

rainfall. This is an emphasis on the cyclonic unit which we have long hoped to see.

R. DEC. WARD.

#### *SOME STATE CENSUS FIGURES FOR 1905.*

THE state censuses for 1905 are showing some instructive returns. Iowa, for instance, shows a loss of 15,000 persons since 1900. The cities of 5,000 population and over gained 77,000 people in all; the towns under 5,000 and the rural districts together report a loss of 92,000. In Minnesota, where the gain during the decade, 1890 to 1899, inclusive, was 33.7 per cent., there has apparently been a slowing up. The decennial rate was 3.37 per cent. a year; but for the past five years, 1900 to 1905, there was a gain of only 13 per cent., or 2.6 per cent. a year. As the basis broadens the rate of accretion necessarily becomes slower, while in Iowa the rate indicates even retrogression. The indications are that, either from urban migration or from other causes, or from all combined, the farming population even in the most prosperous portions of the west has practically ceased to grow.

One reason for this, if the view of arrested growth be accepted, is to be found in the rapidly rising price of farming land. For the past several years or more the trend of prices of land has gone upward with the prices of farm produce. Iowa, being a dairying and stock-growing state, has 'come to put such values upon her farm lands as to dislodge the old style of farming for a family home, in favor of the capitalistic farmer—the farmer who puts surplus income back into land, into better methods of cultivation, better stock and better facilities. The old-style farmer moves off to Canada for frontier lands, or to the southwest or northwest, where land is cheaper, after having reaped the reward of waiting, in the form of the unearned increment.

Kansas took her fifth decennial census on March 1, 1905, and found the insignificant increase of 8,658 persons in one year, the total population being 1,543,868. This gives an average of 14,703 people for each of the 105 counties. Of these counties 58 report an increase, and 47 a decrease, compared with

March 1, 1904. The highest increase is 2,987 persons out of a total of 48,058, or 6.6 per cent. gain in one year. The largest decline is one of 2,087 persons, leaving a population of 24,907, or 9.1 per cent. less than a year earlier. These are marked changes to occur in so small a population in the course of twelve months from ordinary causes in times of prosperity in city and country alike.

Turning from country to city, we see that in Kansas towns the same shifting is going on. One might think that towns have been the gainers of country losses; but this is not always the case. The changes are due to a wider range of influences than urban attraction. Of 119 cities of a thousand inhabitants and over, 61 gained in the last year and 58 lost in numbers. Only four gained over one thousand each, and five of the cities lost each a thousand or over; but none so much as two thousand. While these are small numbers, they indicate the presence of some active influences which are responsible for a great deal of readjustment. Kansas is eminently the commonwealth of comparatively small towns. How emphatically this is the case is apparent from the following table of towns of 1,000 people and over, which may or may not suggest some explanation of the gain and loss account within its borders:

No. of Towns.	Range of Population.
4	have each from 20,924 to 67,613 inhabitants.
8	have each from 11,190 to 18,257 inhabitants.
12	have each from 5,188 to 9,899 inhabitants.
40	have each from 2,013 to 4,427 inhabitants.
55	have each from 1,009 to 1,998 inhabitants.

Any attempt to trace these evidences of arrest in increase, or of decrease, to unfavorable agricultural conditions must fail; because the same tendency appears in manufacturing states. For instance, Massachusetts, which is more than half cities or towns of over 5,000, has a disappointing return in its census for 1905. Taking into account the increase in the previous decade, a growth in population of 375,000 was expected and predicted. The actual increase is 193,612, barely half the expected gain.

The rate of increase, 6.9 per cent., is half that for twenty years back. It was 7.9 per cent., 1875 to 1880; and 8.9 per cent., 1880 to 1885; but this is the only time it has ever been as low; and of the earlier decade, the first five years, 1875 to 1880, were years of great financial depression.

The past five years have been years of overflowing prosperity. Yet the increase in population in Massachusetts drops to one half the earlier rate. The addition to population in the latest five years is no larger than it was thirty years ago, when the inhabitants of the states numbered only half as many as now.

"This same arrest of population," says the *Philadelphia Press*, "is in progress all over the country. No state is likely to show in this decade the increase of the past. Our national increase, which has been jogging along at about 25 per cent., in ten years, is about to make a drop to 12 or 15 per cent. in ten years, a little above the average of thriving European countries like Germany and England."

JOHN FRANKLIN CROWELL.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

#### THE MUSEUMS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA.

AN informal meeting of a few of the administrative heads of some of the greater museums of America was held at the United States National Museum in Washington on December 21. There were present Dr. Richard Rathbun, the director of the National Museum, Dr. H. C. Bumpus, director of the American Museum of Natural History, New York, Dr. N. L. Britton, the director of the New York Botanical Garden, Dr. F. A. Lucas, the curator-in-chief of the Brooklyn Institute, Dr. W. J. McGee, the director of the St. Louis Public Museum, Dr. W. P. Wilson, the director of the Philadelphia Museums, and Dr. W. J. Holland, the director of the Carnegie Museum. Dr. Samuel Henshaw, the curator of the Cambridge Museum of Comparative Zoology, and Dr. F. J. V. Skiff, of the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago, were not present, but were represented by letter.

The meeting had been called for the purpose of considering whether it might be advisable to take preliminary steps looking toward the

organization in America of a Museums Association somewhat analogous to that which exists in Great Britain. It was finally unanimously decided that the gentlemen represented in this informal gathering should over their names issue a call to the representatives of a number of the larger and more important museums of the United States to convene for the purpose of organizing The Museums Association of America.

In the informal discussion which took place it was decided that the movement should not be restricted to natural history museums, but that museums representing art, as well as the sciences, should be included in the call, and that the invitations should be made to cover the institutions of America, using the word in its widest sense, so as to include all of North America and South America and the various insular possessions of the United States and Great Britain in the western hemisphere.

In accordance with a resolution adopted invitations to attend a preliminary gathering for the purpose of organizing The Museums Association of America will shortly be issued to a number of institutions and individuals who are thought to be likely to be interested in such a movement. This conference will be held at the American Museum of Natural History in New York on May 15, 1906.

PITTSBURGH, PA.,

December 23, 1905.

#### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

THE New Orleans meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the societies affiliated with it begins to-day. This evening Professor W. G. Farlow, of Harvard University, will give the presidential address, his subject being 'The Popular Conception of the Scientific Man at the Present Day.' We hope to publish this address next week.

THE Paris Academy of Sciences has awarded the Lalande prize to Professor William Henry Pickering, of Harvard University, for his discovery of the ninth and tenth satellites of Saturn.