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POPULATION OF THE WORLD.

Figures Regarding the Number of Souls on the Earth.

Exactly how many people there are in the world it is impossible to say, since no census is taken of many populous countries, like China, while the number of people who live in the jungles of Africa can only be guessed at.

As long ago as 1890, Behm, a leading German authority, estimated the population of the earth at about one billion four hundred million.

In 1880, the same authority set the figures at about a hundred million more. He did not base this new estimate on the natural increase of the people of the world, but explained that more accurate figures and estimates had enabled him to guess more closely.

Two years later Mr. Behm estimated the earth's population at twenty-two millions less than in 1880, the decrease being accounted for by the fact that new investigations had compelled the reduction of the estimated population of China from something over four hundred millions to about three hundred and fifty millions.

Probably the estimate for the year 1891, made by a learned German statistician, is the most nearly accurate of any yet made—one billion four hundred and eighty millions.

It is believed that the world's population is increasing at the rate of nearly six millions a year.

The most populous continent is Asia, which contains two countries—China and India—whose swarming millions outnumber the people of all the other countries of the continent.

The most densely peopled continent is of course, Europe. The number of people in Europe is known with a great degree of accuracy. There are about three hundred and sixty millions; and the continent which accommodates all these people is so small that there are upon it an average of ninety-three people to the square mile.

The people upon the continents of North and South America, without the Arctic regions, are less than one hundred and twenty-two million in number, or only eight to the square mile.

When America is as densely peopled as Europe, this half of the world will have a population of nearly one billion four hundred million—practically the same as that of the whole world at the present time.—Youth's Companion.

THE WHITE WAX OF CHINA.

A Unique Product That is a Great Feature of Her Internal Trade.

One of the most curious products of China is insect wax, of which 1,539,287 pounds, worth \$860,000 in gold, were shipped from Ichang on the Yangtze river in 1889. It is a product of the western part of the province of Se-Chuen, in central China, where the wax insect flourishes best and finds its food most abundant. Early in the spring numerous brown, pea-shaped scales appear on the bark of the boughs and twigs of the Chinese evergreen tree. They contain a mass of small animals, like flour, whose movements are almost imperceptible. The female wax insects develop the scales and deposit their eggs in them, and the males excrete the substance known as white wax, which is supposed to be intended by nature to protect the scales. The wax is spread over the whole branch to a depth of a quarter of an inch. When the deposit appears to be complete the branches are cut off and as much of the wax as possible is removed by hand. The rest is secured by boiling the branches, which destroys the scales and larvae. The wax is put into boiling water, where it melts, and, rising to the surface, is skimmed off and put into molds.

The white wax is a substance of great utility in China. It melts only at a high temperature, and is used chiefly to cover candles made of animal and vegetable tallow, to prevent too rapid combustion. It is used also as sizing for paper and cotton goods, a glaze for silk and a polish for furniture. Minister Denby and Mr. Hoise, the British consular agent in Se-Chuen, say that the proportions of this industry are enormous. Immense quantities of the wax have been shipped from other parts of the Yangtze river, and some of it is sent across the mountains to Canton. Minister Denby has seen thousands of pounds of it in large round cakes stored away in a single room.

The introduction of foreign kerosene, which is now used very largely in China, is having a discouraging influence on the gathering of white wax. The industry, therefore, is not thriving as it did once, and the decline is another example of the great changes which the entrance of foreigners into China are making in many branches of native trade.—Chicago Tribune.

BEHIND THE TIMES.

Why the Young Man Was Not Fitted to Modern Finance.

"Young man," said the aged one's father, in a business-like way, "I don't care anything about your ancestry, and as for your financial standing I find it very satisfactory." "Indeed, it's very kind of you, sir, I'm grateful." "As I was saying when you interrupted me," continued the old man, in a tone almost severe, "I don't care about those things, and your character and habits seem to be quite worthy of approval." "You can't know how glad I am to have pleased you," began the happy lover of a father's daughter, only to be silenced with: "I am considering the matter of offering you a partnership in our firm." "You overweigh me." "But there is one question I wish to ask you—and I want a candid answer." "Anything, anything?" assented the bewildered youth joyfully. "Is there any tendency to insanity in your family?" "Not a trace, not a trace," was the prompt reply of the delighted chap, who had been half fearing some awkward inquiry. The look of pleased enthusiasm that had pervaded the prospective father-in-law's face vanished. He seemed utterly crushed. "Go!" said he. "I feared there was some hidden obstacle. You are not fitted for modern finance."

CRISP NEWSPAPER CURRENCY.

The first steel pens cost the manufacturer \$1.25 apiece.

Several ladies have been permitted to practice dentistry in Kjobenhavn, Denmark, after having passed the necessary examinations.

A THEATRE party from Detroit ran over to Chicago, three hundred miles, by special train, to see a new play, lunched on the road, dined in Chicago, and returned home at midnight.

