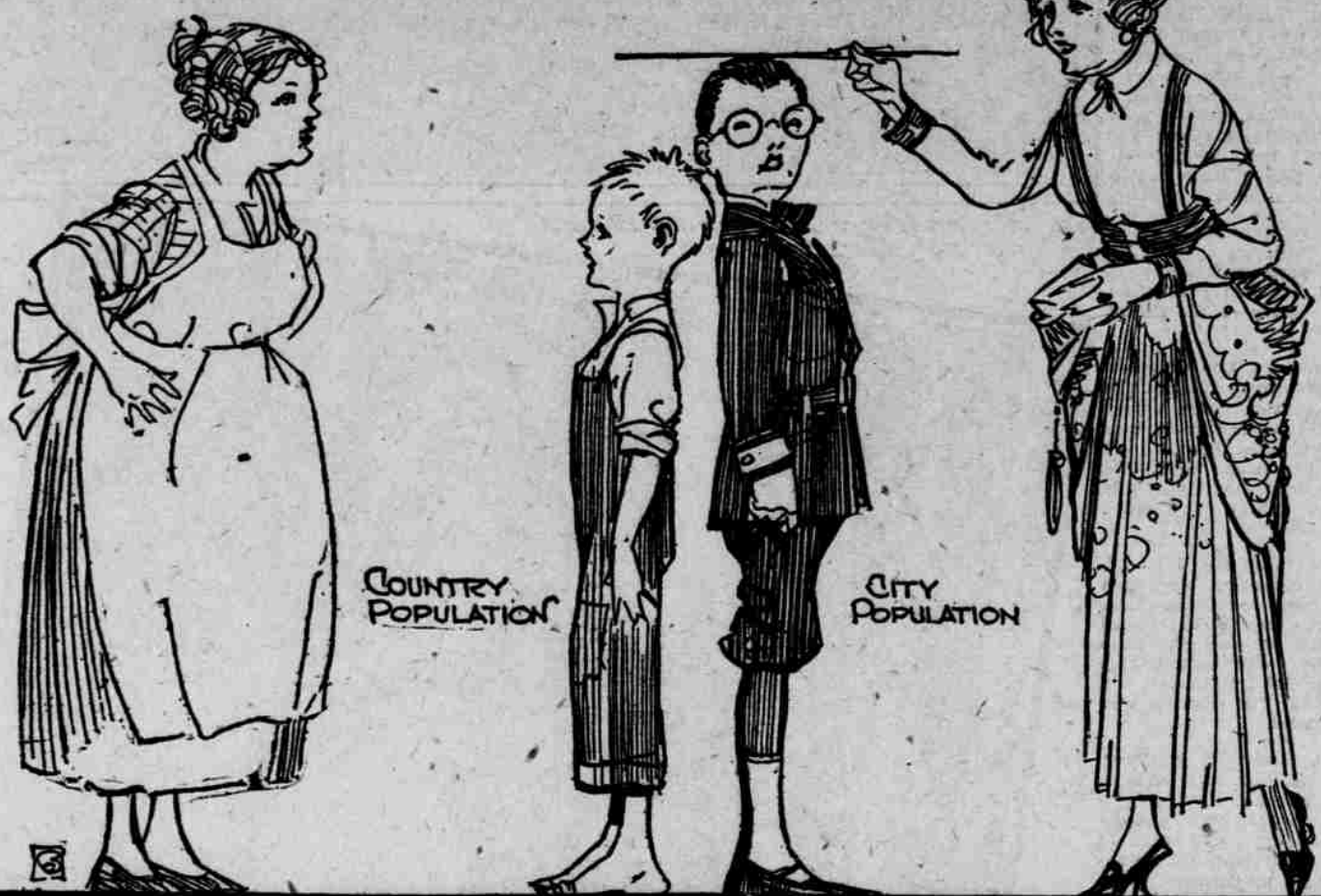


Startling Facts About Uncle Sam's Family

How the States Stand Today in the Race for Population Leadership, and Why Cities Are Growing Up Seven Times Faster Than the Suburbs Explained by the Census.



For the First Time in American History Urban Population Has Outgrown the Rural.

Numerically Speaking, Uncle Sam is 22 Times Bigger Than He Was 130 Years Ago.



