

CROP OF BABIES FAST DECLINING

Rapid and Constant Decrease in the Birthrate of Oregon.

WASHINGTON IS LIKE HER

Formerly Leading the Nation in Natural Increase, Oregon Leads in Decrease of Ratio—Doctor Tells Cause.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, Sept. 10.—The Census Bureau through a recently published bulletin, calls attention to the fact that the birth rate is declining in Oregon faster than in any other state in the Union, and Oregon, which only 46 years ago held the record birth rate of the United States, is now rapidly nearing the foot of the list. In 1860 the birth rate in Oregon was nearly double that in the entire United States. Five years ago, according to the last census, Oregon had fallen below the general average, and well below almost every other state in the West, California excepted.

Oregon, a good Roosevelt state on political issues, seems to disagree with Mr. Roosevelt on the race-sterile question, for Oregon is tumbling from its lofty position to the foot of the list at a rate which, if kept up for two more decades, will place Oregon behind every other part of the country in this important respect.

Unfortunately, Professor Walter F. Willcox, of Cornell University, the author of the census bulletin, does not take up and discuss the change in birth rate of the various states. The census bulletin throws no light on the Oregon situation, other than is conveyed in mere figures, but these figures tell the story by results, leaving the causes to be brought out by local authorities.

Figures Tell the Story.

As the figures tell the story, some citations will be made from the report of Professor Willcox.

In 1860, when the average birth rate in the United States was 64 (that is, when there were 64 children under 5 years of age to every 1000 females between the ages of 15 and 49), the birth rate in Oregon was 106, the record for the entire country. Utah was a close second with a rate of 98, more than one child to each potential mother. In the State of Washington the rate was just 100, or one child to each potential mother. There was no census in what is now Idaho in 1860, but ten years later the census reached into that territory, and a birth rate of 75 was returned, or three children to every four potential mothers.

Forty-five years later, or in 1900, at the time the last census was taken, the average birthrate in the United States had declined 25 per cent and stood at 47, but Oregon failed to equal that low average. Where in 1860 she had nearly doubled the higher average of the entire country. According to the last census the birthrate in Oregon has fallen to 45, an actual decrease of 61, or a fall of 61 per cent in 46 years. This is a greater actual decline and a greater percentage decline than in any other part of the United States, and it is also to be noted that it is an almost steady decline from the first. Oregon, with its famous climate that tends to produce long life; Oregon that boasts of its centenarians, is now held up to public gaze in another and less creditable line, and the worst of it is the new reputation is borne out by actual facts and figures.

Washington Nearly as Bad.

Take Washington. The record of that state is not to be applauded. It is almost, but not quite, as bad as Oregon's. Back in 1860, when there was a child for every woman between the ages of 15 and 49 (which is not saying that every woman between those ages was possessed of one lone child), Washington stood third on the list of states as to birth rate, being ranked only by Oregon and Utah. Since then there has been a gradual decline, until, according to the census of 1900, the rate in Washington is only 48, five below the general average for the United States. True, the rate of decline has not been so great as in Oregon, nor has the actual decline been so great, but there has been a falling off of 51 in actual numbers, or 53 per cent. It is therefore apparent that Washington is pushing Oregon a close second, and is forging ahead in a frantic effort to get into the race suicide communities.

Other States Rank Lower.

It is to be noted, however, that there are any number of states where the birth rate is lower than in Oregon or Washington. Pennsylvania alone excepted, there is not a state on the North Atlantic or New England coast but whose birth rate is way below that of Oregon. In fact, the present average birth rate for New England is only 37. In the Middle Atlantic States the rate grows larger, still further increases in the Southern States, and when you get over into the farming states of the Middle West there is a still more appreciable increase. North Dakota is now the leading state in point of birth rate, but the record there is away below the old Oregon and Washington record of 1860. It is only 69, and North Dakota heads the list, the District of Columbia brings up the tail end. Here in Washington the birth rate is 50.