An eminent writer contends that the ancient practice of handshaking was originally suggested by the wish to ascertain the wrist power and consequent wrestling capacity of a stranger.

It is said that E. P. Jewell, of Louisiana, has collected specimens of 131 spellings of the name Winnipisaukee, and has decided that "Winnipisogee" is right. It would be interesting to see the various spellings of this wonderful lake.

In taking medicine due regard was formerly paid by the superstitious to the positions of the moon at the time—different parts of the body, they supposed, being under its influence according to the zodiacal sign through which the planet happened to be passing at the time.

AN AGE OF PROGRESS.

A SEAMLESS boot, made from flat pieces of steel and shaped by hydraulic pressure, is described in the English papers.

BEROLIAN-PROOF glass has been invented by a Dresden manufacturer. It is made by pouring molten glass over a network of steel wire. It is especially adapted for skylights and jewelers' windows.

A CURBENT built of compressed paper has been erected in Bergen, Norway. It affords seating capacity for one thousand persons. The paper walls are rendered waterproof by a solution of white eggs and quicklime in curdled milk.

MR. A. F. WARD, of Detroit, Mich., has devised a mark buoy for wrecks which is automatic. It is fixed to the deck of the vessel by a joint of soluble glue, which on dissolving in the sea water allows the captive buoy to rise to the surface.

A UTICA (N. Y.) church has placed in its Sunday-school room what is known as a Sunday-school thermometer. It is a novel device for registering the attendance of the Sunday-school every Sunday as announced by the secretary. It runs from zero to 500, and changes every Sunday.

PARLOR MIRTH.

SHE—"You ought to be ashamed of marrying the best man in creation," said Estelle. "That lets me out," said Charlie. "Farewell forever."—N. Y. Herald.

A PROBLEM SOLVED.—Clara—"I want to break off my engagement with young Dudley, and I don't know how." Maud—"That's easy. Buy him a necktie."—Clothes and Furnisher.

HER POSITION.—Nellie—"I congratulate you, dear! Was it an orthodox proposal—down on his knees, and all that?" Fannie (blushing)—"Not just that way, dear. I believe I was on his knees. But don't ever dare to mention it."—Pittsburgh Bulletin.

EUROPEAN NOBILITY.

The emperor of Germany stands twenty-first in the direct line of succession to the British throne.

EX-EMPIRESS EUGENIE has still in her service the woman who was her fellow-traveler in the empire days.

At the wedding of Mile. Fillet-Vill to Prince de Tarente in Paris, recently, the gems exhibited among the presents were worth more than 1,000,000 francs.

PRINCE GEORGE OF WALES' allowance has now been fixed by his father at \$75,000 a year, which is \$50,000 a year more than he received prior to the death of the duke of Clarence. Prince George has already set up a household of his own.

WORDS OF WISDOM.

LET anyone be idle long enough and he will break out into some folly.

If a man dies and leaves his estate in an uncertain condition the lawyers become his heirs.

IT is not so much what a man does that he is condemned for, as what people think he does.

A WOMAN never knows how gallant her husband can be until some other woman comes to visit them.

A GREAT many men can stand their own singing who will leave the house at night when the baby cries.—Aitchison Globe.

DYNAMO FLASHES.

A SMALL storage battery enables a hickman in Oakland, Cal., to illuminate his back with electric lights.

The Hollerith electrical counting apparatus has saved the census bureau \$600,000 in the expense of enumerating the population of the country.

GEN. SHREVE is said to have invented an electrical instrument for striking a ship when fourteen miles distant from New York a blow equal in force to 50,000 foot tons.

The telephone has been successfully used in surgery to locate the position of metallic substances in the body, thus enabling an operation to be performed in the right direction at once.

STATISTICAL FACTS.

IN Wall street, New York, the failures outnumber one thousand to one the successes.

THERE are in the entire country about 250,000 Indians, who control 90,000,000 acres of the public land.

At the next presidential election it is estimated that more than 11,500,000 men will have the right to vote.

The New York society for the suppression of vice has seized forty-four

AMERICANS IN OFFICE.

Gov. FRANCIS of Missouri, is a sticler for "the swallow-tail" coat at his receptions.

SENATOR KYLE, of South Dakota, is a giant physically and the most robust of all the alliance members. His digestion is perfect.

VICE PRESIDENT MORTON is reported to be a man of many charities, who in a quiet way gives tens of thousands of dollars to the poor.

CONGRESSMAN TOM L. JOHNSON, of Cleveland, is a rare bird indeed among men of wealth, in being an enthusiastic disciple of Henry George while possessing a fortune of nearly a million.

Gov. EAGLE, of Arkansas, is by occupation a farmer and by inclination a preacher. Baptist congregations sometimes invite him to fill the pulpit, and he is said to be an exhorter of no mean power.

