

## FIRST QUARTER OF THE YEAR 1932 SEES THE LOWEST BIRTHRATE IN ENGLAND

The recent publication of the statistics of births and deaths in England and Wales and Scotland with the statement that in 1932 the number of births—15.3 per thousand—was the lowest ever recorded for the first quarter of the year, has again raised interest in the future magnitude of the population.

Births are usually fewer and deaths more numerous in winter than in the summer quarters of the year, and the number of births have fallen so far that in four recent years deaths have exceeded births and the population has actually diminished, in the first three quarters of the year.

The birth-rate has fallen nearly continuously since at least the seventies of last century—the only important break being during and immediately after the war—and the last few years have seen some acceleration in the fall.

### Older and Fewer

The number of births on the other hand, increased till after the beginning of the century and it is the number, rather than the rate that we must use in considering the present future and size and age-constitution and population.

Persons now 60 years old are the survivors of the births of 1872; those now 50 are the survivors of the greater number of 1882, and consequently

ten years hence there will be more persons aged 60 than there are at present. In successive decades the effect of the increase of births has been enhanced by a marked fall in the death-rate, so the survivors are a larger proportion of increased ranks. Up until now the numbers in the population at all ages above 30 have been greater in each successive year, apart from the war losses which affected the male groups now aged 30 to 50.

A period of approximate stationariness has been reached for persons now between 20 and 30, while the number at each age under 20 is falling year by year, with irregularities consequent on the large number of births postponed from the war to after the armistice.

With the lapse of time the stationariness now in the third decade of life will pass up the scale. So far, the increase in the older section has outbalanced the decrease in the younger section; but it is inevitable that a continued decrease in births (unless compensated by a decrease in death-rates) leads ultimately to a falling population. The process has been delayed to only a moderate extent by the reduction of infant mortality and general prolongation of life.

Eight years ago it was computed that, if there were no further change in the number of births or in the death-rates, the population of Great Britain

would reach nearly 49,000,000 about 1970 (less and loss by emigration), and remain at that total. But the number of births have fallen so rapidly, that if they continued as in the past twelve months, the ultimate population would be under 40,000,000. The population at present is nearly 45,000,000.

The question put is no longer whether the population will cease to increase, but when it will reach its maximum and how rapidly will it diminish.

There is of course, no definite or certain answer to either question, since the future number of births cannot be known at all, and there may be significant changes in the death-rates. It is, however, fairly certain that the population of Great Britain will reach a maximum of less than 46,000,000 within 20 years from now, unless there is a sudden reversal of the tendency of fewer births.

After that date the population will diminish unless births increase, but the falling off will be very slow.

The number of marriages in Great Britain has increased almost continuously—that in the first quarter of 1932 was considerably greater than in recent years—though the increase has been less than that of the marriageable population. The recent check of births has no doubt been deliberate, and it is not unconnected with the long and severe trade depression. We have only to go back to 1926 to find sufficient births to maintain the population at its present number.

It is premature to forecast a serious fall in the population of Western Europe and quite erroneous to speak of it as coming in the near future, but the seeds of decay are present. The mothers of the children born recently are the survivors of the large generation of twenty years before the war. In each successive decade there will be fewer potential mothers as the generation of the more recent years come to maturity.

Thus in 1921 there were in Great Britain 10,660,000 women within the age limits of 15 to 45; unless there is an immediate increase in the number of births, the corresponding number will be less than in 1961. If the proportion of births to potential mothers is the same as in 1931 the number of births would be only 570,000, whereas 790,000 births per annum are necessary to maintain a population of 46,000,000. Consideration of these figures will show that on the hypotheses made there would be a continuous decline of population, but that it would take place very slowly.

### More Boys than Girls

We are on safer ground if we look forward only a short while and observe the changes in the relative numbers at different ages that are already manifest. The proportion of children to adults has rapidly diminished, while the proportion of the old to those in middle life has increased.

Whereas in 1911 in Great Britain for 100 men aged 15 to 65 there were 108 women of those ages, 100 children and 17 persons over 65, the present tendencies are towards the distribution, 100 men, 100 women, 70 children and 35 old people and we are already well on the way to these proportions.

One rather unexpected result of the saving of infant life has been to change the balance between the sexes at the earlier ages. Now there are more males than females at every age up to 25 or 30 years. The exact balance cannot be known till the results of the census of 1931 are available. There will continue to be a numerical excess of women at the higher ages.

### FLOWERING DOGWOOD

The red bud throws a purple mist  
Around the woodland's edge,  
But dogwood's crowning bloom, sun-kissed.

Of spring's a fairer pledge!  
From March till May white blossoms drift,

Like snow by forest streams;  
With every turn of wind or shift  
Of sky, new beauty gleams.  
And yet 'tis beauty marred by stain,  
Blood-red, all shriveled sere;  
As tho, the cruel hand of Pain

Had come too close, too near!  
O flowering dogwood! Vision fair,  
When like a golden rain  
The sunshine falls, to us you bear  
A message with glad strain;  
"The truest beauty is that born  
Of triumph over pain!"