Then there is Idaho, which is neither a record-breaker nor a slouch. In 1870, the time of its first census, the rate was 71. It has fallen but 5 per cent, for the last census showed it to be 66—away above the general average, in fact a rate that is exceeded only in North Dakota, Oklahoma and Indian Territory.

Dr. Billings' Explanation.

Professor Willcox does not himself enter into a discussion of the causes of the decline in the birth rate, but quotes from a paper by Dr. John Shaw Billings, a recognized authority, in which the subject is handled boldly and some very pertinent opinions are expressed. Here is the quotation:

"Does this diminution in birth rate indicate a progressive diminution in fertility, in the power of either sex to produce children? There is no good reason for thinking so. It is true that it has been suggested that alcohol, tobacco and syphilis are producing a

deterioration of force which is in part responsible for the change, but of this there is no evidence. So far as we have data with regard to the use of intoxicating liquors, the fertility seems to be greatest in those countries and among those classes where they are most freely used.

In the lessening birth rate due to changes in the mode of life of the people, such as the progressive increase of migration from the rural districts to the cities, the increase of wealth and luxury, the so-called 'emancipation of women,' etc.?"

General Knowledge of Physiology.

The first is the diffusion of information with regard to the subject of generation by means of popular and school treatises on physiology and hygiene, which diffusion began between 30 and 40 years ago. Girls of 20 years of age at the present day know much more about anatomy and physiology than did their grandmothers at the same age, and the married women are much better informed as to the nature and number of children may be limited than were those of 30 years ago. To some extent this may also be true as regards the young men, but I do not think this is an important factor.

The second cause has been the growth of the opinion that the abstaining from having children is a mark of a superior character, and that only the most refined, or contrary to the usual forms of religious creeds, but that it may even be under certain circumstances commendable.

The third cause is the great increase in the use of things which were formerly considered luxuries, but which now have become almost necessities. The greater temptations and expenditure for the purpose of securing or maintaining social position, and the corresponding greater cost of family life in what may be called the lower middle classes, lead to the desire to have fewer children in order that they may be each better provided for, or, perhaps, in some cases, from the purely selfish motive of desire to avoid care and trouble and of having more to spend on social pleasures.

Independence of Women.

In the struggle for what is deemed a desirable mode of existence at the present day, the women are being driven to the same end as the men. The greater temptations and expenditure for the purpose of securing or maintaining social position, and the corresponding greater cost of family life in what may be called the lower middle classes, lead to the desire to have fewer children in order that they may be each better provided for, or, perhaps, in some cases, from the purely selfish motive of desire to avoid care and trouble and of having more to spend on social pleasures.

Birthrate Will Still Decline.

If the view of the case is correct, the birth rate will not only continue low in the United States as compared with former years, but it will probably become lower. On the other hand, so long as the present tendency of the people to aggregate in cities continues, as it is likely to do until our coal supplies begin to shrink perceptibly, with a corresponding increase in the cost of power for purposes of manufacture and transportation, so long as the death rates are likely to increase, and, therefore, the rate of increase in population due to excess of births over deaths will diminish.

This state of things has occurred before in the world's history in certain regions, as, for instance, in Southern and Western Europe during the decline of the Roman Empire, and if the increase of population had not been checked, as it then was, the world would now be overcrowded.

It does not appear to me that this lessening of the birthrate is in itself an evil, or that it will be worth while to attempt to increase the birthrate merely for the sake of maintaining constant numbers in population, because to neither this nor the next generation will such increase be especially beneficial. But considered as one of the signs of forces which are at work to modify the existing conditions of society, and some of which appear to be of evil tendency, this diminution of the birthrate merits careful consideration by statisticians, sociologists, politicians and all who are interested in the physical and moral well-being of the inhabitants of this country.

Hood's Sarsaparilla cures acrofolia, salt rheum and all other troubles caused by impure blood.



AWARDED

Grand Prize
Louisiana Purchase Exposition, St. Louis, Paris 1900, Buffalo 1901, Chicago 1893.

The most complete assortment of **GOOD SHOES** in the Pacific Northwest. New Fall styles now on sale.

