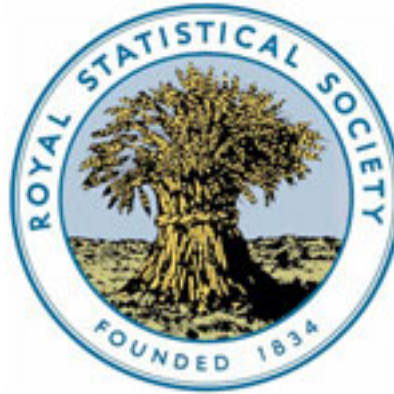


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A Century of Population Growth, 1790-1900

Review by: A. W. F.

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ages at which persons become adult—why, for purely statistical purposes, should boys become men at 20, the girls women at 18?—the years between 18 and 20 are a part of the time of life when earnings advance most rapidly, so that for the purpose of comparison between the earnings of the sexes, the averages for men and women, boys and girls, are most misleading. By this inequality of age-grouping the ratio of male to female earnings is given a fictitious increase, both for young persons and adults; to what extent, it is impossible to ascertain. Thus is the public misled!

Presumably the inquiry was made in 1906, in order that the interval since the first of the kind should be 20 years. It would have been better in many ways had the recent inquiry been made to synchronise with the first Census of Production. This, however, would not have got over the difficulty that 1886 was a year of depression, whilst 1906 and 1907 were years of boom, the collapse beginning in the latter year. To measure progress it is indispensable that any industrial inquiry or census of production should be made in corresponding years in successive cycles of trade. Unless the world's harvests next year are below the average, we may look for the next boom to begin in 1913; and as that year would then correspond with 1906, the Board of Trade might well prepare for taking the next inquiry in 1913. The year preceding that in which the collapse begins is probably about the best both for such an inquiry and for a census of production; but it would be better still if an inquiry could be made twice in every trade cycle, once in the midst of depression, and again just before the height of activity is reached.

Notwithstanding these critical suggestions, I am fully alive to the immense importance of the work, carefully and conscientiously done, which is embodied in this volume. Such investigations entail much thought and vast labour. It would be surprising, indeed, if criticism were not forthcoming when such comprehensive surveys are in their infancy. Criticism is offered not to decry, but to assist. *Qui non proficit, deficit.* H.S.J.

4.—*A century of population growth, 1790-1900.* 303 pp., 4to. Government Printing Office, Washington, U.S.A., 1909.

The Bureau of the Census have presented, in this report on the first census of the United States, some studies of very considerable interest to others than the citizens of the great republic itself. The comparatively meagre information contained in the schedules of the census has been presented in such relations to the results of subsequent enumerations as to throw very instructive light on several important aspects of the development of the country. Earlier partial censuses have also been discussed briefly, so that a convenient work of reference on the subject of the growth and distribution of the white population of the United States for nearly three centuries results. Attention may be confined in this notice to a few of the more salient points brought out in the course of the discussion of the data.

The total population in 1790 shown by the returns and estimated for returns not preserved was 3,929,625, of whom 3,172,444 were white. In 1900 the enumerated population of the continental United States was 75,994,575, of whom 66,809,196 were white. The comparative steadiness in the rate of growth of the total population for two centuries down to 1860 is a remarkable result of the historical survey referred to above, the rate of increase per decade fluctuating about 35 per cent. throughout this long period. It is of the white population that the greater part of the report treats. It is estimated that the part of the white population of 1900 which the country owed to the immigration of the nineteenth century was about 32,000,000, the remaining 35,000,000 representing the growth of the original stock. Of that original stock, 82 per cent. were English, and 91 per cent. of British origin, including under this designation English, Scottish, and Irish. Thus nearly 32,000,000, or but little less than half of the white population in 1900 are estimated to be assignable to the British stock of a century earlier. The total British contribution to the United States population is not computed.