SOME of the old soldiers of the Nineteenth Ohio regiment who served under Senator Manderson, president pro tem. of the senate, have presented him with a gravel made of woods from the prominent battlefields in which he took part.

READABLE CLIPPINGS.

SEVEN out of every eight loaves of bread eaten in London are made from foreign wheat.

The island of Montserrat surrendered to the French under Count de Grasse on February 23, 1782.

At a Leading (Pa.) wedding the other day among the wedding presents was displayed a liberal consignment of home-made soap.

QUILL toothpicks came first of all from France. The largest factory in the world is near Paris, where there is an annual product of 20,000,000 quills.

THE eyeball of the owl is immovably fixed in its socket, hence the look of wisdom that that bird always appears to have. In the horse an eye in which white predominates indicates a vicious nature.

LEMONS are used for soap in many countries where they grow. When the men and women of the East Indies want to wash their hands, they squeeze the juice of a lemon over them and rub briskly in water until they are clean.

THE FINDINGS OF SCIENCE.

A TON of coal is said to yield very nearly 10,000 feet of gas.

AGRICULTURAL chemists estimate the nutrient of 100 pounds of cotton-seed meal as equal to 318 pounds of corn, or to 707 pounds of wheat bran.

FROST has a variety of effects upon different products. Under the same influence eggs will burst, apples contract and potatoes will turn black.

"COOL as a cucumber" is scientifically correct. Investigation shows that this vegetable has a temperature of one degree below that of the surrounding atmosphere.

DR. THEODORE WOLF, lately the state geologist of Ecuador, has made a special study of the Andes of that country, which he says are between ten and twenty miles further away from the Pacific coast than most of our recent maps show.

EXPOSITION ECHOES.

NEWFOUNDLAND has decided to participate in the exposition. A SIX-THOUSAND-DOLLAR monument of Barre granite will be one of the exhibits from Vermont.

A CONTINUOUS clam-bake will be one of the attractions which epicurean visitors will find at the exposition.

WISCONSIN will expend three thousand dollars upon its horticultural exhibit. Cranberry culture will be made especially prominent.

SAGINAW, Mich., noted as a salt producing city, is constructing in miniature a complete salt plant for exhibition at the world's fair.

WORLD has been received at the exposition headquarters that Belgium will make an extensive exhibit, including over four hundred works of art embracing both paintings and statuary.

IN COURT CIRCLES.

QUEEN VICTORIA and the duchess of Somerset are said to pour their tea into their saucers rather than swallow it while it is hot.

BARON VON FELDER, of Vienna, has sold his famous collection of butterflies to Lord Rothschild, of London, for twenty-five thousand dollars.

The duchess of Casta is building, near Mentone, France, a home for Eugenie, the French government having denied to the ex-empress the right of creating it herself.

The duchess of Sparta, daughter-in-law of the king of Greece, and sister to the emperor of Germany, is said to be more like Queen Victoria than any other of her majesty's granddaughters.

SOME ENGLISH HISTORY.

FLAX was first planted in England, where it was directed to be sown for fishing nets, 1523-24.

The first impeachment by the British house of parliament, and the first of a lord chancellor, M-hael de Pole, earl of Suffolk, was in 1256.

The British museum originated with a grant by parliament in 1753 of \$20,000 to the daughter of Sir Hans Sloane, in payment for his fine library and vast collection of the productions of nature and art. To this collection were added the Cottonian, Harleian and other collections.

MASCULINITIES.

LEARNING makes a man fit company for himself.

If you set up for a growler you can always be busy.

A MAN of 50 has spent over 6,000 days of his life in sleep.

WHEN a man is not very bright, it seems a hardship to leave him to his own reflections.

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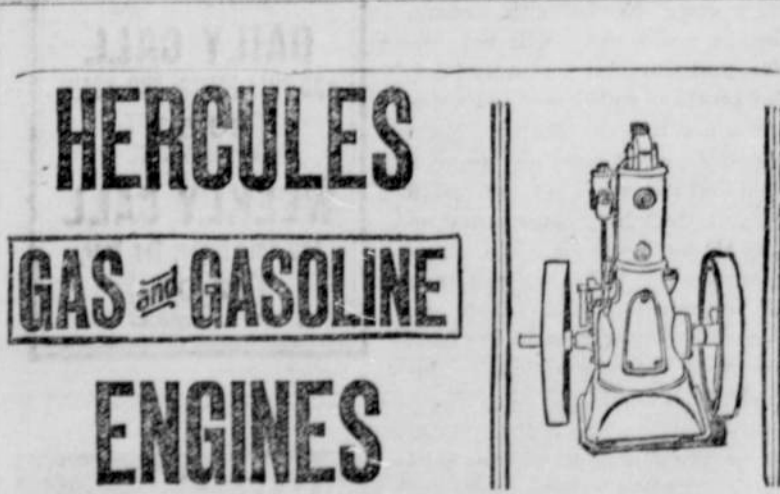
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