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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1902.

With Bryan and "Teddy" addressing the people from the rear end of trains next campaign, it ought to be a strenuous one.

The doctors have improved their record. The latest is 150 graves robbed in Indiana. But this is a small per cent of those they have filled by reason of the negligent and experimental work.

It would seem that King Alfonso is not so crazy after all. There has been method in his madness all along. His desire to marry the American girl was commendable and it turns out that his mother's past life was not such as made her the fit associate of a king.

The report that the strike is about to end is a good one. It pleases the entire country. While both sides have committed grave errors, all of these will be forgotten if the matters are settled. But if a settlement is not reached very soon there will be long and bitter things harbored against the wrong-doings of both sides.

And now the school teachers of Chicago are going to form a union. The next thing will be a teachers' merger. But still, if there is any class on earth that needs protection it is teachers. They do more work and receive less pay than any other class that devotes its life to the good of the world and its education.

The anthracite mining strike is becoming more far-reaching every day in its effects. Schools have been compelled to close in Rhode Island on account of scarcity of coal and the approach of winter is already causing alarm in many of the large cities. But the Northwest Pacific country is not alarmed. She has timber, in spite of the forest fires, to furnish fuel and new coal fields are being opened up that will supply the country ere long at reasonable prices.

While this section of the country never realized that there had been a serious money pinch, yet it is announced that the serious pinch is over. This is certainly good news. While Wall street and the East go wild over those kind of things, the great Pacific Northwest never feels them. It seems to be true, especially, that the great Inland Empire will never feel a depression in the money market, anywhere, her resources are so wonderful.

Now that the British American tobacco trust has been formed and proposes to control the tobacco trade of Europe, it gives a chance for the passage of an international law on the subject. The trusts have rote enough shod over state and government laws and they ought to have a chance at an international law. They are the biggest things on earth and they ought to have a chance to show their strength to its full limit.

Every few days the reports come of sailors trying to make their escape from vessels and not infrequently they jump overboard in the harbor of the different ports and lose their lives in trying to gain their liberty. Reports are also as numerous as the arrival of foreign sailing vessels of the cruelties to sailors on the high seas. They are knocked down and cuffed about by drunks and cruel officers and the slightest resistance on the part of the sailors means the

irons and bread and water. With the advancement of civilization and humanity the cause of the sailor is most neglected. His life is necessarily a mental one, but there is no reason that he should be made a slave. The vilest slaveism of ancient and modern times has never excelled that that exists in sailor life today. While humane societies and governments are relieving the distressed of all lands, more attention should be given to the cause of the slave on the high seas.

So Carrie Nation got into trouble at Yale. Carrie seems to imagine that she can take her little hatchet into any place and raise any kind of Cain, but Carrie, nor none of her stripe are desired anywhere. The Yale boys did the right thing. The sooner the cranks and fanatics are crushed throughout the country the better. There is no longer any room for those who blockade the channels of industry and commerce. They should be shoved aside like so much chaff or driftwood. Yale is usually right.

**CENSUS REVELATIONS.**

Among the minor statistics of the late census are some that are of considerable interest on account of the revelation they make of certain facts in our social organism that are not readily perceived when society is considered in the mass. The careful count of census taking brings out these exceptional instances and by aggregating them shows they fill a much larger place in our life than is generally supposed.

The practice of what may be called "infant marriage" is evidently much more common in the United States than any casual observer would suspect. For the census enumerators found 667 boys under 15 years of age who were married, and 3785 girls married under that age. There were 33 widowers and 126 widows of the same tender age, and, moreover, there were seven divorced boys and thirty divorced girls who at the time the census was taken were not yet 15 years old.

Another revelation with respect to marriage is that in proportion to the male population more men get married in Illinois than in any other state in the union, the proportion of married men to males over 15 years of age in that state being nearly 58 per cent. No explanation is offered by the Census Bureau for this superior readiness on the part of Illinois men to take upon themselves the bonds of matrimony, but probably the consciousness that ready relief from the yoke is always to be found in the divorce courts of Chicago may have something to do with the fact.

Of all the states Texas has the largest number of women who marry under 15 years of age, and also the largest number who are divorced. It would appear from this that an early marriage is a pretty sure forerunner of an early separation. Marry in haste and repent quickly seems to be the rule there. Still while Texas has a larger absolute number of divorced women than any other state, the percentage of divorced women in proportion to population is less in that state than in the territories of New Mexico and Arizona, Alaska, however, takes the lead in this respect, for 1.3 per cent of all the women found in that territory told the census enumerators that they have been divorced.

A third interesting feature of the population statistics is the revelation that there were among native born Americans over 10 years of age 1,471,332 who could not speak the English language. Of these only 180,000 were Indians, Chinese and Japanese. The remainder were of white races. They were of course the children of foreign immigrants who have not learned our language. It is to be noted, however, that the native born of foreign parentage is eager to acquire our language, and while the total number of those who have not learned it is large, still in proportion

to the total number of such children it is by no means extraordinary.

A final feature of significance is the birth rate. With the exception of the Germans and the Italians the civilized races appear to be diminishing in reproductive power. The recent census in Great Britain shows that the birth rate there decreased from 30 to 31.57 per thousand during the past 30 years. In France the decline has been much greater. In the United States the birth rate is even less than in Great Britain, amounting in 1900 to only 27.2 per thousand.

What is more significant is that the statistics show that the average annual increase of population through excess of births over deaths in the decade, 1890-1900, was 36.5 per thousand for the class born of foreign white parents, and only 19.5 per thousand for the class born of native white parents. In the northeastern group of states the disproportion between the two classes was even more striking; the rate of increase for the foreign class was 39.6 and that for the native class 3.8. In the New England states it appears that the native stock is actually declining, its death rate exceeding its birth rate by 1.5 per thousand, while in the foreign population the birth rate exceeded the death rate by 44.5 per thousand.

Such statistics show that while the sun of prosperity is shining most brightly upon our country, it is not without dark spots upon its splendid surface. Probably, however, there are some who do not look upon a declining birth rate as an evil. The economist, for example, may even rejoice that wealth is increasing faster than population, and look upon it as an evidence that the millennium is coming.

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