In Ten Years, While the Number of American Farmers Has Decreased, Agricultural Products Have Increased.

distances in the dimensions of the United States the movement of the center of population seems very confined. The longest jump, which was made in the sixties, was due largely to the great boom in the west at that period and the rush to California. On the whole the movement, both as regards to location and rate of travel has been remarkably regular.

The census to our writer, Clark B. Firestone, in an article entitled "The Alarm Bell of the Census," says just three things:

1. The cities are building up at the expense of the countryside.
2. The older American stock is not increasing, but going the other way.
3. The country is filling up mainly by immigration.

Not the losing battle of the rural population also the losing battle of the native American stock in the small towns?

In the typical American to be defined as a man who had a European grandfather and who will have no grandchildren—a lamp snuffed out in five generations? Is his motto to be, "After me, nothing at all?"

"The farmers are more than reproducing themselves," says Mr. Firestone, "and their present problem is

At the fifth clank, our guest arose, went over to it, and shook it.

That seemed to quiet it, but not for long. Soon it began again, with a steady irregularity, if you know what I mean. Now our guest had lived in furnace-heated houses all his life and didn't understand radiators.

He theorized about the noise, but couldn't account for it. There were no moving parts inside. He was sure of that. How then, could it clank? The only way was to find out.

He was loath to awaken the family and ask any questions. Besides, he had unlimited confidence in his own investigating ability. He lighted the light and twisted the little jigger at the end of the radiator. A cloud of white steam shot up into his face and the radiator put forth an entirely new sort of a clank, accompanied by a low and hateful hiss. It was apparent that twisting the little jigger hadn't helped much.

But the guest was not a man to be lightly brushed aside by a mere radiator. He hunted vainly through the kitchen of the apartment for tools, but couldn't find any. Then he went downstairs, woke up a taxi driver who was asleep in his cab, and for a dollar rented from him a Silson wrench.

A Silson wrench is a sort of mechanical alligator with steel teeth. Plumbers use them to destroy nickel-plated bathroom fixtures. Taxi-drivers and chauffeurs carry them because they are useful in arguments with other chauffeurs.

This Silson wrench he carried to the guestroom and began his investigations. It was about that time I

heard him and came in to find out what was the matter.

When I saw him twisting the pipe that fed steam to the radiator I protested and offered to call the janitor. But he said he knew more about machinery than a thousand janitors, and that he was going to find out what was the matter or know the reason why.

After the third twist the thread of the pipe grew wobbly, and the low and hateful hissing that had come from the little jigger was shifted to the joint. It became louder and louder as the twisting proceeded.

And then to his astonishment and my horror his friend was shot like a projectile over an adjacent table with a cloud of nice white steam following on behind.

He wasn't badly burned, as I discovered subsequently. I didn't have time to find out then. I was too busy trying with a table cover to plug the hole out of which extremely hot water was gushing freely.

I intended to call the janitor when that job was finished, but that was unnecessary. The people in the apartment below called him to inquire why the plastering was all coming off the ceiling. If they hadn't called him the fire department would have done so. They dropped in shortly afterward to ask why smoke was pouring from our windows.

We shall pay for the repairs, probably. Our guest disclaims responsibility. He says he stopped the radiator from clanking and that was all we could expect him to do. He had done it, too. That radiator never clanked again, for when it landed in the dining room it was so badly bent that the janitor took it away.

Assembling Census Figures on an Electric Tabulating Machine.

doing all the time. The chronic shortage in farm labor is partly met by the enlistment of men and women from the cities for harvest tasks, and this movement is growing.

"Nothing, however, can make up for the failure of the older American stock—the families with blood and traditions that reach back to and beyond the Revolution, to reproduce themselves. National life is largely the product of the experience of successive generations."

Paul W. Brown, editor of America at Work, sees nothing alarming in the decrease of the rural population, which in this age of machinery, he says, is not followed by decadence. A comparison of the census of 1910 with that of 1920 gives ample fact for Mr. Brown's statements. For example, the statistics of three agricultural states, Illinois, Iowa and Missouri, show that with fewer farmers larger crops are being produced today. Between 1900 and 1910 the male farm population of these three states fell from 1,261,401 to 1,235,363, a loss of 2.6 per cent, but the production of corn, wheat and oats for five-year periods rose from 4,839,000,000 bushels to 5,941,000,000, a gain of 21 per cent.

