezer Baptist church in Chicago, one of the largest churches with a congregation of colored people in the city, is providing for those whom winter and war depression in business have thrown out of work. In fact, the whites outnumber the blacks by four to one at the hour of the free meal served five days a week by the women of the church, according to those in charge. The dinners, which are substantial and well cooked, cost the church about \$20 a day to feed about 350 men. This is a service which the church tries to give for one month out of every year, says the pastor, Rev. John F. Thomas. Last year 3,752 white men and 1,002 colored men, in all, were fed. One of the white churches of the city which carries on a similar work bars colored men from its charity; but Rev. Mr. Thomas' committee of women welcome anyone who is penniless and hungry, regardless of color, creed or race.

The erection of a monument to the memory of Lucius Harkum, colored, who for 52 years was a nurse at Freedmen's hospital, was proposed by Rev. Simon P. W. Drew at funeral services at the Cosmopolitan (colored) Baptist church, Washington. Interment was at Harmony cemetery.

In his sermon Doctor Drew said it was proposed to have a nationwide campaign, and when funds have been obtained to erect a monument in front of the hospital. Tribute was paid to the nurse by Doctor Drew, who characterized him as one of the four great characters of the Civil war. Others who spoke were Dr. D. E. Wiseman, Dr. T. A. Johnson, Rev. P. Samuel, Rev. J. N. Beaman, Rev. Charles H. Parker, Rev. A. Barton and Rev. John Davis.

The custom has been started in some western cities of printing the maiden name of a woman after that of her husband in the directory.

A few are geniuses. Others inherit their bad manners and their disagreeable dispositions.

The Sarino (Ontario) Canadian says that "Thomas Collins of the first concession of Biddulph township, who is ninety-nine and one-half years old, has just commenced taking music lessons."

Much of the best wallpaper is made in part from leather waste.

A century ago only 300 species of orchids were known, and these very imperfectly. Now the latest authority gives the number of known species as 19,000.

## AID PLAN IS OUTLINED

FUNDS NOW AVAILABLE FOR WORK ON PUBLIC HIGHWAYS.

Secretary of Committee Says Married Men Will Be Employed First in Expenditure of Rockefeller Fund.

Western Newspaper Union News Service.

Denver, Colo.—The committee appointed by Governor Carlson to settle the unemployment problem in Colorado has already made his plans for the distribution of the funds given by the Rockefeller foundation for road work in the state, according to Albert A. Reed of Boulder, secretary of the committee.

In a statement Reed said: "The committee on unemployment and relief is arranging with the commissioners of several counties, including Las Animas, Huerfano and Boulder, to offer work on the public highways of those counties."

"Preference will be given to heads of families and residents of the locality where work is offered."

"Funds are now available and the plans of the committee will be executed as rapidly as conditions permit."

"We are assured of the hearty and sympathetic cooperation of county officials and with favorable weather many men will soon be provided with employment."

The reasons which impelled the committee to make representations to the Rockefeller foundation were explained by Reed. He told of the investigation of the committee with regard to the destitution now existing in the state and into the possibilities of finding immediate relief.

Neither the several counties nor the state had funds immediately available, he said, and immediate aid was necessary.

Cover State With Six Inspectors.

Denver.—Six state inspectors, working in as many different sections of the state, may be delegated the duties now vested in several score of inspectors attached to various departments, if a plan being considered by Governor Carlson is carried out. The inspectors also would have police powers and in addition to their other duties would be expected to see to the enforcement of the present laws of the state and the new prohibition law which becomes effective next January. Governor Carlson believes that such a plan, which would be modeled in some particulars after the Canadian mounted police system, would not only be practicable, but a substantial financial saving to the state. It can be effected under the statute giving the governor authority to suspend offices and boards in the state government.

Restores 95,000 Acres in Colorado.

Denver.—Secretary of the Interior Lane has made an order designating 95,000 acres of non-irrigable lands in Colorado under the enlarged homestead act. This order becomes effective May 10, 1915. The lands affected lie principally in Routt and Rio Blanco counties. In Colorado Secretary Lane has recommended to the President the restoration from coal withdrawal of 111,893 acres of withdrawn land. This land, 108,954 acres of which have been classified by the Geological Survey as non-coal and 3,939 acres as coal, is in western Colorado in the Grand mesa and West Elk mountain coal fields.

Livestock Expert to Aid Denver.

Denver.—Colorado's livestock industry, and the growth of Denver as a livestock market, are expected to receive a strong impetus through the decision of the United States Department of Agriculture to send an expert to Denver and Colorado to investigate the present methods of marketing livestock, and to make recommendations for betterment of conditions. Word that such action will be taken was received by Governor Carlson from C. J. Brand, chief of the office of markets and rural organization of the Department of Agriculture.

