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order with us
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145 employees
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Company, Limited.**THE MENACE OF
DEPOPULATION**

IS A HIGH BIRTH-RATE A REMEDY

By Walter M. Gallickan.

It is commonly credited that a great increase of births in a nation is a sign of a stable or augmenting population, and a proof of national vigour and prosperity. This belief requires very careful examination at the present time, when many measures are being discussed for repairing the losses through war. We are gravely counselled to encourage marriage by every possible means, and to foster the production of large families. Polygamy as even been suggested as a practical remedy, and the taxation of celibates has been proposed. The fall of the birth-rate for the period between 1870 and 1909 has aroused profound apprehension among a large number of our countrymen, and the fear has deepened and spread during the great European conflict.

Among 1,000 married women in 1870-72, in England and Wales, there were 292.5 births. In 1909, the proportion of birth had dropped to 209.4 per thousand. This fact has been often cited as a proof of rapid decline in population and racial decay. Is the Dread Warrantable?

If the United Kingdom was the country with the lowest European birth-rate and the highest death-rate, we might have real cause for anxiety. The rate of births in Germany is lessening almost as quickly as our own; but the juvenile death-rate is very much higher in Germany than in our nation. Infant mortality among the Germans considerably exceeds that of the United Kingdom. A high rate of infantile deaths is a symptom of racial deterioration. Not only is there great mortality among new-born infants in Germany, but the death-rate of the young up to the age of five, in German cities, is very much higher than in English towns. The mortality of children in Germany, according to German medical statistics, was 50 per cent. higher than in England.

It is recognized by German investigators that the average family in the urban populations of their country is smaller than in English towns. In Berlin, child mortality has increased enormously since 1902, and among the children of mothers employed in the factories, the rate of death is 38 per cent. The total birth-rate of Berlin is below that of London.

A diminishing birth-rate is only apparently a cause of diminishing. A very high birth-rate is almost invariably accompanied by an excessive death-rate.

The Case of Holland and New Zealand

Since 1876, the birth-rate in Holland has fallen from about 37 per 1,000 to above 29. Yet, owing to the raising of the standard of health, the adult death-rate and the mortality of children in Holland are decreasing more steadily than in any other country. The stamina of the Dutch is undoubtedly improving, and it has been proved that the height of the people is wonderfully increasing. The average stature of soldiers in the army of Holland is much higher than it was fifty years ago. The decline in the Dutch birth-rate has checked the death-rate improved national health, and added height to the race.

We have been impressed by the splendid physique and fine health of our New Zealand volunteers. The birth in New Zealand has steadily declined, but the death-rate is the lowest of all countries. There are no signs whatever of grave social decadence, no industrial distress, and no lack of prosperity in this colony. The example of New Zealand demonstrates that it is entirely erroneous to assert racial decay through a fall in the birth-rate alone. The rate of birth must always be compared with the rate of death in a country. A declining birth-rate is not a convincing proof of the physical deterioration of a community, when the death-rate is within normal bounds. A low birth-rate actually favours an increase of population when the death-rate is also low. A high birth-rate produces inevitably a high infant mortality rate; and a high percentage of infantile deaths means that even the surviving children are below the standard of health and fitness.

Increased Survival Rather than an Increase of Births.

Publicists, who emphasise the urgency of a rapid augmentation of the population in the near future, should realise that the mere production of quantity is not a panacea for the decimation of war. A high and rapid reproduction of numbers involves risks of still-births, premature births, infant mortality, severe taxing of the vigour of mothers, and specific diseases of maternity. We must produce children that stand a good

chance of survival, diminish the rate of child mortality, and nurture the young into citizens who will be sound in body and mind, capable of resisting disease, and fitted for parentage.

The recommendation of youthful marriage is questionable. Offspring born to adolescents are not especially liable to premature death and disease, as is sometimes supposed. But there is a wide concurrence of opinion among the majority of physicians, that twenty is the earliest age for healthy maternity.