A New Light on Farm Labor. That thousands of Americans have moved from the country to the city does not mean, Mr. Brown believes, that the rural regions are retrograding, or that the farmer is deteriorating, but only that the introduction of machinery on the farm has released great numbers of hands for equally useful work in towns and cities. Countries that have lost population are generally the productive ones, not those stricken with poverty; and coincidentally with the decrease has come a great increase in the bulk and quality of farm produce, both vegetable and animal.

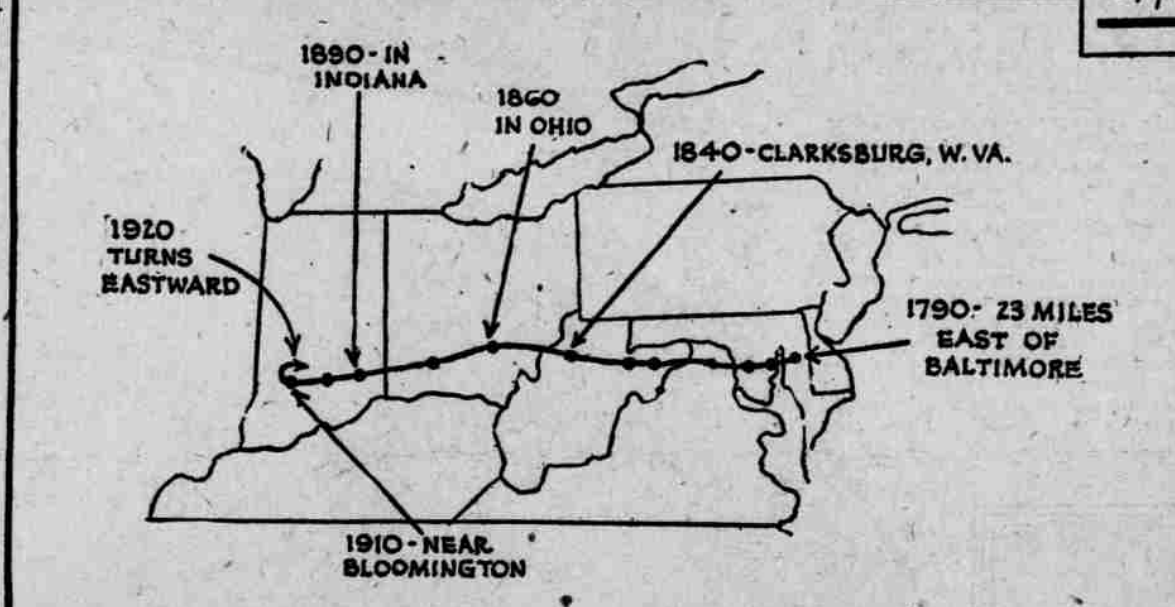
"Rural population has declined," Mr. Brown explains, "simply because the work of providing grain, meat and fruits for human consumption, producing animal and vegetable fibers, and supplying the draft animals needed in agriculture, manufacturing and the world of travel and pleasure, has become from year to year and from decade to decade better organized, better equipped and more intelligently performed. In consequence it has been possible for the farms of the nation—recognized as splendid nurseries of men as well as of other useful animals—to release in increasing numbers, in proportion to population as a whole, choice young men to be turned into mechanics, workers in transportation, commercial men, business executives, technical experts, teachers, physicians, lawyers and preachers."

"The American progressive farm home today has a player-piano in the parlor and a talking machine of the latest improved model. There is a central heating plant, an electric light plant for house and barn, a water system with modern sanitary plumbing, and an automobile in the garage."

"And the human energy which has achieved these things for the farm home has been drawn from the farm itself, which, meanwhile, under the spur of better methods, better equipment and better management, is producing more grain, more milk and butter, more meat and more fruit with fewer workers and far less drudgery."

Luxemburg "Army" Numbers 181. THE HAGUE.—The question of increasing its "army" now numbering 175 men and six officers, to perhaps 2500 men to meet possible requirements for police duty under the league of nations, is generally disturbing the parliament of the tiny nation of Luxembourg. Some opposition to joining the league at all developed on the ground that such an army would bankrupt the nation and rob industry of necessary labor.

