

FRANCE'S NEED OF STOCK CLUBS

Enthusiastic Organization in Gay Paree Follows Roose- velt's Suggestions

The pungent saying of the great German warrior, Count von Moltke, that every year by her birth rate Germany gains a battle over France is revived in an American consular report of unusual interest, with relation to the decreasing birth rate in the French republic. In no other European country is what President Roosevelt calls race suicide so strongly indicated by statistics.

The population of France is almost stationary, and if the present downward tendency of the birth rate continues there will soon be gradual depopulation. In 1900 France had a little short of 40,000,000 inhabitants—a net gain of less than 4,000,000 in fifty years. In the same period the United States gained 53,000,000, Germany 30,000,000, Great Britain 14,000,000, Russia 62,000,000 and Italy 8,000,000. A century ago France had one-quarter of the whole population of Europe; now she has little more than one-tenth. Once in the first place she is now sixth in the European list. In 1900 the excess of births over deaths in France was but 20,330. In the same year the number of childless families in that country was 1,808,639, which was nearly 17 per cent of the whole population. Of families with one child the total was 2,638,762; with two children, 2,379,259; with three, 1,593,387, and so on down.

In view of the declining birth rate French writers and statesmen are alarmed for the future of the country. A famous lawyer recently said in this regard:

"Our country is possessed of a deadly canker which is consuming little by little its influence, its expansion, and its brilliancy, until finally in the near future we will find we no longer count in Europe."

Bertilhon has lately declared that the sterility of French marriages threatens to place France in "an imperceptible corner of the great Anglo-Saxon universe." Other men of note are wondering what is going to become of the nation. There is a great agitation to promote a change for the better. An organization known as the National Alliance for Increasing French Population is actively at work. Its principles are thus stated:

"It is the duty of every man to contribute to the perpetuity of his country as much as it is his duty to defend it."

"To bring up a child is a duty to

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The best shoes in the market for the money. Noted for style, quality and comfort.

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the state equivalent to paying taxes. "To discharge sufficiently this duty every family should have at least three children."

The reasons given for the tendency to smaller families or absolute childlessness in France are the heavy burden of taxes and the requirement of military service for all able bodied young men. The average tax on every Frenchman is more than \$25 a year, which is very heavy, considering the poverty of the masses. In England the average is but \$9.65; Russia, \$7.04; Germany, \$11.10.

A thing that tends to keep down population in France is the general rule that the eldest son inherits the land. The taxation of rents is another factor. Taxes are collected in proportion to the amount paid for rent. The larger the family the greater is the number of rooms required, and consequently the greater the taxation. There is a tax also upon doors and windows, which operates in the same way. Other things being equal, the bachelor pays less taxes than the man of family.

It is argued that every man's duty is to rear three children; two to replace the parents and a third to add to the population or make good the loss by emigration or other causes. Accordingly measures have been proposed in the French parliament for the taxation of maids and bachelors and families without children, and, on the other hand, to provide compensation, through relief from taxation, for parents rearing more than three children. The modification of inheritance taxes, so as to favor larger families, is also proposed.

It is to be noted that, just as in the United States, the lack of fundicity is not chiefly among the poor but among the well-to-do in France. In Paris children are far less fashionable than in the rural districts.

As yet fashionable sterility has not gone far enough to become a source of danger to the United States, but the tendency is in that direction. Should it increase, as in the past ten years, among the native-born white population, especially among the native New Englanders, the old Puritan stock may vanish in the course of a century.

Some time ago the Bee proposed the formation of Stock clubs as a good way to combat the prevailing fashionable disposition to escape that patriotic obligation of parentage enjoined by the French alliance. In the light of the alarming example of France, the suggestion is renewed. Let Sacramento take the lead in the organization of Stock clubs.—Sacramento Bee.

PRICES AND PROSPERITY.

Revival of Interest in the Quantitative Money Theory.

The bankers who formerly regarded as ludicrous the assertion that the demonization of silver, which deprived several billion dollars of its money quality, had an effect on prices are now listening patiently to expositions of the effect of the increased output of gold on prices and are wondering what the outcome will be. Last month, at the annual meeting of the Bankers' association, held at Wilkesbarre, in that state, Dean Joseph French Johnson of the New York university school of commerce, accounts and finance, delivered an address in which he emphatically asserted the doctrine that the volume of gold—that is, money, for all gold is potential money—directly affects prices. And he stated his position in such a fashion that what he said will be very apt to prove distasteful to those who went out of their way to ridicule the idea that the value of gold is variable, and, like that of other commodities, is dependent on its quantity. Of this subject he said:

"During the last ten years the output of the world's gold mines has been increasing at an unprecedented rate. In 1890 it amounted to \$119,000,000; in 1895 to \$200,000,000; by 1899 it had increased to \$307,000,000 per annum, and in 1904, according to the estimate of our director of the mint, it amounted to over \$350,000,000. When we consider that during the first 50 years of the nineteenth century the total output of both gold and silver was less than \$2,000,000, while the output of gold alone in that period was only \$800,000,000, or about \$16,000,000 per annum, whereas in the last fourteen years the output of gold has amounted to nearly \$3,500,000, it is not surprising that very grave questions arise in the minds of thoughtful men with regard to the probable future of the value of gold, and with regard to the effect upon human welfare which changes in the amount of gold will exert."