550,000 Acres of Land Taken Up.

Denver.—More than half a million acres of land—550,000 acres, to be exact—have been taken up by homesteaders and others through the United States land office at Lamar, since Sept. 1 last. There were 1,920 separate and distinct entries; in other words, figuring a family of five for each one of the entrants, southeastern Colorado's population has been increased by not less than 9,600 persons in seven months.

Must Pay State Militia Vouchers.

Denver.—Attorney General Farrar has handed down the opinion that, under the laws of Colorado, the vouchers issued to the troops called into the service of the state last October in Trinidad must be paid.

Governor Names April 16 Arbor Day.

Denver.—Governor Carlson has issued a proclamation setting aside Friday, April 16, as Arbor Day in the state of Colorado. In the proclamation the governor says, "School officers are urged to prepare appropriate exercises inspiring in the children a love for trees and shrubs. Each householder should add some attractive plant life to his yard or grounds and patriotic and civil organizations should begin planting trees to still further beautify our public parks and highways."

## ITALY COLLECTS BIG WAR FLEET

AGREEMENTS MADE WITH SERBIA AND BULGARIA MAY PLUNGE ALL BALKANS IN THE CONFLICT.

## PRINZ EITEL INTERNS

"I MUST SAVE MY CREW" IS EXPLANATION OF OFFICER, WHO GIVES UP SHIP.

Western Newspaper Union News Service.

On the Italian Frontier, April 8.—The warships of the Italian fleet departed suddenly on Monday from the Mediterranean naval stations at Spezia, Gaeta and Maddalena Island. They concentrated at Augusta, Sicily, and at Taranto. They are thus within a few hours of the Adriatic.

The departure of these warships caused a profound impression, particularly at Spezia, where until last Sunday the harbor was crowded with dreadnaughts, cruisers and torpedo boat destroyers, while the town was filled with officers and sailors.

Italy now has the finest fleet in her history. It is headed by several new dreadnaughts, of which the most formidable is the Conte de Cavour, which corresponds in the Italian navy to Great Britain's Queen Elizabeth.

The future movements of the fleet are veiled with absolute secrecy. It is asserted that only the King and one or two of the highest government officials are acquainted with the plans decided upon.

London.—A furious assault on the German positions between the Meuse and the Moselle is being made by the French in continuation of their offensive movement. The official communications from Berlin mentions attack after attack, and says these onslaughts were repulsed with "extraordinarily heavy" losses for the French. The official statement from Paris gives few details of the fighting, although it is claimed that ground was gained in some instances.

The Berlin statement says the Germans abandoned the village of Drei Gretchen, which they had captured from the Belgians, on account of the fire from heavy artillery, to which it was subjected.

Newport News, Va., April 8.—Commander Thierichens of the German auxiliary cruiser Prinz Eitel Friedrich asked the United States government, through port authorities, to intern his ship and crew.

Up to the last moment the German skipper kept up the appearance of being ready for a dash to sea, and, when the time for decision finally came, he explained that failure of "expected relief" to arrive had made it necessary to intern rather than "deliver crew and ship to fruitless and certain destruction by British and French warships waiting off the Virginia capes."

House Passes Long Appropriation Bill.

Denver.—Just before recessing Wednesday the lower house of the State Assembly passed on third reading the long appropriation bill for expenses of the state government for 1915-16. It carries a total of \$1,555,591.19, divided among the legislative, executive and judicial departments. Two years ago the long appropriation bill carried \$1,677,549.72.

MURDERED FOR COMPANY'S CASH

Frederick C. Matson's Body Found in Lonely Shack Near Army Post.

Denver.—Frederick C. Matson, 24 years of age, for six years a resident of Englewood, was shot to death early Tuesday night in a lonely shack near the Fort Logan reservation, after he had given a desperate battle to the murderer in a vain effort to protect his own savings and the money entrusted to his care by his employers. The lifeless body of the young man was discovered Wednesday afternoon. Matson was an employe of the Abbott & Schaberg Lumber Company, with main yards in Englewood. He was in charge of a branch yard in Logan town, near the tracks of the Morrison branch of the Colorado & Southern railroad. He lived in the small office at the yard, and it was there his body was found. The youth was killed with his own revolver. Two bullets fired by the slayer entered his body and one shot, which passed through his heart, is declared responsible for his death.

Lineman Is Electrocuted.

Grand Junction.—R. Gell Burson, an electrician employed by the Grand Junction Electric, Gas and Manufacturing Company, was electrocuted while repairing an arc light in the Rio Grande railway yards.

Ardourel Gets Black Hand Threat.

Denver.—Representative Ardourel received a Black Hand letter declaring that "You will be killed when you at least expect it." It was mailed, according to the postmark, in Chicago, Canal station, April 5.



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