Brazil to Have Women Teachers. RIO DE JANEIRO.—Women will be eligible for all teaching and administrative posts in the newly organized University of Rio de Janeiro, according to a regulation just drawn up. Motion to give the students three representatives on the university council was defeated.



The Center of Population After Extending Westward as far as Bloomington, Ind., Has Turned Eastward for the First Time on Record.

15 per cent. Thus the population of the country may be assumed to have been augmented by about 1,100,000 during the decade through excess of immigration over emigration. The two estimates taken together would indicate therefore a probable population of 105,890,000, or only a small fraction of 1 per cent more than the total shown by the returns of the 14th census.

"The figures of the present census also show that the trend of population from the country to the city has become greatly accentuated since 1910 and that, for the first time in the country's history, more than half the entire population is now living in urban territory, as defined by the census bureau. That is to say, of the 105,893,108 persons enumerated in the 14th census preliminary tabulations show that 54,818,209, or 51.9 per cent are living in incorporated places of 2500 inhabitants or more, and 50,865,899, or 47.1 per cent, in rural territory."

"The increase since 1910 in the population as a whole, as before stated, was 14.9 per cent, but during the decade there has been an increase in that portion of the population living in urban territory of 12,192,826, or 38.6 per cent, and in that portion living in rural territory of 1,518,016, or only 3.1 per cent, and if the comparison is extended to cover the two classes of rural territory, it appears that that portion living in incorporated places of less than 2500 inhabitants show an increase of 1,745,371, or 21.5 per cent, whereas that portion living in purely country districts shows an actual decrease of 227,355, or six-tenths of 1 per cent."

The great increase in the urban population at the expense of the rural is held to be responsible for the turning eastward of the center of population. The checking of the western movement and its return to the east is attributed also to the great industrial growth of the eastern centers due to the war. Since the war there has been a marked tendency throughout the west to return to eastern cities.

Since the first census was taken in 1790 the theoretical point of center of population has been moving steadily westward, reaching Indiana in 1890, where it has since remained. The census of 1910 showed the center of population to be near Bloomington, Ind. It is extremely significant that the movement of population should not only have been suddenly checked, but should have reversed the natural tendency to move toward the great area west of the Mississippi. From this fact it could seem that instead of occupying the great western country the population is returning in large numbers to eastern cities.

The center of population has always remained well east. The first census developed the fact that the center of population lay in 1790 some 25 miles east of Baltimore. The present

QUEST OF CURIOUS PHENOMENA OFTEN CARRIES ONE TOO FAR

Investigation of Radiator Noises That One Doesn't Understand, for Example, May Lead to Disaster.

BY JAMES J. MONTAGUE.

WE've just had a visit from a man who doesn't like noises that he cannot understand. We took him when he was a boy and knew him when he was a man, but he didn't find out, but the experiment started him on a career of investigation which will carry him a long way—probably as far as jail if he persists in it. At all events there are members of the family who hope so.

Now, to make a necessary digression, radiators, under certain circumstances, make noises. The plumber who puts them in will assure you that they are equipped with silencers, and could not in the still watches of the night begin to clank like the chains on lost souls, if they tried to. The janitor of the apartment will swear that he's inspected 'em all, and that he'll stake his life, his fortune and his sacred honor on their good behavior. Of course of these commodities he only has his life, which you do not regard as valuable, so you do not take the bet.

But, anyway, you sometimes believe him, and so your faith in janitor nature is shaken when just as the noises on the street outside are subsiding, the radiator pipes up its own song. There are noises and noises, such, for instance, as the carol of birds, the rattle of musketry, and the banging of a radiator. The last is the worst of the lot, or of any other lot. It is doubly disturbing, because it is not regular.

The average noise is dependable. It comes in regular cycles. You know when to expect it. A pneumatic riveter, for example, will tell you to sleep life soft music as soon as your ear drums get sufficiently calloused so you can stand it at all.

But the radiator is spasmodic. It clanks two, three or four times, and then relapses into silence. Just as you think it is a union radiator and has gone off the job, it begins again—not steadily but now and then—just often enough to wake you up when you doze off.

I never knew why it preferred to clank at night—but it is probably due