The Bad Example of Germany

The statistics of births and deaths in Germany, as furnished by A. Flux, in 1910, point to the extreme probability of a much lower rate of increase among the population in the future. This authority states that, during the past years, an increasing number of the German population have become town dwellers. Rapid urbanisation tends to the lessening of vitality in a people, and is a serious import at the present time. Further congestion in the towns of the United Kingdom would tend to a steady diminution of population. We should endeavour to repopulate the depleted districts of our countryside. Town life heightens the death-rate, lowers stamina, and engenders diseases. The perils of poverty are greater in the cities than in the country; and poverty, which leads to the enfeeblement of mothers and the under-nourishment of babies, is one of the sources of infantile mortality.

Without improvement in the material condition of masses of the population, it is foolish to advocate a rapid multiplication of numbers. This increase would intensify the struggle for food and shelter among the millions earning less than twenty-five shillings a week, and increase disease, lunacy, crime and death.

Professor Karl Pearson has repeatedly warned us that 50 per cent. of our population is being kept up by 25 per cent. of our total number—a class composed of the poorest and the weakest members of the community, and those least fitted for parentage.



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UNDER the Provisions of the War Measures Act, 1914, His Excellency the Governor in Council has been pleased to order that the Regulations, published in the ROYAL GAZETTE under date 17th October last, in connection with Precautionary Measures taken against the incursions of hostile ships of war, be suspended as from the 15th November instant.

These Regulations comprised, amongst other things, the closing of the port and harbor of St. John's at night, and the extinguishing of the lights at certain light houses, and in the city of St. John's.

ARTHUR MEWS,
Deputy Colonial Secretary
Dept. of the
Colonial Secretary,
November 14, 1916.

**Potatoes Going to
Waste in Montreal**

MONTREAL, Que., Nov. 28.—Enough potatoes have been allowed to go to waste in Montreal within the past few days to supply the needs of the city for this necessary vegetable for almost a week. While the price has been rising almost daily and the wholesale dealers have been expaining vividly about the great shortage in the New Brunswick crop, fifty cars on the sidings of the various railway systems that enter the city have been allowed to freeze to such an extent that practically all their contents will be useless for ordinary purposes.

A railway man stated that while the railway companies are after the men to whom the car load are consigned, every day, to take delivery of their goods the consignee refuse until it suits their own purpose to do so. Many of the cars to reach Montreal within the past few weeks have not been equipped with stoves or other means of generating warmth as it was not expected by the shipper that they would be allowed to lie here for any length of time pending acceptance by the consignee. The result has been that the present cold snap has caught these cars standing on the railway sidings without protection of any kind and that hundreds of bags of potatoes have been ruined.

A car load of potatoes caught fire recently. The car was standing on the C. P. R. tracks near Henri Julien avenue, and a stove was in the car to keep the potatoes from freezing. The stove became too hot and set fire to the car. An alarm was turned in from box 9136, and responded to by the men of the northern division under Chief Hooper, who soon had the outbreak extinguished, but considerable quantities of the potatoes were roasted.

**MARKET FOR
CANADIAN FISH**

OTTAWA, Nov. 27.—A remarkable development in the fishing industry in Canada is predicted by Major Hugh Green, Director of Fish Supplies for the Canadian Army, who arrived in Ottawa Tuesday from London. He is the young man who induced the Government to supply fish to the fighters and the idea has now been taken up by the British authorities.

"It is only a matter of producing the fish and getting it over," said Major Green. "Once this is done, the market is good for a million dollars a week. I hope to make plans for shipments up to 5,000,000 pounds a week from Canada. The fish is here if they will go after it."

Major Green is now representing the British Board of Trade in buying for the War Office. Since the fish supply to the Canadians in England was inaugurated last spring, 2,500,000 pounds have been sent over. The cost laid down in London averages between 8 and 10 cents a pound. Canadian halibut landed for the forces costs 13 cents, while, according to Major Green, the prevailing price in London is 56 cents.

Trade not Ephemeral.

