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MURDERS IN U. S. RISING WITH WARS

Total of Homicides Equal to Several Years of War Casualties

War is not the only life-destroying evil. It happens to us in this country very seldom; say once in a generation. But homicide goes on, every year, and every day in the year; with a cumulative effect threatening to outrival that of war.

Note current records. New York boasts of having a lower homicide rate than at least any other large city. Yet it had last year no fewer than sixty-four homicides to the million. At that rate the number in the whole United States would have been 7,040. Chicago, on the other hand, had a rate of 175 to the million, which would have meant 19,250 in the whole country. And the city of Jacksonville, Fla., had no fewer than 588 to the million, which would have rolled up a national total of 64,680 homicides a year.

The average rate for seventy-seven of the largest cities of the country was ninety-nine to the million. Adopting that as the presumptive rate for the whole country, we have a total homicide roll of 10,890 a year. We may reckon our wars as at the average of thirty years apart. Then in the thirty years of peace intervening between the last war and the next there will be 326,700 homicides; equal to the death roll of several years of war. Not the least ominous feature of the case is that the homicide rate throughout the country shows a general inclination to increase; that of last year being the highest on record.

It is desirable to use all legitimate means for the avoidance of war. But it is equally certain that there is no less urgent need of effecting an abatement of retail as well as of wholesale manslaughter. There have been more persons killed in this country in murders, brawls and acts of criminal carelessness than in all the wars we have fought. It is well to shackle Wars, if possible, but we can and should shackle Cain.—Washington Post.

DIVORCES INCREASE. FASTER THAN MARRIAGES

Washington, D. C.—While the number of marriages consummated annually in the United States is increasing somewhat the number of divorces secured is growing greater by leaps and bounds, according to a survey made by the Federal Census Bureau and made public recently. The 1923 figures were compared with those of 1906, 1916 and 1922. Two-thirds of all the divorces granted in 1923 were to couples who had been married less than ten years.

The marriage rate, based on population, was lower than in 1916 in the United States as whole. There was a slight increase in the rate in 1923, however, as compared with 1922. Sometimes the variance of the marriage rate in various states from one year to the next is due to new marriage laws. And the rate is higher in some states than others because of non-resident couples who come in because of the marriage laws.

Concerning divorces the report continues: The number of divorces per 100,000 total population and the number per 100,000 married population were higher in each geographic division in 1923 than in 1922, and highest in 1922 than in 1916. On each basis, the Middle Atlantic division ranked lowest, in 1923, 1922 and 1916; and the Pacific division had the highest rates, except that in 1922 and again in 1923 the West South Central division ranked highest in number of divorces per 100,000 married population.

There are marked differences among the geographic divisions in the prevalence of divorce. Thus, in 1923, the divorce rates based on 100,000 total population varied from 59 in the Middle Atlantic to 260 in the Pacific division, while the divorce rates on 100,000 married population varied from 143 in the Middle Atlantic to 626 in the West South Central division. Each rate was over four times as high in the highest as in the lowest ranking division; and similar wide variations existed among the divisions in 1922 and in 1916.

Of the forty-eight states which grant divorces, forty showed an increase in 1923 as compared with 1922 in the divorce rate per 100,000 total population, and forty an increase in the rate per 100,000 married population. In 1922 thirty-eight states showed an increase in each rate over that for 1916.

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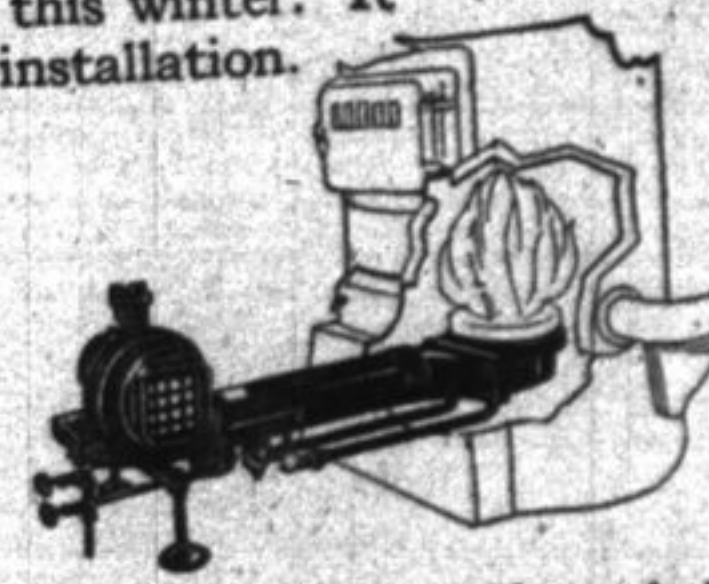
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