ROSENTHAL'S
149 THIRD ST.
Between Morrison and Alder
SOLE AGENTS
For These Celebrated Shoes

The Manual Training Voting Contest Begins Today

Fathers and Mothers, what are you doing for your boy?

Are you letting him just drift along in the rat-attending school when it is in season—then three or four months of play—then back at school again—the same old routine—studying the same things the other boys study, regardless of whether he is making the progress he ought to make?

Or are you watching his development carefully, keeping in close touch with his school work, his play and his leisure occupations generally—in short, are you giving the same close attention to your boy's physical, mental and moral development that you're giving to your business or social duties?

THIS STORE GIVES THREE FREE SCHOLARSHIPS IN THE American Manual Training School

THAT WILL HELP SOME—Read particulars in Sunday papers.

Bargain Pickups

- From the Small-Wares Shops—1st Floor.
- White Pearl Shirt Buttons
- Two or four holes, one dozen buttons on card, all sizes; special at, the card... **5c**
- Omo Zouave Detachable Dress and Corset Shields.
- In all sizes; our 65c value, special at **49c**
- "20th Century" Needle and Pin Books.
- Our 10c value, special at, each... **7c**
- Geneva Silk Finish Thread.
- For hand or machine use, 500-yard spools, in black only, size O or A; our 10c value, special at, each... **7c**
- Fancy Shell Back Combs.
- Our 15c value, special at, each... **10c**
- Felt Shoe Polishers.
- Reversible, used instead of cloth or brush; our 25c value, special at, each... **15c**
- Sunshine Shoe Polish.
- In tubes, for all kinds of fine black leathers, easily applied; 25c value, special... **19c**
- Fine Imported English Perfumes.
- In bulk, violet, rose, clover blossom, lilac, pink and heliotrope odors—we furnish bottles; our 50c value, special at, or **25c**
- Violet Perfumed Talcum Powder
- Delicate and refreshing; our 10c value, special at, the box... **4c**
- Clear Glycerine Toilet Soap.
- Large size cakes; our 10c value, special at, the cake... **7c**
- Fancy Lace Edge Shelf Paper.
- In all colors, 10 yards to piece; our 5c value, special at, the piece... **3c**
- Plain White Japanese Crepe Paper Napkins.
- 100 in package; our 15c value, special at, the package... **10c**
- Whiting Victoria Initial Box Writing Paper.
- Initial embossed on each sheet, all letters.
- Plain white paper with envelopes to match; our 35c value, special at, box **19c**
- "Lewis and Clark" Box Paper.

FASHION IN Dainty New Laces

- First Floor.
- Narrow Mechlin Edges and Insertions—Priced at, the yard... **10c to 25c**
- New Maltese Laces and Insertions—Priced at, the yard... **12 1/2c** up to **25c**
- Irish Crochet Edges and Bands—Priced up from, the yard... **45c**
- With allovers to match.
- Beautiful Black Chantilly Edges and Insertions—Priced at, the yard, up from **10c**
- Net Top Venice Laces—In cream or white—bands and insertions to match—priced at the yard, from... **15c** up to **\$2.50**
- Allovers to match.
- Persian Bands—In great variety. Some in embroidered braid effects; priced at, the yard, up from... **75c**
- Some in embroidered velvet effects; priced at, the yard, up from... **\$1.00**
- Some Beautiful Embroidered Edges—one-half inch wide; priced at, the yard **75c**
- Some wider, priced at, the yard... **\$1.00**
- New Laces in Persian Effects—Priced at, the yard, up from... **75c**
- Stunning New Spangled Trimmings, in black or white; priced at, the yd., up from **50c**

FASHION IN SMART AND Beautiful Neckwear

- First Floor.
- Newest Fancies in Windsor Ties—Silk Windsor Ties, with large polka dots and borders to match dots; very well price, each... **\$1.25**
- Dotted Crepe Windsor Ties—In all the new shades and black and white; price, each... **\$1.00**
- Very Beautiful and Dainty Lace Chemisettes in a variety of different styles; all prices up to... **\$5.00**
- Elegant Feather Boas—Every one made of genuine ostrich feathers, in black, white and colors; price, each, from... **\$15.00** up to **\$50.00**

Olds, Wortman & King Store Bulletin

"The Different Store," Fifth, Sixth and Washington Streets

Store Opens at 8 A. M. THE FOREMOST DEPARTMENT HOUSE WEST OF CHICAGO Store Closes at 6 P. M.

