

LIVE QUESTIONS.

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

ANOTHER LESSON FROM THE LAST CENSUS—THE PRESIDENT'S MISSIONARY ADDRESS AND CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

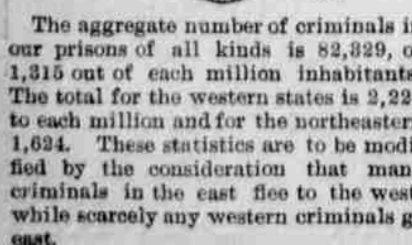
The duties of a president are onerous and numerous. His responsibilities are undoubtedly great. It is a serious question how far his duties extend. It is generally conceded that conferences with great financiers for the welfare of the country, recreations in hunting and fishing, delivering missionary addresses, instructing the country on wise or otherwise financial theories, twisting the tail of the British lion and vetoing sundry bills are legitimate exercises of the presidential prerogative.

"No one charged with the duties and responsibilities which necessarily weigh upon a chief executive can fail to appreciate the importance of religious teaching and Christian endeavor in the newly settled portions of our vast domain. It is there where hot and stubborn warfare between the forces of good and evil is constantly invited. In those days the vanguard of occupation in a new settlement is never without its vicious and criminal element. Gambling houses and dramshops are frequently among the first establishments in a new community. It must also be confessed that removal from old homes and old associations to a new and more primitive home has a tendency among honest and respectable settlers to smother scruples and to breed toleration of evil and indifference to Christianizing and elevating agencies.

The people of the west are not ungrateful for the many and excellent blessings conferred by the east. The missionary has been received with open arms and given a prominent and honored place in every western community. The policy of sending out well trained preachers and teachers into new fields is wise and right. But when we turn to the statistics of crime, taken from the last census, we are made to ask the question whether missionaries are not needed in other sections of our country.

One might ask if there are no saloons and gambling dens in New York and Boston, whether there is any political corruption east of the Alleghenies, whether or not there is any "general laxity of morals" even in New England. It has been hinted that there are a few immoral people and a few saloons even in the District of Columbia. But, however this may be, a brief study of our criminal census will be both profitable and instructive to people in all sections of the country.

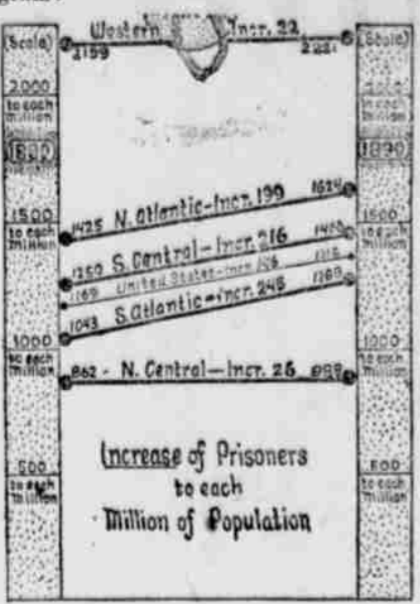
Below is given the general results by sections:



The aggregate number of criminals in our prisons of all kinds is 82,329, or 1,315 out of each million inhabitants. The total for the western states is 2,221 to each million and for the northeastern 1,624. These statistics are to be modified by the consideration that many criminals in the east flee to the west, while scarcely any western criminals go east.

ern or north Atlantic states there was an increase of 199 in each million.

Below is given a self explanatory diagram:



I close with two queries: 1. Why is crime increasing in the east more rapidly than in the west? 2. What shall we do to decrease crime? I hope to see them fully answered in these columns.

J. W. CALDWELL.

A NEW VIEW OF THE AGRICULTURAL DEPRESSION.

The thinking farmer might get a good deal of comfort from the figures given below, compiled by Mr. C. Wood Davis, concerning the increase of agricultural products during the last 39 years. The tendency has been to lay all the depression of agriculture upon the demonization of silver, but the fact is that the farmer has been prosperous in times of demonization of silver.

The prostration of farming and the low prices of land throughout the country are due not so much to the fact that they are incumbered with debts, said to be more burdensome than ever now in consequence of the gold standard, but that farmers have been competing with free arable lands. The generosity of the government has placed in the hands of many thousands of citizens millions of acres of farming land situated in the west. Coming into the possession of farms without any great outlay of capital, the owners have been able to place on the markets produce at a lower price than those who were located on high priced land. In consequence produce has increased out of all proportion to the population.

