CENTER OF POPULATION.

Exact Spot Is Farm in Monroe County, Ind.

S. H. STEVENS LIVES THERE.

In 120 Years the Center Has Moved Only Nineteen Minutes In Latitude and Nine and One-half Degrees In Longitude—How It Is Determined.

The civilization of the United States turns around Samuel H. Stevens and his farm in Monroe county, Ind., four miles south of Unionville and eight miles east of Bloomington, or, in other words, about sixty miles from Indianapolis, in the southwestern part of the state.

How They Figure It.

The manner of finding the center of population is to the lay mind complicated. Statisticians declare that it is perfectly simple, only lengthy. Here it is, that the reader may decide about it:

The geographers call the center of population the center of gravity of the population of the country. By this they mean that they get at it very much as one would find the center of gravity of a substance which was uniform in texture and weight. They include in the problem only the motherland. Alaska, the Philippines and Hawaii are not in it.

The first thing is to take a tentative point for a center, and this is usually the old center. Then every square degree of the country is counted up and multiplied into its distance from the tentative or trial center. The population of every square is assumed to be at the center of the square, except where a large city would manifestly throw the center of gravity of the square off from the center. A considerable body of water or an uninhabited mountain range would also compel a modification of the calculation. In such cases the center of the square is estimated as nearly as can be.

All computations are made from the most accurate government maps, and the scale is carefully observed. The shortest distances of the center of each square from the meridian and the parallel passing through the trial center are taken and multiplied into the population of the square. The result is called a "moment," and the sum of all of these north of the parallel is found, and the sum of all the moments related to the meridian to the east or west of it is determined. Their difference divided by the population of the whole country gives a correction to the latitude of the trial center, and in like manner the correction for the longitude is obtained for the assumed center.

Moves Steadily Westward.

The center of population has moved thirty-one miles westward since 1900. The course of empire still holds steadily the old direction. Ten years ago it was six miles southeast of Columbus, the county seat of Bartholomew county, Ind.

From the year 1790 it has moved westward close along the thirty-ninth parallel. In that year it was twenty-three miles east of the city of Baltimore.

Ten years later it had made a good sized jump and was eighteen miles west of Baltimore without having varied north or south.

Ten years later, in 1810, it had reached a spot forty miles northwest by west of Washington. This was a southwesterly direction from the earlier centers, which was due to the annexation of the vast territory of Louisiana, with its considerable population.

In 1820 it was at a point sixteen miles north of Woodstock, Va. The settlement of Mississippi, Alabama and Georgia had had its influence on its southerly trend.

In 1830 the center had moved on into what is now West Virginia and was nineteen miles southwest of the town of Moorefield. It was still being drawn to the south. Florida had been added to the United States, and the settlement of the southern states had been going on rapidly.

In 1840 it was sixteen miles south of Clarksburg; in 1850 it was twenty-three miles southeast of Parkersburg, Texas having had some effect in drawing it southward. In 1860 it had gone slightly northward and was twenty miles south of Chillicothe, O.

Eighteen hundred seventy found it forty-eight miles east by north of Cincinnati, this direction resulting from the devastation of the south by the civil war.

Crossed the Ohio River.

By 1880 it again had turned southward, crossing the Ohio river into Kentucky to a point ten miles west of Cincinnati.

The year 1890 found it going slightly to the north again with the rapid settlement of the northwest, large immigration and the development of the state of Washington. It was then ten miles east of the town of Columbus, Ind.

The opening of Oklahoma and Indian Territory and immigration into Texas in the decade ending in 1900 moved the center a little over fourteen miles to the point six miles southeast of Columbus.

In the 120 years since the first census the center has moved only nineteen minutes in latitude while it has changed its longitude nine and one-half degrees, or 560 miles in all.

The Puzzle of the Press.

There used to be an aged elevator man who operated one of the lifts in the house wing of the capitol. Most of his passengers were either representatives or newspaper correspondents. The old man got to know all of the correspondents very well and always had a cheerful greeting for them. It was often noticed, too, that he seemed to be greatly interested in their conversation.

One afternoon, as three of them stepped out of the elevator, Sereno Payne of New York stepped in. As the car went down the old elevator man turned and said:

"Mr. Payne, I can't understand about those newspaper men. They puzzle me."