A notable point brought out is that the southern states, practically without immigration, have increased in white population about equally rapidly with the entire area. Thus natural increase has enabled a growth there as rapid as natural increase and immigration together have yielded elsewhere. The proportion of persons under 16 to other elements in the population emphasises this contrast. In 1790 those under 16 formed all but half the population. In 1900 they were little over a third of the population of the area for which the 1790 enumeration was made, but in the southern states they still formed 40 per cent. of the total. In 1790 there were 78 persons over 20 years of age to each 100 under 16. In 1900 the ratio was 158 to 100. There were 190 females of 16 years of age and over to 100 children under 16 in 1790, but in 1900 there was an equality between these two groups in the area of the 1790 enumeration. In the southern states, meanwhile, the proportion had fallen from 200 to 130 females of 16 and over for every 100 children under 16. These broad contrasts are emphasised when the details for each state are examined. The consequences of this change in the proportion of children to adults are discussed briefly in the report. The reduction in the size of families is shown diagrammatically, the family of four, five or six persons occurring most frequently in 1790, while in 1900, families of three persons were recorded more often than those of any other number.

It will be of interest to state that the basis of the classification by nationalities in 1790, referred to above, is afforded by the surnames of the population, not by any statement in response to questions in the schedule. Some further discussion of the distribution, varieties, and origin of the surnames recorded is included in the report.

The limits of a book notice do not permit of a discussion of the problem of interstate migration, of the numbers and distribution of slaves, of property owned and occupations followed, which form the

topics of chapters in the volume, but it should be stated that a chapter is devoted to a description of the general condition of the country in 1790, its industries and trade, its means of communication, and an enumeration of the newspapers and periodicals then existing. A number of interesting old maps and other charts and diagrams add substantially to the value of the volume. A.W.F.

5.—*Industrial Insurance in the United States.* By Charles Richmond Henderson. viii + 429 pp., 8vo. Chicago: The University Press. London: Unwin. Price 9s. net.

This volume is substantially an English version of a contribution in German by the author to Dr. Zacher's work on industrial insurance in foreign countries, published in Berlin in 1907. To this Mr. Henderson has added considerable new material, and a summary of European laws on industrial insurance, mainly derived from the reports of the congresses on social insurances held at Vienna and Rome. Of England the author remarks that it "has long resisted the Continental tendency to make insurance compulsory, and can hardly be counted among the nations which have a full legal insurance system. Recent legislation, however, indicates that Parliament is learning its lesson." He refers to the new principle embodied in the Workmen's Compensation Acts of 1897, 1900 and 1906, and to the Old Age Pensions Act of 1908, in proof of this. He considers the scheme of the Compensation Acts to be "not yet squarely on an insurance basis," and remarks that "sickness due to other than occupational causes must be insured in other ways; there is no legal organisation yet for this purpose." It has, however, been publicly announced that the Government have in view a system of national contributory insurance against invalidity and old age, and an association has recently been formed to advocate a measure of this kind.

With regard to the United States, Mr. Henderson states that America has no system of industrial insurance, but that a beginning has been made from various starting points. There are numerous local mutual benefit societies, and he considers that the State might well adopt these into a great and powerful system covering the land, while leaving to them the advantages of self-government. The benefit features of the Trade Unions, so far as recorded, affect a million and a half of their members, and amounted in the year 1905 to 300,000*l.*; but this is an insufficient estimate. "Up to this time the Trade Unions are the only organisations which have shown ability, even in moderate measure, to provide unemployment insurance." With the exception of some societies formed among clerks, the fact is the same in this country. The "fraternal societies," which correspond to our affiliated orders, but are by no means confined to the wage-earning classes, appear to have about 5,000,000 members. Employers' liability is largely met by insurance. Industrial insurance companies and casualty insurance companies are competitors for business. Mr. Henderson also furnishes particulars of the schemes of private employers and railway corporations for the insurance of their employees, and of the municipal pension