

# POPULATION CENTER

## Likely to Remain Within the State of Indiana.

### Indications Are That the New Census Will Not Move It Far—Wickersham and Nagel to Report on Alaska.

Washington.—Some spot in Indiana probably will mark the center of population of the United States for another ten years. It is worth while to emphasize the word "probably," because there is not available at this time very much definite information on which to base speculation as to where the center of population will be.

The officials in the census bureau who have access to the population returns refuse to speculate at all. Outsiders without a great deal of information in hand on which to base an opinion are disposed to predict that the "center" will not move very far from the point six miles southeast of Columbus, Ind., where it is now established.

The census figures so far made public show that there has been an enormous increase in population in the southwest during the last ten years. The northwest has also grown rapidly in population. If one examined the returns from the southwest and the northwest without taking into account the fact that the east has also increased its population within the last ten years, he would be inclined to say that the center of population would be pulled a considerable distance westward.

A fact worth bearing in mind is that the increases in population in the east particularly have been in the larger cities, and it is true, of course, that there are more large cities in the east than in the west. Another fact that will undoubtedly have a bearing on the "center of population" is that the millions of immigrants who have come in during the last ten years have nearly all camped in the eastern section of the country.

By the census of 1900, the center of population is in the following position: Latitude, 39 degrees, 9 minutes, 36 seconds. Longitude, 85 degrees, 45 minutes, 84 seconds.

This particular spot, as is generally known, is at a point six miles southeast of Columbus, Ind., and is marked by a monument. In the ten years from 1890 to 1900, the center of population moved westward 16 minutes and 1 second, or about 14 miles, and southward 2 minutes and 20 seconds, or about 2 1/2 miles.

It is a comparatively easy matter to ascertain the center of population after the total count of the people of the country is known. This total count for the thirteenth census will not be known before the 1st of October, and possibly not before the 1st of November.

### Center Moves Westward.

The center of population has moved almost due westward since 1790, when it was at a point some 23 miles east of Baltimore. From 1790 to 1800, it moved almost due west to a point 18 miles west of Baltimore. In the next ten years, from 1800 to 1810, it moved westward and slightly southward to a point about 40 miles northwest by west of Washington, D. C. That slight deviation toward the south was accounted for by the annexation of the territory of Louisiana. From 1810 to 1820, it took up its march westward again, with another slight deviation to the south, and brought up 16 miles north of Woodstock, Va. In the ten years between 1820 and 1830, it continued to move westward until it halted at a point about 19 miles southwest of Moorefield, in what is now the state of West Virginia.

Between 1830 and 1840 there was a slight movement northward and the "point" was located 16 miles south of Clarksville, in the present state of West Virginia. In the next ten years, 1840 to 1850, it moved west and slightly southward again and halted 23 miles southwest of Parkersburg, in what is now West Virginia. Between 1850 and 1860 there was a second slight bending toward the north, and it reached a point 20 miles south of Chillicothe, O.

The sharpest turn northward was between 1860 and 1870, when it reached a point 48 miles east by north of Cincinnati. During the succeeding ten years, between 1870 and 1880, it veered to the south slightly again and reached a point eight miles west by south of Cincinnati.

In the next ten years it moved back to practically the same latitude it occupied in 1870, and in 1890 was located at a point 20 miles east of Columbus, Ind. During the ten years between 1890 and 1900 the "center" moved westward a little less than three miles, and as has already been stated halted at a point six miles southeast of Columbus, Ind. This movement between 1890 and 1900 was the smallest in one hundred years.

### FEDERAL IRRIGATION INQUIRY.

E. Dana Durand, director of the census, is seeking the advice of all persons possessing first-hand knowledge of the subject of irrigation with a view to devising a schedule of inquiries which will elicit adequate information concerning the extent and effect of that system of reclaiming land for the purpose of agriculture. This census or investigation was ordered by congress in act amending the census law passed last February. Under its provisions the director is ordered to ascertain the area of irrigated lands in the arid regions of the country; whether such irrigation is carried on under state or federal laws; the prices at which irrigated lands, including water rights, are obtainable; the character and value of crops produced upon them; the amount of water used for an acre; the situation of the various irrigation enterprises, together with a description of their methods of construction, their physical conditions and the amount of capital invested therein.

In taking the agricultural census, the field work for which has just been completed, the census office furnished the enumerators with a supplementary schedule relating to irrigation. These questions, however, did not develop all the information asked by congress, and nine different schedules are being prepared for special agents of the census bureau. In connection with these new schedules the director is asking the advice of government and state officials, corporations, experts and the special agents themselves, who have been selected because of their special fitness to do the work.