No one challenged the accuracy of the statement, or the conclusions drawn from it, although the latter are directly at variance with the views entertained less than four or five years ago by many professing to have some acquaintance with the theory of

money. Of course the latter were charlatans. They did not know what they were talking about, and naturally made blunders which has now become the business of such men as Prof. Johnson to clear up. In a little while we may expect the final disappearance of the absurd belief that the value of gold is fixed, and in its stead will be generally accepted the truthful assumption that its value varies with its quantity, which will be equivalent to an admission that the bimetallic claim that the former scarcity of gold was responsible for diminishing prices of other commodities was sound.—San Francisco Chronicle.

CHILDREN CRY FOR FLETCHER'S CASTORIA.

Beginning Early.
"Did you enjoy yourself at the party, Bessie?" asked her mamma.
"I never saw such a stupid lot of people, mamma," replied the little girl. "If there hadn't been a looking glass in the room I wouldn't have enjoyed myself at all."—Yonkers Statesman.

Advertised Too Much.
"Bargains. Men's overalls, 10 cents; men's shirt's, 10 cents." The above sign in the window of a store on Fifth avenue in Pittsburgh, Pa., a few days ago caused a disastrous stampede of bargain hunters. Eight women were seriously hurt in the rush to secure overalls or shirts for their better halves, and a reserve force of police had to be called out. Ambulances and patrol wagons backed up to the doors of the store, and for a time it looked as though there would be great loss of life.

Mrs. Mary Hoover of Pride street was the worst hurt of the women who got in the crush. She fainted at the head of the stairway and would have fallen to the lower floor had the crowd not been too dense to allow her to fall. She was held by the crush apparently dead. The women in the place became panic stricken and tried to reach the street by the shortest way. More than a dozen women fainted and the police had to use their clubs to curtail the crowd. After about 2500 of the women had gotten

out of the place the store, which by this time looked like a wreck, was turned into a hospital and the injured women were revived and sent to their homes. The condition of Mrs. Hoover is considered serious.

The Irish Bull in India.
For Sale—Eleven elephants, male and female, price low to effect speedy sale. Full particulars from Pat Doyle, 1 Brookling street, Rangoon. Note—Four of the above have been sold.—Rangoon Gazette.

Seemed Long.
"Did you know this was the long-

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At DR. STONE'S
Drug Store
ARE GUARANTEED
FOR ONE YEAR

est month in the year?" he said on the occasion of his third call in a fortnight.

Family Pride.
"You ought to be proud of your little brother."
"Betcher life. Dat kid kan lick any kid twicet his weight, kin swear de best, an' kin smoke more cigarets dan you kin make."—Baltimore American.

Spoiled Her Beauty.
Harriet Howard, of 209 W. 34th St., New York, at one time had her beauty spoiled with skin trouble. She writes: "I had salt rheum or eczema for years, but nothing would cure it until I used Bucklen's Arnica Salve." A quick and sure healer for cuts, burns and sores. 25c at J. C. Perry's drug store.

CASTORIA.
The Kind You Have Always Bought
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WITH A GAS STOVE THERE IS NO KINDLING TO WORRY ABOUT. NO COAL OR WOOD TO CARRY IN. NO CLEANING OF STOVEPIPES THAT BLACKEN YOUR FACE AND DARKEN YOUR TEMPER. IT DOES NOT BURN FUEL WHEN NOT IN USE AND IS MORE ECONOMICAL THAN YOUR OLD WOOD STOVE. IT NEVER SMOKES OR OBJECTS TO BURN AND IT WILL HEAT WATER BEFORE YOU CAN GET YOUR OLD WOOD STOVE GOING. WHAT A BLESSING IN CASE OF SICKNESS, TO SAY NOTHING OF THE ECONOMY OF TIME IN EVERY-DAY USE. SUMMER IS HERE AND YOU DO NOT WANT YOUR KITCHEN HEATED

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Get An Electric Fan

KEEP YOUR ROOMS COOL. WE WILL SELL YOU ONE AT ACTUAL COST; A TRIFLE. IT COSTS NO MORE TO RUN THAN AN INCANDESCENT LIGHT; RUNS ON SAME METER. OR WE WILL MAKE YOU A FLAT RATE OF \$1.00 A MONTH.

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