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CENSUS CUTS PRISON SCORE

Federal Institutions Have an Increase, but State, County and City Jails Show Decrease.

NO INMATES IN 1,390 CITIES

Figures Were Obtained as Preliminary to Complete Decennial Census of Prisoners to Be Taken in 1923.

Washington.—The Department of Commerce announces that, according to returns received by the bureau of the census, the number of prisoners confined in federal penitentiaries, state prisons, county jails, state and county chain or road gangs, city police stations, and other penal institutions on July 1, 1922, was 163,889.

Of this number 5,540 were reported for three federal penitentiaries, 78,673 for 104 state prisons, 44,283 for 2,451 county penal institutions (principally jails), 12,717 for 296 chain or road gangs in certain southern states, and 21,685 for 1,319 city institutions, while the remaining 1,041 were women committed by the courts to the care of other institutions (24 in number), mainly under the control of religious or charitable organizations.

Similar data were collected for July 1, 1917, but the total for that date does not include all prisoners in chain or road gangs, nor women committed by the courts to the care of institutions under the control of religious or charitable organizations. Excluding these from the figures for 1922, the comparable totals for the two years are: 1922, 151,172; 1917, 150,186. These figures include prisoners awaiting trial and a few persons held as witnesses, as well as prisoners serving sentence.

Report Part of Big Census.

The returns were obtained in response to a circular of inquiry which the bureau of the census mailed to the various institutions, as a preliminary to the complete decennial census of prisoners, which will be taken in 1923.

The number of prisoners in federal penitentiaries increased from 3,018 on July 1, 1917, to 5,540 on July 1, 1922. During the same period the number of inmates of state prisons increased from 71,442 to 78,673, and of county jails from 41,871 to 44,283, while persons confined in city penal institutions (including police stations) decreased in number from 23,855 to 21,685.

The data as to prisoners in federal and state penal institutions, presumably, are complete and accurate for both 1922 and 1917. The combined total of persons in such institutions increased from 74,460 in 1917 to 84,213 in 1922 the rate of increase being 13.1 per cent.

The rate of increase in federal prisoners was 83.6 per cent; in state prisoners, 10.1 per cent. The ratio of federal prisoners per 100,000 population increased from 3 in 1917 to 5.1 in 1922, and the corresponding ratio for state prisoners increased during the same period from 72.4 to 74.5.

County Figures Uncomparable.

The returns for counties and cities are not comparable for the two years, for the reason that in each case a larger number of institutions is covered for 1922 than for 1917.

The only fair comparison between the county and city figures for the two years is that made with averages based on the total number of institutions for which reports were received (including those reporting no prisoners).

For county institutions the average number of prisoners decreased from 16.2 in 1917 to 14.7 in 1922, and for city institutions it fell from 10.1 in the earlier year to 8 in the later.

The number of empty county jails and other county institutions decreased from 623, or 24.2 per cent of the total for which reports were received, in 1917, to 570, or 18.9 per cent of the total, in 1922. On the other hand, the number of city institutions reporting no prisoners increased from 1,168, or 49.7 per cent of the total, in 1917 to 1,390, or 51.3 per cent of the total, in 1922.

Washing Fluid Poor Seasoning.

Fall River, Mass.—Walentz Nowacki knew that something was wrong with him when "his stomach began to burn," according to the story he told the South end police.

He bought what he thought was a bottle of vinegar from a neighboring grocery store and later used some of the contents to season his supper. Investigation showed that the fluid he had swallowed was a washing fluid and a stomach pump was put into operation.

Sauerkraut's Pal Hard Hit.

Washington.—High prices for hot dogs have hit Germany, the Commerce department has been advised by Consul John A. Scott at Dresden. The consumer places the blame on the butchers, he says, while the latter condemn the slaughter houses. Beef, mutton and pork have risen more than 100 per cent in the last sixty days, while slaughter-house fees have risen 200 per cent.

Mexican Shoe Industry Booms.

Mexico City.—The younger generation in Mexico is being taught to wear shoes and the "barefoot boy with cheeks of tan" is decreasing in numbers. If statistics compiled by the American chamber of commerce of Mexico are correct. Not only have importations of footwear from the United States increased, it is said, but during the last two years several shoe factories have started in Mexico and all are thriving.

Saved Choking Child.

Marion, O.—A piece of turnip, lodged in the throat, choked Albert Allen, a child in Marion county children's home. He was brought to Marion's new hospital, but the necessary instruments to remove the obstacle were not in the equipment. The child was taken 18 miles to a Delaware hospital, where an operation removed the throat obstruction.

SEEK MISER'S HIDDEN GOLD

Searchers, Encouraged by Finding Small Sums Hoarded, Upset Farm in Missouri.

St. Charles, Mo.—Searchers were scouring the farm of William Schone, seventy-nine-year-old recluse, who recently committed suicide, for hidden wealth.

Schone was reported to be wealthy and distrustful of banks. The searchers were encouraged by several recent findings. William Meers purchased a cupboard from the administrator for \$1 and after taking it home found \$500 hidden in it. He turned the money over to the administrator.

The other day three men found two cans in Schone's shed. One contained \$50 and the other \$52 and \$700 in checks. In a wooden box \$270 was found.

Popular Fiction, 85c

- "Kindred of the Dust" - Peter B. Kyne
 - "Cappy Ricks" - Peter B. Kyne
 - "The Sheik" - E. M. Hull
 - "The Portygee" - Joseph C. Lincoln
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