The following table for 39 years, ending with 1889, shows the percentages of increase:

Table with 2 columns: Item and Per cent. Items include Population, Number of farms, Cattle, Swine, Bales of cotton, Bushels of corn, and Bushels of oats.

The natural result of such production is the lowering of the price of agricultural products and the depression of farming interests. Everything points to prosperity in the near future, for the free arable lands which have been converted into farms so rapidly during the last 25 years are about exhausted. If this be so, the number of farms in operation to the number of inhabitants, and in that case the amount of their produce, will more nearly equal the consuming power of the country.

Looked at from this standpoint, we cannot see that silver has had anything to do with the result. The indications are, as the number of farms decrease in proportion to the population, that agriculture will soon begin to regain its former prosperity.

FRANK L. McVEY, Teachers' College, New York.

PRACTICAL CIVIL SERVICE. The beauties and goodness of the civil service system were clearly stated by St. Paul's Republican postmaster, who recently closed his four years in office, the last three being under a Democratic administration. His farewell address to his carriers and clerks concludes as follows:

"Each one of you should be at all times a zealous missionary of the gospel of political salvation through civil service reform. To the civil service law most of you owe your appointments, and all of you owe your secure official tenure. To the conscientious enforcement of this law and the consequent divorce of the postal service from partisan politics much of its phenomenal efficiency is due. To do its current work would require at least twice the number of men now employed if appointed and dismissed under the old spoils system. For three years I have held this office in subordination to officials at the capital with whom I have not had or pretended to have a particle of sympathy or affiliation on the political issues of the day. Yet in no single instance during all that period has a political question been raised in any matter of appointment, of administration or any other matter. I have been as well treated at headquarters as I could have been had I been a Democrat. You have been as well treated by me as you would have been if you had all been Republicans. As a matter of fact, I do not know today the political or religious opinions of 5 per cent of your number."

To Get Good City Government. You have only to make your municipal corporation like your business corporations and you have solved the problem. You need not say that that cannot be done. It cannot be done by three cheers and a brass band. It cannot be done by newspaper editorials three weeks before election. It can be done by beating the politicians at their own game. Their game is organization.—St. Clair McKelway.

Better Facilities

The state board of health proposes to extend to physicians throughout the state the same facilities that are furnished by the local boards of health in large cities in the matter of diagnosis by bacteriological examination of cases suspected of being diphtheria. To do so this board has arranged to have the tests made by its bacteriologists, charging the local authorities of towns rates proportionate to their population.

The sterile swabs in tubes will be placed with the local boards of health, and these having been charged with the supposed infective material by the attending physician, will be shipped by mail (by permission of the postmaster general, who has issued an order to that effect) to the bacteriologist, and a report will be returned within twenty-four hours whether the case is diphtheria.

Spring Time

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Early Laws to be Published.

The order has been given for the printing of the first six volumes of the laws of Pennsylvania prior to 1800 and not hitherto published. An appropriation was made by the last legislature to carry the work to completion. It will be a valuable work, inasmuch as it will be the first entire issue of the laws of this state passed before 1800. Some of the laws are still in force, and copies of them are in great demand by the lawyers of this and other states, as they are needed in the everyday practice of the courts.

The North Branch Iron and Steel Company, of Danville, has been awarded a contract to supply the Union Traction Company, of Philadelphia, with 1000 tons of heavy steel rails. This means work for many men for some time.

Liver Ills

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Who Sells the Best Beef? That's the question. It is not the man who is scouring the country around to find some old toothless cows that have done good service for their owners, but being a little aged now, they find it is cheaper to sell them than to have them die upon their hands. The beef you know must be tough. It can be bought low, but what you save then you will need to pay dentist bills later on. We buy nothing but Heavy Steer Beef. This is raised upon corn, and killed when the meat is good and tender. We have the finest class of trade in Bloomsburg. Our customers are pleased with the meat we sell. LOUIS LYONS, Main St., BLOOMSBURG.

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Scott's Emulsion

of Cod-liver Oil, with the hypophosphites contains the whole oil, with its natural properties, and in a thoroughly emulsified or digested condition. The hypophosphites increase the appetite and impart strength to the nervous system. This combination has marked curative properties in a number of diseases of the skin and scalp, to which scrofulous persons are peculiarly liable. Such diseases as chronic eczema, ringworm, and other skin affections, are often quickly cured by the constitutional effects following the use of Scott's Emulsion.

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