

The "steppes" with their large tracts of land capable of cultivation, I believe to be capable of supporting ten inhabitants to the square mile, whilst the "deserts" would be fully peopled if they had even one inhabitant to a square mile.

I do not take into consideration the colonization of tropical regions by Europeans, because I am constrained to maintain that the tropical regions are no field for European emigrants, and because it is not necessary that the consumer of food should live in the country which produces it.

From all these considerations, I assume that this world of ours, if brought fully into cultivation, can supply 5,994 million human beings with food and other necessary products of the vegetable kingdom.

*The Increase of Population.*—On this point not only are our statistics still very incomplete, but conditions, social or otherwise, may arise which would materially affect the present movement of the population. Weighing all the data to be had, and carefully considering all the causes which are at all likely to give an impetus to the growth of population or retard it in the various quarters of the world, I assume that the increase in the course of a decade will amount to ten per cent.

Summarized, the results of my careful estimates are as follows :—

Increase in a decade  
Per cent.

|                       |     |
|-----------------------|-----|
| Europe .....          | 8.7 |
| Asia .....            | 6   |
| Africa .....          | 10  |
| Australasia .....     | 30  |
| North America.....    | 20  |
| South America.....    | 15  |
| The Whole Earth ..... | 8   |

*Conclusion.*—Accepting these figures as correct, it becomes an easy matter to compute the increase of the population. By the close of this century, the 1,468 millions who now dwell upon the earth will have increased to 1,587 millions; in the year 1950 there will be 2,333 millions; in the year 2000, 3,426 millions; and in the year 2072, or 182 years hence, there will be 5,979 millions. These estimates are not presented as a prophecy. I have already hinted at voluntary checks to the growth of population which will come into play as civilization advances, and the demands for the comforts of this life shall be more general. At all events, so far as we are personally concerned, one hundred and eighty-two years is a long period to look forward to; but if we look back a similar number of years, and remember that William III. and Marlborough were then still among us, we are bound to admit that it is but a short period in the lifetime of a nation.—*Proceedings of the Royal Geographical Society.*

## FOR YOUNG TEACHERS.

THIS from the *Educational News* contains nothing new, but some things good which need to be repeated.

There is no single element in the teacher's make-up that counts for more in the school-room than tact. Without it the teacher is a negative quantity, but with it, a positive one.

Many of us are apt to regard tact as an indescribable essential, but it is only plain common-sense. It is possible for every teacher to cultivate it, and I may add that it is their duty to do it. Let us illustrate a few ways in which the teacher may employ tact.

There is no problem that bothers the average teacher more than that of