

The Population of the World's Greatest Cities

IF THE returns of a census taken by the police of Buenos Aires were to be considered reliable, that city, which is by far the largest city south of the equator, would stand sixth among the cities of the world, in population.

The new count in the Argentine metropolis places the number of inhabitants at 2,310,000, in round figures, and that is believed to be enough to outrank all other cities except five.

The five which are conceded greater in size are London, New York, Paris and Chicago, of course, with the fifth place apparently left in doubt between Berlin and Tokyo. Probably the Argentine capital admits the larger population of the German metropolis but denies that the chief city of Japan is also bigger than Buenos Aires.

By any fair method of counting the residents of great cities, the truth is that Buenos Aires must be ranked below both Berlin and Tokyo. The true position of the Argentine capital appears to be seventh instead of sixth among the world's largest centers of population.

When the real dimensions of the greatest cities are made the basis of census-taking and arbitrary divisions between the central municipalities and their contiguous

suburbs are ignored, the actual figures will give London about 7,700,000 inhabitants, New York nearly or not quite 7,200,000, Tokyo 5,200,000, Paris 4,500,000, Berlin 4,000,000 and Chicago 3,200,000.

These figures ignore the city limits fixed by legal boundaries, long since out of date. They deal with the actual extent of immense centers of population, all of which are in truth much bigger than their official size, as shown by census records. Buenos Aires, given like credit for its full extent, may have 2,500,000 or possibly 2,600,000 residents.

It will be seen that the Argentine metropolis is still far from standing sixth among the great cities of the world. As the seventh, however, it seems to be secure for a long time to come, perhaps longer than it will require for Buenos Aires to overtake Paris or Berlin.

The nearest city below is apparently Philadelphia, with about 2,200,000 population at present, close suburbs included, but growing much less rapidly than Buenos Aires. There is no smaller city within a million of the Argentine capital which is gaining as rapidly as that great center of urban life, foremost in the southern half of the earth.

Prediction of a Glacial Age Twenty Thousand Years in the Future

THAT ANOTHER great ice age or glacial period will befall this world again is the prediction recently made by Ellsworth Huntington, famed geographer, explorer and research associate of Yale University. The only relief in sight for this impending catastrophe is, so far as we are concerned, that it wouldn't happen in anything less than a period of twenty thousand years.

While conducting his investigations to find out if there are daily variations in the sun's output of energy which might not be caused by the positions of the planets, it occurred to him that long-period variations in the sun might be caused by the positions of the stars.

This scientist believes that the planets influence the sun by reflecting part of the sun's electrical radiations back into the sun. The stars, of course, would affect the sun by the influence of their own radiations, for the stars send out light, heat and electrical radiations just as our own sun does.

Other scientists agree that one of the most likely causes of a glacial age would be a falling off in the energy radiated by the sun.

Such a falling off might take place if the sun was subjected to the bombardment of electrical rays from near stars, according to Dr. Huntington. He asked two well known astronomers, Dr. Schlessinger of Yale and Dr. Shapely of Harvard, to help him compute the courses of the nearest thirty-eight stars for the last seventy thousand years and the coming seventy thousand years.

The calculations show that five of these stars reached their closest to our sun twenty-five thousand years ago. That was the time when the last ice age took place.

The calculations show further that seven of the

stars will reach their closest positions to our sun sometime between seventeen thousand and thirty-four thousand years in the future.

That's how Dr. Huntington is able to predict another ice age somewhere in the remote future not less than twenty thousand years hence.

THREE MEN TO RULE NORTHERN AUSTRALIA

AN ATTEMPT to make the northern territory self-supporting is embodied in a government bill, which proposes the appointment of a commission of three members, with salaries of thirty thousand dollars a year, to administer the tropical area above twenty degrees latitude, which henceforth, will be called North Australia, says a recent Melbourne item. The commissioners will reside at Darwin, and will be empowered to construct railways and telegraphs and provide water supplies and to conduct the general development on the lines already approved by the federal government. The bill gives the government authority to appoint "a government resident" to administer Central Australia as a separate state under federal direction.

If the divine is faithful, man also must be faithful; if it is free, man also must be free; if beneficent, man also must be beneficent; if magnanimous, man also must be magnanimous; as being then an imitator of God he must do and say everything consistently with this fact. — Epictetus.

There are all kinds of autos but they all get the same brand of inspiration at filling stations. And there are all kinds of churches, but if they amount to anything they, too, must all patronize the same filling station. — Olexographs.

A character is like an acrostic... read it forward or backward, or across, it still spells the same thing. — Emerson.