Overflow News of the Week's Doings at Portland's Foremost Store.

You read yesterday's full page of sparkling news from the store—Wasn't it brimful of interest? But a page couldn't hold it all—there's more to tell you this morning—and much remains untold. Come and let us tell it to you here. Store gossip is full of intense interest these new Autumn days—be sure you don't miss a bit. Of course the most important subject talked on now is Fashion. We believe with Fielding that Fashion is the great governor of the world. It presides not only in matters of dress and amusement, but in law, physics, politics, religion and all other things of the gravest kind. Indeed, the wisest men would be puzzled to give any better reason why particular forms in all these have been at certain times universally received, and at other times universally rejected, than that they were in or out of fashion. Hand in hand at this store walk Quality and Price with Fashion. The highest quality with the lowest price. Come and see.

MONDAY SPECIALS IN Housefurnishings

- Third Floor.
- Today we open a new line of White China to be sold in sets or separate pieces, medium weight, neat shapes, strong and tough, equal to Haviland China in looks, but stronger, less liable to break and about one-half the price. Everything for the table.
- CLOCKS
- New black and antique finish Mantel Clocks; val. up from **\$3.75**
- New Gold Finish Clocks for all purposes, prices very reasonable.
- Good Nickel Alarm Clocks, spec. at **59c**
- SALAD SETS 75c.
- New old-blue Salad Sets, 13 pieces; special at, the set... **75c**
- ART CHINA.
- French, Austrian and Belek Art China for decorating, thousands of articles to choose from, many new shapes and designs.
- SOUVENIR CHINA 10c.
- Oregon, Portland and Fair illustrations, thousands to select from; values up from... **10c**
- LIBBEY'S CUT GLASS.
- The name Libbey on a piece of Cut Glass guarantees best quality of glass, perfect cutting and designs that reflect and give brilliancy.
- AMERICAN PORCELAIN DINNER SETS

Fine Fall Millinery At Modest Prices

"Bijou" Salons—Annex, Second Floor. This store is famous for its handsome millinery, its elegance, refinement and exclusiveness. While society leaders of wealth do not hesitate at the prices asked by some of the "exclusive" (?) millinery establishments, all recognize that the intrinsic value of some hats never warrants their fancy prices. Any style can be and is copied after a short season. While in our own workrooms we copy many imported styles, our expert trimmers have a creative genius of their own and our millinery has a distinctive elegance that belongs to the store as much as does the building itself.

Portland women await with eager interest the first showings of this great "Style Store."

And the enthusiasm increases with each day as the season advances. This year our millinery folk have fairly outdone themselves in their magnificent and charming selections. The exclamations of delight and flattering encomiums that reach our ears daily are ample proof that the new hats have made a tremendous hit. Many of the styles are confined locally to this store, and no other Portland house has the artists to successfully copy them. "Cheap" stores are never allowed the selections we choose, but have to content themselves with our "discards"—hats YOU certainly don't want. We invite your inspection today, whether you have buying in mind yet or not. Here are the correct and authoritative styles with no more to pay than you would be asked by stores of absolutely no standing in the style world, for inferior productions of questionable parentage. Choose as you will.

93c to \$50.00 Each

You're sure of the best at any price.