### INVESTIGATING ALASKA AFFAIRS.

Washington.—Attorney General Wickersham and Secretary of Commerce and Labor Nagel have not gone to Alaska for their health. What may be termed the "Alaskan situation" is giving President Taft much concern. He desires that these two members of his cabinet shall sift to the bottom numerous controversies with respect to the government of the territory.

After they have studied the situation first hand he wants them to tell him what they think of his plan of having congress install the commission form of government up there. He wanted congress to provide this new form of government at the recent session; at his suggestion Senator Beveridge, chairman of the senate committee on territories, introduced a reorganization bill, but so much opposition developed that the legislation was temporarily abandoned.

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Information concerning the documents has been wired to the secret service branches at Portland, San Francisco, New Orleans, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Charleston, Savannah, Key West and New York, the chief ports of entry in the United States.

### Bank Notes Antiseptic.

Washington.—To the Old National Bank, of Spokane, Wash., belongs the distinction of circulating the first antiseptic National bank notes. The United States treasury is experimenting with devices intended to launder dirty bank notes into bright, crisp new ones, but the Spokane bank has the first sanitary money on record. Fifty thousand dollars in bills just put out by the bank were signed with an ink that consisted largely of carbolic acid.

### Forest Service Delays Reply.

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### Troops to Aid Indian Officials.

Washington.—The War department has telegraphed the commanding officer of the troops at Republic, Wash., to render all assistance to the Indian officials in combating the flames on the Colville Indian reservation.

### Wickersham Says the Territory has More Coal than Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Ohio; more gold than California and Colorado put together, and more copper than Montana and Michigan. The prize is the greatest within the gift of the United States, he asserts.

### WILL NOT LOSE PRESTIGE.

Columbus, Indiana, Will Remain Center of Population.

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The returns received to date indicate a fairly even growth in all directions from the present central point.

Only a small percentage of the total population has been announced thus far, but enough is shown by the general trend to justify some generalizations. Probably the most important of these is that the Eastern states are holding their own to such an extent that the "pull" of the West will not be sufficient to disturb greatly the present equilibrium.

Up to date the full population of only two states, Rhode Island and Oklahoma, one east and the other west has been announced. The increase in Oklahoma, amounting to 109 per cent over the population of the same area in 1900, is phenomenal, and is due to its attainment of statehood and to the opening of new and rich territory. The same conditions do not exist elsewhere, for even though Arizona and New Mexico are coming in as new states, neither presents the attraction of Oklahoma in the way of newly available soil. Many sections of the West, however, will do credit to the traditions of that region. The state of Washington will make a marked gain in all districts. Portland, Or., is sure to make a big showing.

Of all the Southern states, Texas will make the best showing.

### STATE DEPARTMENT PLEASSED.

Officials Favor Estrada, Who Protects American Interests.

Washington.—While official dispatches were lacking, scarcely any doubt remains in Washington that the Madriz forces have been crushed in Nicaragua and that General Juan Estrada, leader of the insurgent, has succeeded Madriz as temporary president.

Only the staunchest adherents of Madriz believe that his cause is not yet lost. Dr. Barrios and Sebastian Salinas, Madriz commissioners to Washington, refused to believe the reports from Managua and Bluefields of the Madriz reverses.

They contend that even if Granada had fallen, another battle would be necessary before Managua could be taken. Instead of Madriz having fled to Corinto on the coast, they declare he is fighting at the head of his army and for that reason alone he has deposited his power with Jose Dolores Estrada, a brother of the leader of the insurgents but not a follower.

State department officials declined to discuss the developments. It is known that they are pleased with the reported downfall of Madriz, and that they look with favor on General Juan Estrada, whose treatment afforded to American interests along the coast has been the subject of praise repeatedly.

### LOGS MENACE NAVIGATION.

Government Asked to Prevent Careless Rafting in River.

To devise some means to prevent millmen and towboat operators from permitting hemlock logs to escape from booms, Superintendent Groves of the Port of Portland dredges, will confer with the Corps of Engineers, U. S. A.

In the past week four logs have been hauled from the channel, two in the Willamette river and others in the Columbia, and four or five others have been located and will be removed at once.

"These logs are bound in the rafts with a rope, so that the butts will float, as the base of the hemlock will sink at once on being freed," said Captain Groves. "It appears that when rafts are taken in tow the friction, caused by the moving of the logs, soon severs the rope and they sink. The logs are 20 or 24 feet long and we have found when they rest in 30 feet of water, with the lighter end swaying with the current a few feet below the surface, they constitute a serious menace to navigation. We have suffered in the past from steamers striking them, because it is impossible to know where they are. We hired a diver to place a chain around one last week and when he went over the side and stood on the log, as it floated in an upright position, half of his helmet was above water."