"\$40 Taken From Store Refrigerator"—headline. In cold cash.

## HOLLYWOOD STUDIOS HIDE SILVER MINES

A valuable silver "mine" discovered in the heart of Hollywood, the motion picture capital of the world, has produced more than \$21,000 worth of silver bullion in its first six months.

This mine, which is a remarkable new electrolytic plant for the recovery of waste silver from film-fixing baths, is so successful in its operation that already another installation is under construction and several more are planned. Unlike the mines of desert and mountain discovered by the prospector or engineer, this silver producer is the result of years of tireless investigation by Dr. K. Hickman and his associates in the research laboratories of the Eastman Kodak Company.

Hypo solution, the fluid used to fix the image on photographic film, dissolves the unexposed silver from the developed film, says Popular Mechanics Magazine. Soon the solution becomes so loaded with silver that its value cannot be ignored. In one large movie studio about half a million feet, or nearly 100 miles, of film is developed every day. From this enormous quantity the hypo solution dissolves about sixty-five pounds of silver—about as much as there is in \$60 silver dollars. Many tons of ore from an ordinary silver mine would have to be smelted to get so much of the metal.

The process is similar to electroplating of tableware. A low voltage electric current passes through the solution in special plating cells from a carbon plate to one of stainless steel, carries with it a small amount of silver, which it deposits on the steel plate as a thin metallic film. After the silver is built up to a thickness of one-sixteenth to one-eighth of an inch it is stripped off and melted into ingots, which are of such high purity—98 to 99 per cent—that they may be sold directly to the mint.

## BEAUTIFUL LEGS WANTED FOR PICTURE

Hollywood, July 23—Paramount studios seek, for the movies, a pair of beautiful legs, with very small feet attached.

"Or, as Director Frank Borzage explained it:

"I want legs with a blonde temperament, if you know what I mean."

But no matter how beautiful the owner of the legs may be, her face will not be shown in the film, a picture of Ernest Hemingway's "A Farewell to Arms."

In the sequence of scenes in which the girl will appear with Helen Hayes, Gary Cooper and Adolph Menjou, her voice will be used, and she will have a slipper on only one foot—so if she can express ideas with her toes, the handicap of a hidden face may not be so great.

### MID-SUMMER MOON

Through shimmering skies the big clouds slowly sail;  
A faint breeze lingers in the rustling beech;

Atop the vagrant oak with vagrant speech

The bawling crows call down the sleepy vale;  
Unseen the glad cicadas trill their tale

Of deep content in changeless vibrant speech,

And where the old fence rambles out of reach

The drowsy lizard hugs the shady rail.  
Warm odors from the hayfield wander by,

Afar the homing reapers noontide tune

Floats on the mellow stillness like a sigh;

One butterfly, ghost of a vanished June,

Soars dimly where its realm of purple sky

Dips the wan crescent of the vapory moon.

Beware of all vast schemes of reforming mankind. Such things are done piecemeal.

# Red Rose Tea

The New **20** <sup>¢</sup>/<sub>1/2</sub> lb.  
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A woman who marries for money The young ladies attending the works more than eight hours a day. Teachers' Institute put the "Queen" One can be famously indignant in Queen street yesterday. without losing his temper. Why If a mob had any sense there would be no mob.

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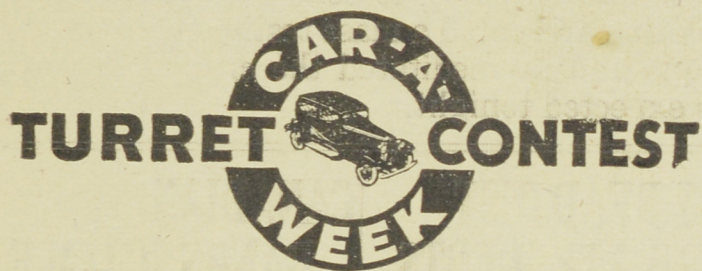
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Miss Queenie Cather, Stenographer, Suite 27, The Banff, Georgia Street West, Vancouver, B.C.

This week's (THE ELEVENTH) CAR-A-WEEK CONTEST closes August 3, 1932. All entries mailed after that date will be entered in the next week's contest. The winner of this contest will be announced August 17th, 1932.

The weekly prizes are awarded not for good writing but for writing which reveals character or temperament, unique or unusual features.

### NOTE

The only condition of entry in this contest is that you write the following on the backs of 4 front panels from empty Turret Cigarette (20's) packages with portion of excise stamp attached—on the back of one panel, your name; on the back of another your occupation; on the third, your street and town; and on the fourth, your province. Fasten the four panels together and mail, on or before the closing date shown above, to Turret Cigarette Handwriting Contest,

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