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PROSPERITY AND SUICIDE.

Once upon a time men believed suicide to be the result of a morose disposition, but when statistics were carefully gathered and it was learned that among the gay and cheerful French there are more suicides in proportion to population than among the British races, the theory had to be abandoned...

The Chicago Tribune for a long series of years has kept count of suicides recorded in the press and the figures may be taken as reliable. It gives the record for the last four years as follows: 1899, 5340 suicides; 1900, 6755; 1901, 7245; 1902, 8291.

Of the dreadful list it is noted that in 67 cases was the suicide attributable to monetary losses or disasters in business. Of the other causes it is said dispendence ranks first; above one-tenth are traced to domestic infelicity, 433 to ill health and 25 to "disappointed love." Fully one-third left no clue to the cause for self-murder, while "liquor" accounts for 139.

A notable feature of the list of the last year the ratio of the sexes in suicide was five men to one woman, but in 1902 for some unknown reason the women took to suicide in such large numbers that the ratio stands three women to every five men. In other words, about three times as many women committed suicide last year as in the previous year.

Dr. Arthur Macdonald of the United States bureau of education, who has made a careful study of the increase of crime and other abnormalities in American life, attributes the evil to the growth of luxury among the people. Statistics indicate that those states of the Union which have the greatest wealth, social ambition, education and intelligence have also the greatest amount of suicide, crime, insanity, nervous diseases, juvenile criminals and almshouse paupers. He is reported as saying:

"The haste of civilization, involving many transition periods, puts an abnormal strain on the nervous system, as compared with the muscular system. Thus the electric car, automobiles and the telephone make people exercise less and think more. A reaction has set in already through the development of systems of physical culture. The increase of wealth, with the luxuries of the table, has tended to overeating, which, in connection with lack of exercise, has its evil effects, and doubtless produces an additional reaction on the nervous system."

Some of the details of the statistics collected by Doctor Macdonald are interesting. The Philadelphia Record says:

"They show that the deaths from alcoholism, per million of population, are far more numerous in New-York, San Francisco and Boston, in the order named, than in Philadelphia. The rate for New York is 219 and here 92. In suicides per million San Francisco is far ahead of any other city, with 237, followed in order by St. Louis, Chicago, New York, Boston and this city, where the rate is 82. Deaths from alcoholism and suicide are far more common in Philadelphia and New York than in their respective states, and the rate of alcoholism is far higher in the rural districts of the country than in the cities, but in suicides there is not much difference; the rate in cities is 9.25 per million, and in the rural districts, 8."

"It is a growome subject, but it seems inevitable that as civilization advances and becomes more intense the number of those who are incapable of sustaining it increases. Thus the rush of property hurries to ruin many who

could well have borne the disasters of hard times. In the end, of course, men will learn how to live more wisely, but until that time comes we must expect to pay the penalty of trying to crowd a lifetime into a year.

The action of the salmon packers of the Columbia river in appointing a permanent committee to negotiate with representatives of the fishermen's union is indeed significant. In past years canners and fishermen, whose interests are inseparably allied, often worked at cross purposes, and the friction arising over differences regarding the price of raw material operated to the disadvantage of each class. On the one side were the fishermen, strongly bound by their union, and on the other the packers, each operating independently of the other. Now the packers are associated together for mutual benefit, and the appointment of their committee indicates that they are anxious to be fair with the men who provide the supply of salmon. The employe is as much entitled to consideration as the employer, and it is gratifying to note that this sentiment is spreading so rapidly. Canners and fishermen are entirely dependent on each other, and through the medium of arbitration committees their interests will be materially advanced. Five years ago the ordinary employe had little regard for the welfare of his employe, but now we find our wealthiest men all over the country offering inducements to the working man to better his condition. The great steel trust only recently made provision for the sale of a considerable portion of its stock to the men who are employed by it, and the example thus set promises to be quite generally followed. The organization of labor is to be thanked for this new order of things, under which a workman is afforded an opportunity of acquiring something more in this world than a scant existence.

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INDIANS ARE RESTLESS.

Foared That Starving Redskins May Cause Trouble.

LANDER, Wyo., Jan. 9.—The Arapahoe Indians are in a starving condition. Not a day passes but a band is in town begging. The Indians raised no crops this season. They have no rations issued to them by the government as their treaty expired last year. If they get desperate they will, it is feared, kill stock of settlers and serious trouble may follow.

DENOMINATION RENAMED.

Protestant Episcopal Will Be Changed to American Catholic.

GUTHRIE, O. T., Jan. 9.—A resolution to change the name of the Protestant Episcopal church to the "American Catholic Church," introduced in pursuance of a suggestion from the annual convention at San Francisco, passed during one session of the territorial convocation, was reconsidered at the concluding session and tabled until the next annual meeting.

BOY ACQUITTED.

Irresponsible Youth Cruelly Murdered His Stepmother.

COLUMBUS, O., Jan. 9.—Herman Boerschers, aged 13, who last October shot and killed his stepmother, Gerhard Boerschers, and with the assistance of younger brothers burned the body in a straw stack, has been acquitted by a jury on the charge of murder because of the moral irresponsibility of the boy and his youth.

FUNERAL OF VICE-CONSUL.

PARIS, Jan. 9.—The arrangements for the funeral of Edward P. McLean, the United States vice and deputy consul who died Wednesday night of pneumonia, have not yet been completed, as Consul-General Cowley is awaiting advice from Judge MacLean of New York, brother of the deceased. The only daughter of the late Mr. MacLean, who is now here, desires the interment to take place in Paris.

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