"A change of diet in the trenches is always welcome," said Major Green, "and if Canada could produce it, the Allied armies would take ten million cans a week. The Canadian fish business in England is not ephemeral. It has become so popular that the demand for frozen fish is bound to keep up permanently after the war is concluded. We are now figuring on supplying the Australian and New Zealand forces in England to the extent of 80,000 pounds a week."

Major Green is a young Scotchman who previously to going overseas was in the fish business in Saskatchewan. He is here to negotiate with the Fisheries Department and the War Purchasing Commission, and to organize a business whose prospects he regarded as illimitable. The Major will visit the principal centres of the fishing industry.

BRITAIN'S GENEROSITY

Britain has sent \$50,000,000 to the relief of Belgians, though hard pressed by war expenses—more than the United States has sent. The overflowing pocket is rarely the most open one, strange as it may seem.—Mail and Empire.

THE REASON

"All want peace, why not have it now?" demands a distinguished publicist in the columns of the New York Times. The reason is that the sort of peace the Allies want cannot be had now.—Mail and Empire.

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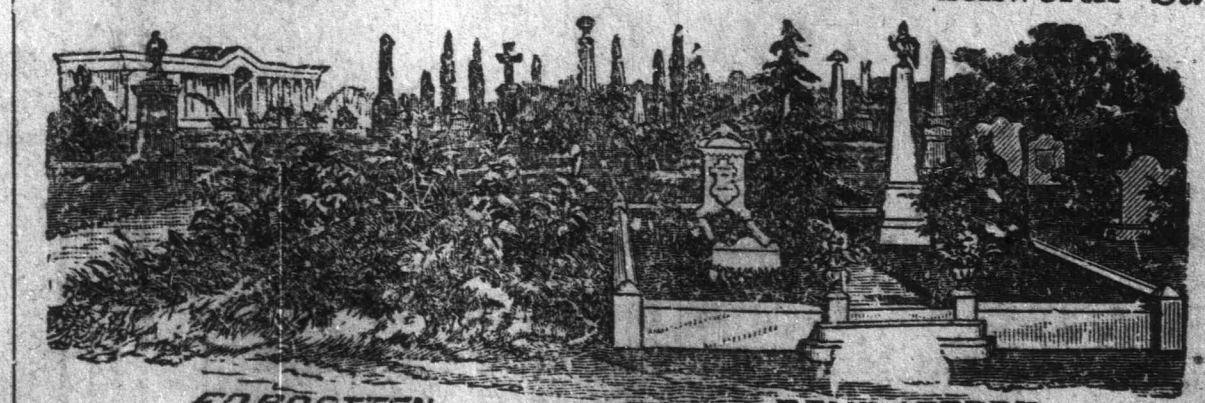
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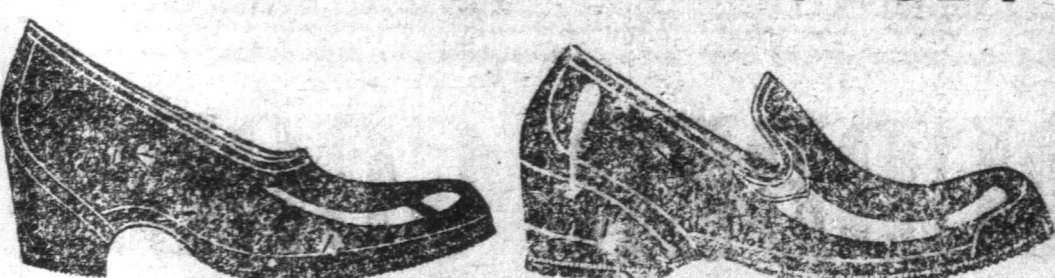
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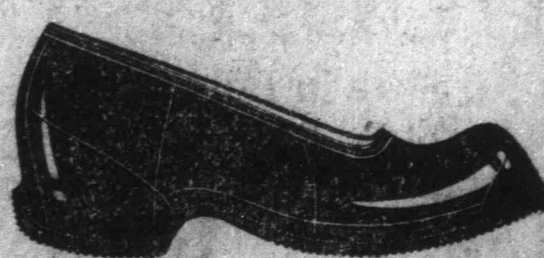
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