

LIVE QUESTIONS.

A Series of Articles Contributed to These Columns by Advanced Thinkers.

LESSONS FROM THE LAST CENSUS—THE GROWTH OF OUR COUNTRY SINCE 1790.

Under the existing temporary organization of the census force there must be inevitably long delay in the completion of the work of the federal census and the placing of the final results before the public. This fault is inherent in the system itself, and no one in particular can be charged with this delay nor indeed be made responsible for the greatly increased cost of the census work. In this connection it should be remembered, of course, that the fundamental laws governing the census have been from time to time very much broadened and the number and extent of the census inquiries very materially increased, of necessity requiring a relatively longer time to do the work and at a relatively larger cost.

The constantly increasing desire to have full and explicit data at each decennial period has literally grown away from the old methods of census taking, and today the entire inadequacy of the census machinery, as now provided for by law, is everywhere apparent. In many respects it constitutes the chief lesson of the eleventh census and points with unerring directness to the necessity for a radical change in the system of taking the federal census. The experience of the last two enumerations lies wholly in this direction, and relief must be found at an early day in the establishment of a permanent census office.

THE PRESENT CENSUS REPORT AN IMPROVEMENT.

Despite the difficulties and delays which have beset the work of the eleventh census, there is likely to be some improvement as compared with 1880 in the publication of the final reports. All of the volumes of the census of 1880 were not published until 1888, but of the 25 volumes of the present census 12 have been issued, 8 others are wholly completed and ready for issue, and the remaining 5 volumes are either in process of printing or in such condition that the publications should follow within a comparatively short time.

This being the case, it will be possible shortly to review the results of the last census in their entirety and to consider in something like consecutive and logical order some of the many valuable lessons to be derived from the census. In the first place, let it be borne in mind that our country was the first government to provide by law for a practical enumeration of its population, the first decennial census having been taken by constitutional provision in 1790; the eleventh census, that of 1890, marked, therefore, the completion of the first century of census taking in this country. During this period there has been only a great expansion in the extent of settled area, in spite of the vast increase in territory, but a very marked growth of population in every part of the union.

EXTENT OF OUR TERRITORY.

At the time of the first census the United States comprised the territory between the Atlantic ocean and the Mississippi river, embracing 827,844 square miles, of which 803,225 was land surface. In 1803-5 the acquisition of Louisiana by purchase and of Oregon by settlement added 1,171,931 square miles to our area and secured the absolute control of the Mississippi river and its navigable branches. In 1821 the final transfer of Florida from Spain increased our territory by 59,268 square miles. The annexation of Texas in 1845 and the acquisition of territory from Mexico in 1848 added 921,916 square miles, and a still further addition of 44,641 square miles was made in 1853 by the Gadsden purchase, so that the total area of our territorial possessions, exclusive of Alaska, is now 3,025,600 square miles, of which 2,970,000 is land area. The territory of Alaska, purchased from Russia in 1867, has an estimated area of 582,409 square miles, but contained only 32,052 inhabitants in 1890.

MARVELOUS GROWTH OF OUR POPULATION.

At the census of 1790 our entire population was but 3,929,214 and was contained principally in the 13 original states (Maine being then a part of New York), with a few scattered settlements in what shortly after became the states of Kentucky and Tennessee. It was almost wholly distributed along the Atlantic coast, the average depth of settlement, in a direction at right angles to the coast, being but 255 miles. The territory occupied by this population in 1790 comprised only 458,225 square miles of land area, or a little more than one-half of the total land area, while the area of actual settlement—that is, containing two persons or more to the square mile—comprehended only 239,935 square miles. At the last census, in 1890, the population of all the states and organized territories was 62,622,250, and besides this there were 32,652 persons in Alaska and 325,464 Indians and other persons in the Indian Territory and on Indian reservations, making the total population of the entire country 62,979,766. The whole extent of our territory in 1890 comprised 3,558,009 square miles; excluding Alaska, it comprised a land area of 2,970,000 square miles, of which no less than 1,947,280 square miles was settled area, and, so far as the main body of our territory is concerned, there can no longer be said to be any frontier line of population.

Briefly summarized, then, the first decennial census of our country in 1790 showed less than 4,000,000 inhabitants possessed of a national domain of about 800,000 square miles and occupying a settled area of a little more than one-fourth of its total area as compared with a population in 1890 of nearly 63,000,000 and a national domain of over 3,500,000 square miles, more than one-half of which is settled area. In other words, in 100 years our popula-

tion, by natural increase and by immigration, has multiplied sixteenfold, and our territorial possessions, by purchase, conquest and cession, have increased more than fourfold. According to the census of 1890, the total value of all the products of manufactures, agriculture, mining and the fisheries was \$12,464,052,913, or about \$198 per capita, while the aggregate wealth of the country amounted to \$95,087,091,197, or an approximate wealth per capita of more than \$1,000. History nowhere presents a more wonderful picture of progress and development of a country's resources.

HOW TO MAKE OUR CURRENCY ELASTIC.

The greatest defect in our present currency system is its lack of elasticity. It does not expand and contract with the regular normal expansion and contraction of business. Again, during times of panic, it fails still more completely to meet the unusual demands upon it.