"What's the trouble with them?" asked Mr. Payne.

"Well, Mr. Payne, every day they ride in this car one feller will turn to another and say, 'What do you know today?' And the other fellow will answer, 'Not a — thing. What do you know?' Then the first feller will answer, 'Nothing.' And yet, Mr. Payne, the papers are just full of news every day. It beats me where they get it."

"It beats me too," said Mr. Payne.—Brooklyn Eagle.

Old Time Strawberries.

Strawberries have improved very much in flavor since the fifteenth century. Until then the only strawberries eaten were wild strawberries of a kind which would never find a market nowadays. By 1480, however, they were beginning to be cultivated, for Holinshed records under that date a particularly fine crop grown by the bishop of Ely in the grounds of his palace, now covered by Hatton garden.

He quotes the Duke of Gloucester as saying to the bishop: "My lord, you have very good strawberries in your garden in Holborn. I require you to let us have a mess of them." This speech was copied almost verbatim by Shakespeare in "Richard III." Still, even the bishop's fruit would not appeal much to modern connoisseurs, for the garden strawberries at that period were only transplanted wildlings, the plants being sold at about fourpence a bushel.—London Standard.

Origin of the Piano.

The pianoforte was directly evolved from the clavichord and the harpsichord. In 1711 Scipione Maffei gave a detailed account of the first four instruments, which were constructed by Bartolommeo Chrustofori. It was named by him the pianoforte and was first exhibited in 1709. Marius, in France, exhibited harpsichords, with hammer action, in 1716, and Schroter in Germany, claimed to have invented the pianoforte between 1717 and 1720. Marius was at first generally credited with the invention. Pianos of that period were shaped very much like the modern grand variety. The first square piano was constructed by Frederica, an organ manufacturer of Saxony, in 1758. The first genuine upright piano was invented in England and the United States by John Isaac Hawkins, an Englishman, in 1800.—Detroit Free Press.

The First Money.

Money is mentioned as a medium of exchange in Genesis, chapter 23, and is supposed to refer to a time as far back as 1800 B. C. The coinage of money is ascribed to the Lydians, a people of Asia Minor. It is, of course, quite impossible to fix any definite date for the first coinage. Long before any one thought to coin money it was made out of any durable substance that came to hand, such as leather, iron, tin, bronze and even the hard bark of the trees and stones of the fields. The Hollander, so late as the middle of the sixteenth century, made money of pasteboard. In fact, pretty nearly everything in the shade of lasting material has at one time or another been used as the medium of trade known as money.

Suiting the Action to the Word.

At a lecture a well known authority on economics mentioned the fact that in some parts of America the number of men was constantly larger than that of women, and he added humorously, "I can therefore recommend to the ladies to emigrate to that part."

A young lady who was seated in one of the last rows of the auditorium got up and, full of indignation, left the room rather noisily, whereupon the lecturer remarked, "I did not mean that it should be done in such a hurry."—Judge.

White Specks In Butter.

White specks in butter are sometimes simply fine particles of milk curd, resulting from lack of care in skimming. Sometimes they are small specks of dried cream, having been scraped from the sides of the pan and being too dry to thoroughly soften and mix with the rest.

On the Spur of the Moment.

"Waiter, these eggs are as hard as a stone. I told you not to boil them more than three minutes and a half."

"Yes, sir; that's just the time they were in to a second, but the—aw—water was hard, sir."—Chicago Tribune.

Doing and Thinking.

Mamma—Bessie, why don't you wash the dishes? It is easier to do a thing than to sit and think about it. Bessie—Well, mamma, you wash the dishes, and I'll sit and think about it.

Could Help Her.

Fussy Lady Patient—I was suffering so much, doctor, that I wanted to die. Doctor—You did right to call me in, dear lady.—London Opinion.

What kind of paper resembles a sneeze? Tissue.

FOR THE CHILDREN

Knocking the Head Trick.

Do you desire me, ladies, to teach you my secret for making impromptu verses? It is to rub your forehead well, not with the hand as Horace did of old, but by giving your head some good sound blows against the wall. Then proceed to knock your head three or four times against a door and put your hand to your forehead as if to deaden the pain produced by the violence of the blows. But you must do something more than merely touch the door with your head. At the same moment that you make the movements as if knocking yourself, you ward off the blow by the aid of the left hand held to the door about the spot which you appear to strike, while the closed right hand, concealed from the audience, strikes on the other side of the door.