Royal Worcester CORSETS

CORSET SALONS. Second Floor—Annex. Come, see our showing of New Fall Models in Royal Worcester Corsets and "Bon Ton" and Sapphire Corsets. These all have the new, long-waist effect, long back and high bust. Be properly fitted in one of these models by one of our expert fitters before trying on new Fall gowns; or come in and get posted before buying. We will gladly show to you these new models and explain all the good points about them. They are priced at, each, from \$1.25 up to... **\$30**

NEW IN INFANTS' AND CHILDREN'S WEAR

In Baby-to-Miss Shop—Second Floor. Daily shipments bring us many new lines of infants' and children's wear. Yesterday we received a large shipment of children's Bonnets of silk, velvet, crushed plush and bearskin, in white and dainty, pretty colors, richly trimmed with furs, laces, chiffons and ribbons. They come in many styles, conspicuous among which are the full front, Dutch and French effects. Prices range from, each **25c** to **\$25.00**

New Lines of Infants' Slips, Kimonos and Nightgowns, Buggy Robes, Booties and Baby Baskets.

Wool Blankets

Fourth-Floor Stores. A Great Display of White and Colored Wool Blankets. Just now is a good time to put in a good supply of warm Wool Blankets for Winter use. Our stocks are full and complete, and you can find here just what you need and must have.

Comforters

Warm, light Comforters, filled with pure white cotton, covered with pretty fancy fig. Same as above but wool filled; priced at, each, **\$1.25**, **\$1.45**, **\$1.75**, **\$2.00**, **\$2.25**, **\$2.50**. Same as above but wool filled; priced at, each, **\$4.00** to **\$5.00**. Real Elderdown Filled Comforters; priced at, each, **\$5.00** to **\$25.00**.

Flannelette Night-Gowns

FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN. Second Floor—Annex. We are now showing a full line of ladies' and children's Flannelette Gowns, in dainty stripes or plain blue, pink or white. They are prettily fashioned and finished with cord, frogs, braid, silk floss and lace. Ladies' Gowns are priced, each, from... **65c** up to **\$2.25**

PETTICOATS FOR LADIES.

We have just received another large shipment of ladies' black and colored Petticoats in all the newest and best styles, in regular sizes. We also have a full line of these Petticoats in extra large sizes—SEE THEM.

GOOD NEWS FOR HOUSEWIVES—GREAT SPECIAL SALE OF

Irish Point Lace CURTAINS

Fourth Floor. Irish Point Lace Curtains, about 25 different styles to select from; with from two to 36 pairs of a kind in the lot. Most of these curtains are samples, or curtains that have been used for display and are slightly soiled or mused from handling. We place them on sale for one week only at big reductions. Our \$2.50 values, special at, the pair... **\$2.00**

The Olds, Wortman & King Sewing Machines Are Unequaled.

Free Embroidery Lessons Given in the "Art Stitchery Shop," Second Floor Annex

New in Art Goods For Fancy Work

Art Shop—Second Floor, Annex. You will now want to start in on your fancy work for the holidays and we are fully equipped in every line and can furnish you with anything you may want. We are pleased to have ladies visit our Art Shop and examine all the new things in fancy work. One of the newest things in embroidery is the Hedebro work. We have a fine showing of Cushion Tops and White Linen, stamped in new and handsome designs. All kinds of New, Fancy Braids and Point Lace Patterns. We are headquarters for Brainard & Armstrong's Embroidery Silks, the finest made, uniform in shading and fast color. Free Embroidery Lessons Given Daily.

Overflow News of the Week's Doings at Portland's Foremost Store.

You read yesterday's full page of sparkling news from the store—Wasn't it brimful of interest? But a page couldn't hold it all—there's more to tell you this morning—and much remains untold. Come and let us tell it to you here. Store gossip is full of intense interest these new Autumn days—be sure you don't miss a bit. Of course the most important subject talked on now is Fashion. We believe with Fielding that Fashion is the great governor of the world. It presides not only in matters of dress and amusement, but in law, physics, politics, religion and all other things of the gravest kind. Indeed, the wisest men would be puzzled to give any better reason why particular forms in all these have been at certain times universally received, and at other times universally rejected, than that they were in or out of fashion. Hand in hand at this store walk Quality and Price with Fashion. The highest quality with the lowest price. Come and see.

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