This was forcibly illustrated during the panic of 1893. At that time many millions of currency that had been in the channels of circulation were suddenly withdrawn and locked up. At the same time there went up from thousands of business men a demand for currency that could not be met. Men were sacrificing property or offering government bonds as collateral, but currency could not be had. Do you ask why? Simply because there was none to be had. That which had been locked up by panic-stricken owners was no more available than if it had been sunk to the bottom of the sea.

DIFFICULTY OF BANKS IN A CRISIS.

In England or Canada the crisis would have been met immediately by the creation of an enormous volume of bank notes loaned on approved commercial paper. In this country, however, such action was impossible. Only a small part of our currency, about one-eighth, is issued by banks, and their machinery is so bungling and clumsy—it takes so long to get it running—that it was impossible for the national banks to do anything to relieve the situation. It would have been very profitable for them if they could have done so, and many of them made the attempt to extend their circulation; but, as has been shown by Hon. John De Witt Warner of New York, they could not get their clumsy machinery to work soon enough. The national bank system utterly failed at the critical moment. The clearing houses came to the rescue as best they could. They calmly ignored the stupid statutes of the United States, and saved thousands from ruin. Thousands more might have been saved if a little simple, practicable device had been in operation. What is that device? Nothing more or less than to permit any holder of government bonds to convert them, principal and accrued interest, into currency at his pleasure, and to reconvert the currency into bonds at pleasure.

BONDS AND CURRENCY CONVERTIBLE.

Under this simple plan millions of bonds would have been converted into currency at the time of the panic and its worst evils avoided. After the scare was over—when the panic-stricken hoarders began to unlock their currency and let it into the channels of trade—much of the currency issued to tide over the crisis would have been returned to the federal treasury and bonds taken out again.

In putting forward this plan I make no claim to originality. It has been urged by many eminent statesmen, from Lincoln's great secretary in the sixties to the able and clear-headed member from Ohio, Hon. Tom L. Johnson, but because of overconservatism nothing has been done.

There can be no valid reason why the holders of government bonds should not convert them into noninterest-bearing currency at will, nor why the holder of government currency should not be allowed to convert that currency into low interest-bearing bonds.

GOOD EFFECTS OF THE PLAN.

Simple as this plan is, it will bring about the following very desirable results:

- First.—Impart to our federal currency a degree of elasticity enabling it to expand readily with the demands of trade, or at the time of a panic, and to contract when business fell off or when the scare of the panic had subsided and the locked up currency was let out to take its place in the channels of trade.
- Second.—Save to the people the interest on all bonds when converted into currency, until the currency should be reconverted into bonds.
- Third.—Cause the national banks to yield up their circulation. There would then be no profit for them in maintaining a circulation. Perhaps this is one of the reasons why the plan has not been adopted.
- Fourth.—Enable the federal treasury to cease running a gold warehouse for the benefit of exporters. Nobody but gold exporters would ever ask to convert currency into gold if they had the option of converting it into a low interest-bearing bond.

In conclusion permit me to ask why the government should run a free warehouse for the benefit of gold exporters any more than a wheat or cotton warehouse for wheat and cotton exporters. The only way that the government can finally redeem either its bonds or its currency is through its power of taxation. Make the former interchangeable and give our currency elasticity.

C. J. BUELL.  
Minneapolis.

Charity is greater than justice? Yes, it is greater; it is the summit of justice; it is the temple of which justice is the foundation. But you cannot have the top without the bottom. You cannot build upon charity. You must build upon justice, for this main reason—that you have not at first charity to build with. It is the last reward of good work. Do justice to your brother (you can do that whether you love him or not), and you will come to love him.—Ruskin.

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The Union and Advertiser of Rochester, N. Y., recently published the following interesting account of how William W. Adams of 127 South avenue, that city was saved from a painful operation by the use of Dr. David Kennedy's Favorite Remedy.

Mr. Adams said: "Three years ago I was taken with kidney disease very badly; at times I was completely prostrated; in fact, was so bad that the day was set for the doctors to perform an operation upon me. But I decided I would not submit. I had been put in hot water baths, and, in fact, nearly every means was tried to help me. Upon the day set for the operation I commenced the use of Dr. David Kennedy's Favorite Remedy, and from that moment began to gain, and it was not long before I was entirely cured and have had no return of the trouble since. My weight has increased and I never was so well as I am now. I have recommended

DR. DAVID KENNEDY'S FAVORITE REMEDY

to many people, for it saved my life." In speaking to Mrs. Adams, she said: "About a year ago I was in a very feeble state of health, being completely run down. I had doctored considerably, but without permanent relief. One day one of my neighbors advised me to take Dr. David Kennedy's Favorite Remedy, which I did. My trouble was dyspepsia, and for a long while I was unable to be about at all; but after taking a few doses I was completely cured, and now enjoy good health." Hundreds of men and women with that "run down" condition, unable to work, have recovered health and strength through this remarkable remedy. It purifies the blood, stirs the liver and kidneys to a healthy action. In cases of rheumatism, kidney, liver and urinary troubles, it is a well-known specific.

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