The correspondence of the movements of the head with the noise of the blows given by the clinched fist produces a perfect illusion on the minds of the spectators.

Frolickers of the Sea.

The merry dolphins have a peculiar murmuring cry, and when the sailors hear it they say the dolphins are talking together. Of all the creatures of the sea these show the greatest exuberance of animal mirth. Often they are seen by ships' passengers in the Mediterranean and the northern Atlantic ocean frolicking and leaping from the surface of the sea with a thousand graceful motions. Now they leap with curved bodies many feet into the air, then they drag through the waves rapidly, leaving a slender wake of whitening foam under the water. The dolphin is not more than six or eight feet long. The body tapers toward the tail, which is shaped like a crescent. It has a beak about six inches long and a crescent shaped blowhole, with horns turned backward. It is white on the back, grayish on the sides and white beneath.

About the Moon.

The bright side of the moon always is turned toward the sun whether the sun is visible to us or not. So we should expect that if the moon is less than full a line joining the center of the moon and the center of her illuminated edge would always point toward the sun while the cusps or horns of the moon in her first or last quarter would point away from the sun. But if we come to watch the moon we shall find that the position of the cusps often is different from what we had expected. For instance, the sun may be well below the horizon, yet the horns may be turned a little downward and the center of the bright edge a little upward.

The Bargain Counter.

This is a good test of memory as well as observation. The bargain counter may be a table in the middle of the room. On the counter place a number of articles—toys, books, vases, any small objects at hand.

One child is chosen to take charge of the shop, and a second one, after carefully looking over the collection to notice and remember every article, leaves the room. While he is absent a third person selects and hides one of the pieces. When the second child is called in he must try at one guess to say which of the articles was sold in his absence. If he guesses correctly he may be the next shopman.

Tree Puzzlers.

What is the double tree? Pear.
What tree is nearest the sea? Beech
Name the languishing tree. Pine.
What is the chronologist's tree? Date.
What tree is adapted to hold shirt waists? Box.
What tree will keep you warm? Fir.
What is the Egyptian plague tree? Locust.
What is the tree we offer friends at meeting and parting? Palm.
The tree found in churches? Elder.
The fiery tree? Burning bush.
The tree used in wet weather? Rubber.
The tree that protects from the fierce heat of the sun? Umbrella.—Philadelphia Ledger.

Some Old Proverbs.

A blind man is no judge of colors.
Fierceness is often hidden beneath beauty.
There is often anger in a laugh.
A dress often hides a deceiver.
A foolish word is folly.
Hope consoles the persecuted.
The well fed forget the hungry.
Idleness is the fool's desire.

Next of the Grebe.

The grebe, or dipper, although awkward on land, is an expert diver and has the power of remaining long under water and thrusting out the bill for a supply of air. The little grebe builds a floating nest, which she removes at the approach of danger, paddling it with one foot.

Lions Like Lavender.

Lion tamers frequently perfume themselves with lavender. There is, it is said, no record of a lion ever having attacked a trainer who had taken the precaution of using this perfume.

Filling the Sugar Bowl.

I like to help Susan by filling the bowl
With sugar so white and sweet, you know;
I put in a lot
And pat it all down
And make it so smooth and neat, you know,
With never a hump
Or sign of a lump,
For the lumps I always do eat, you know.

BE WISE; STICK TO FARM.

It Stands For Everything Attractive, Wholesome and Profitable.

For the restless boy or girl who wants to go away from the farm and get out into the big world to do something, no better bit of earnest reading can be found than this extract from the New York Independent.

"The new farm children," it says, "live a third dispensation. The sciences began to take hold of the land at least fifty years ago, but there was an offclearing necessary. The transition period was protracted, mainly because the land was already in possession of a race of farmers that must die off.

"The agricultural college applied the sciences to tillage and to crops and to animal life on the farm twenty-five years ago. It was slow work, not only to awaken the farmer, but to investigate, discover, and then to apply. The age is now rapidly falling into the hands of men who are alive to the great fact that production has never yet approached its maximum. The orchard has all this while, thanks to moths and caterpillars, become more and more an entomological laboratory. Gradually it has came about that not a thing can be grown on the land without a fight. This has not by any means been a permanent loss, but has wakened a spirit of scientific examination and determination to master conditions. The microscope and the crucible are as necessary today as the plow and the hoe. The farm boy is not without stimulus, nor is he without interesting conditions; rather it will now take the brighter boys to do the farming.