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Vancouver Barracks, Wash.—When asked for an expression of his opinion of the good accomplished by the instruction camp at American Lake, Wash., this summer, General Marion P. Maus, Commander of the department of the Columbia, under whose direction the maneuvers were held, said:

"As far as the National guard is concerned, their instruction has been excellent, and they have shown great improvement, but the regular troops were ordered away to fight forest fires. When I left nearly every company had gone, with the exception of a few stragglers and details. The general opinion is that the maneuver camp was very satisfactory despite the many difficulties under which the instruction was held. The regular troops all had three weeks of good instruction."

"The National guard had their full instruction, except the Idaho regiment, which left one day in advance to fight the forest fires in the Coeur d'Alenes. I am well pleased with the maneuvers as a whole and believe that great good has been accomplished by them."

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Professor Holden, former president of the University of Iowa, is president of the company.

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# GENERAL NEWS OF NATIONAL HAPPENINGS

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### SHOWERS QUENCH FIRES.

Weather Comes to Rescue of Idaho and Montana Forests.

Spokane, Aug. 24.—Light rain began to fall this afternoon in Wallace and other Coeur d'Alene mining towns that have been scorched or threatened by the forest fires, and the weary fire-fighters took new hope. Nothing but a heavy downpour will quench the flames that are eating up the big trees of Northern Idaho, Northwestern Montana and Northeastern Washington, however.

The Idaho militia and United States troops are on the way to do battle with the red invader, but the soldiers can accomplish little more than protection of the threatened towns.

Ranger Kottkey, who with 200 men was reported as missing, is unharmed. He was never near Wallace, as reported, but was near Adair, Idaho, on the Milwaukee. He reached Missoula this morning and reported his men safe, except two packers. Tonight he left Missoula at the head of a party which went to search for missing fighters along the line of the Milwaukee, where it is believed all will, in time, be located.

Ranger Van Dyke, on Independence creek, and Ranger Derrick, at Salsite, Mont., both reported tonight. It had been feared that Van Dyke's crew of 75 men had been cut off.

The most sensational rumors of loss of life continue to be circulated, but it is impossible to verify them and it seems likely that, aside from losses among the national rangers, the number of dead in the three states will not exceed 100.

The known victims of the forest fires number 53, as follows: In and near Wallace, Idaho, 38; in and near Newport, Wash., 8; near St. Joe, Idaho, 6 men, supposed to be forest rangers; at Salsite, Mont., 1.

The Idaho militiamen are on the way from the encampment at American Lake, near Tacoma, to the Coeur d'Alenes. President Taft notified Governor Brady today that he would send to Idaho all the troops available, but that United States soldiers could not be used for police duty. Governor Brady will go to the front tomorrow. None of the towns in Idaho are in immediate danger, it is believed.

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# NEW FIRES START

## All But Three Houses Are Burned at Wendling, Oregon.

### Yacolt, Wash., Menaced, and Every Available Man is On Fighting Line—Camps Burn.

Eugene, Or., Aug. 25.—Fire swept into the town of Wendling from slashings nearby early last night and wiped out all but three houses. Heroic work of 150 employes saved the mills of the Booth-Kelly Lumber company.

When the flames entered the town, the women and children were rushed to Marcola, and later came into Eugene, in charge of A. C. Dixon, manager for the company.

Telephone and telegraph wires between here and Wendling went down early, but a courier arrived shortly before midnight with word that when he left the burning town at 9:30 the big mills were in no immediate danger.

The mill men were then taking their first rest in 48 hours. The company store was saved from the flames, but the bunkhouses, church and school house and all residences in the village were licked up like so much tinder.

The fire started from slashings near the town. Men had been fighting the fire for two days, but, with the high wind in the afternoon burning brands were swept over the heads of the firefighters and within an hour the residence section of the town was in ashes.

While the flames were in progress 75 loggers fought their way through the burning district and assisted in saving the mill property.

A telephone message from Hale at 9:45 last night brought the report that the fire raging along the Wild Cat and over the divide from Hale is not so serious, but grave fears are entertained if the winds rise again.

Three families near Walton were driven out and their homes burned. Those who lost their homes are A. E. Whiteaker, W. W. Lyons and Julian Davies.

Hale also reports a big fire over in the Deadwood country, which destroyed the home of A. Almo.

The stagedriver from Hale to Eugene reports that the fire now raging in that vicinity has a frontage of eight or ten miles. He does not think the stage between Hale and Mapleton can make the trip tomorrow.

### Yacolt, Wash., Aug. 25.—Between 250 and 300 men, employes of the Twin Falls Logging company, of Yacolt, are penned in behind a fire and are unable to reach Yacolt