"The development of farm machinery and the application of new forces on the land have gone on at the same time. In every department of the home, in the house as well as in the barn, machinery takes the place of men, and the help problem is now driving us to a still more complete age of mechanism.

"There is no lot on earth so enviable today as that of an American farm boy or girl. They have room, fresh air, beautiful surroundings, while the arts and sciences are involved in their work, and isolation is absolutely abolished.

"Nothing can be gained any longer by quitting the farm. It stands for everything that is attractive, wholesome and profitable; but at the same time it stands for the new and the stimulating. Country life cannot be made dull, unless it wilfully severs itself from advantages that are freely offered."

WILD MUSTARD GREAT PEST.

Not Useful Like Its Eatable Cousins, but an Indefatigable Menace.

About as troublesome a weed as the farmer the world over has to deal with is the charlock or wild mustard. It is prolific in the extreme and, unlike its black and white cousins, is not only worthless, but harmful. About the only way to control it is to use a spray

SPRAYER TO DESTROY WEEDS.

made up of either a 2 per cent solution of copper sulphate or a 15 per cent solution of iron sulphate. The quantity needed is from fifteen to twenty gallons to the acre, and American grain growers go after it with a sort of watering cart.

It is particularly obnoxious in wheatfields, not only choking growth, but making the harvesting of the crop a matter of great difficulty.

Creek an Ideal Farm Hand.

A wideawake farmer noticed that his creek, if dammed at a certain place, would produce a six foot waterfall. He built a dam and put in a water wheel—a $300 turbine that yielded twenty-five horsepower. Over the water wheel he built a powerhouse in which he placed a dynamo for the water wheel to run. The electricity was wired 1,700 feet to the farm buildings.

Then he put his electricity to work in every possible place about the premises. He heated and lighted the house, did the cooking and the washing and ironing, did the sweeping and dusting, beat eggs—and at three different speeds too—turned the ice cream freezer and in summer ventilated the house with fans.

Now with a vacuum milking machine he milks twenty cows, two at a time; drives the cream separator, churns, pumps water into every room in the house and into the stall of each horse and cow, drives lathes and drills in a workshop, drives a circular saw to cut cordwood and drives an ensilage cutter. It pays to be up to date.

THE MONEY MAKING MULE.

The mule is a slave animal. At two years he is ready to do considerable work and will from that age on make a profit over and above his feed and expense bill in the value of his labor and at the same time be growing more valuable until four or five years old, at which age he will command the top of the market in his age class.

Origin of Foxe's "Book of Martyrs."

Foxe's "Book of Martyrs" was published in March, 1652, as the "Actes and Monuments" of the martyrs, a title borrowed from an earlier book, says the London Chronicle. The famous volume might never have appeared at all but for the association of Foxe with the printer Day of Aldersgate street, in whose business Foxe took an active part. On the tombstone of Day in the church of Little Bradley, Suffolk, the partnership is thus immortalized:

He et a Fox to wright how martyrs runne
By death to lyfe; Fox ventured paynes and health
To give them light; Daye spent in print his wealth

Even in those days the alien problem troubled industry, for we find Foxe appealing to Cecil to relax the law and permit his friend Day to engage more than four foreign printers.

Iron In Plants.

Iron is the substance which gives the green appearance to foliage. It forms a constituent part of chlorophyll and is the green coloring matter which stains the bodies inside the cells of leaves, called plastids. When the first organized food is being formed in the leaves from water and carbonic acid gas a certain amount of energy is required. This is obtained from the sun's rays, but the work of absorbing it is carried out by the chlorophyll. It requires very little iron for the production of all the cholrophyll found in a crop, and nearly all soils contain an abundant supply.

The Human Clock.

The Spanish painter Ribera, Mr. Haldane Macfall recalls in his "History of Painting," worked with such fervor that all count of time was lost to him. "He made a living clock to check the passing hours. His servant came every hour to the studio to say in a loud and stately voice, 'Another hour has gone, Signor Cavaliere!'"

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