

Decrease of Population in France.

At the late Congress of Roman Catholic committees a priest of the Order of Jesus read a remarkable paper upon the causes of decreasing population in France. The subject is one which at the present moment is obviously of the utmost consequence to the nation. The Abbe Sambin agrees with Napoleon I. in his maxim that "the rank of a nation is to be measured by the number of men it can arm and bring into the field." And now that both France and Germany are enforcing pretty rigidly the law of universal military service, it becomes a serious difficulty to reconcile the continued decrease of population in the former country with the idea of recovering her lost position in Europe. The reality of the mischief is not a matter of vague assertion; it is testified unmistakably by the statistics of the census. These show that the population of France does not at the present rate double itself in less than 180 years, whereas that of Austria is doubled in 110 years, those of England and Germany in about 57, and that of Russia in 50. Nor is the cause of the difference less alarming than the fact. The slow rate of increase in Austria is in part accounted for by the greater unhealthiness of the country. A like cause would tell the same tale in Russia, but the large families there more than compensate for the losses by death. In France the death rate is lower than in any other European country. Consequently the almost stagnant state of the population as regards their numerical increase is due solely to the scarcity of births. The statistics above given are of course taken with every allowance for the loss of territory, and also for the losses in the actual war. Even thus, many statisticians will contend that the rate of French increase is even more slow, or, in short, that there is no increase at all. But the practical question is—how can such an exceptional inferiority in the national growth be remedied or counteracted? In order to answer such a question the first necessity is to determine to what cause it is due. The Abbe Sambin attributes it to the French law of compulsory partition of property on the death of the owner. This principle is, of course, founded on the Roman law of intestate succession. But it is an exaggeration of that law and surpasses it a long way in its rigor. It is, however, a noticeable fact that the decline of Imperial Rome is attributed by able historians to the same phenomenon of which the French complain—a preponderance of deaths over births throughout the nation.—*Ex.*

[And it is getting popular in America to go the same way by means of foeticide and small or no families.]

NEWS NOTES.

The King of Belgium announces that he will during his reign, give 25,000 francs annually in prizes for the composition of works on various subjects.

In future (says the *Hornet*) Mr. Sothern will practically be the partner of Mr. Buckstone in the management of the Haymarket Theatre.

The Lord Mayor of London has accepted the special invitation of the Lord Mayor of Dublin to attend the banquet to be given to the American riflemen in July.

In Paris it has suddenly occurred to the police that all these spiritualist people are impostors, and that there are laws against impostures aimed at people's pockets.

The British survey of Palestine makes rapid progress. The last place identified is Bethabara, the ford of the Jordan where John baptized.

Speaking of Judge Kelly's political penitence, the *Boston News* says: "Go south, gentlemen Congressmen; such journeys make more conversions than a camp-meeting."

Twelve editors of daily papers in this State announce: "Largest circulation of any daily paper in the State outside the city of York." Only eleven far out of twelve editors.—*Pomeroy's Democrat.*

At Halifax, Yorkshire, England, a bride on her wedding day eloped with the gentleman who officiated as "best man" at the ceremony, and who was, moreover, engaged to be married to her sister.

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SUP'T.

Salt Lake City, 1875.



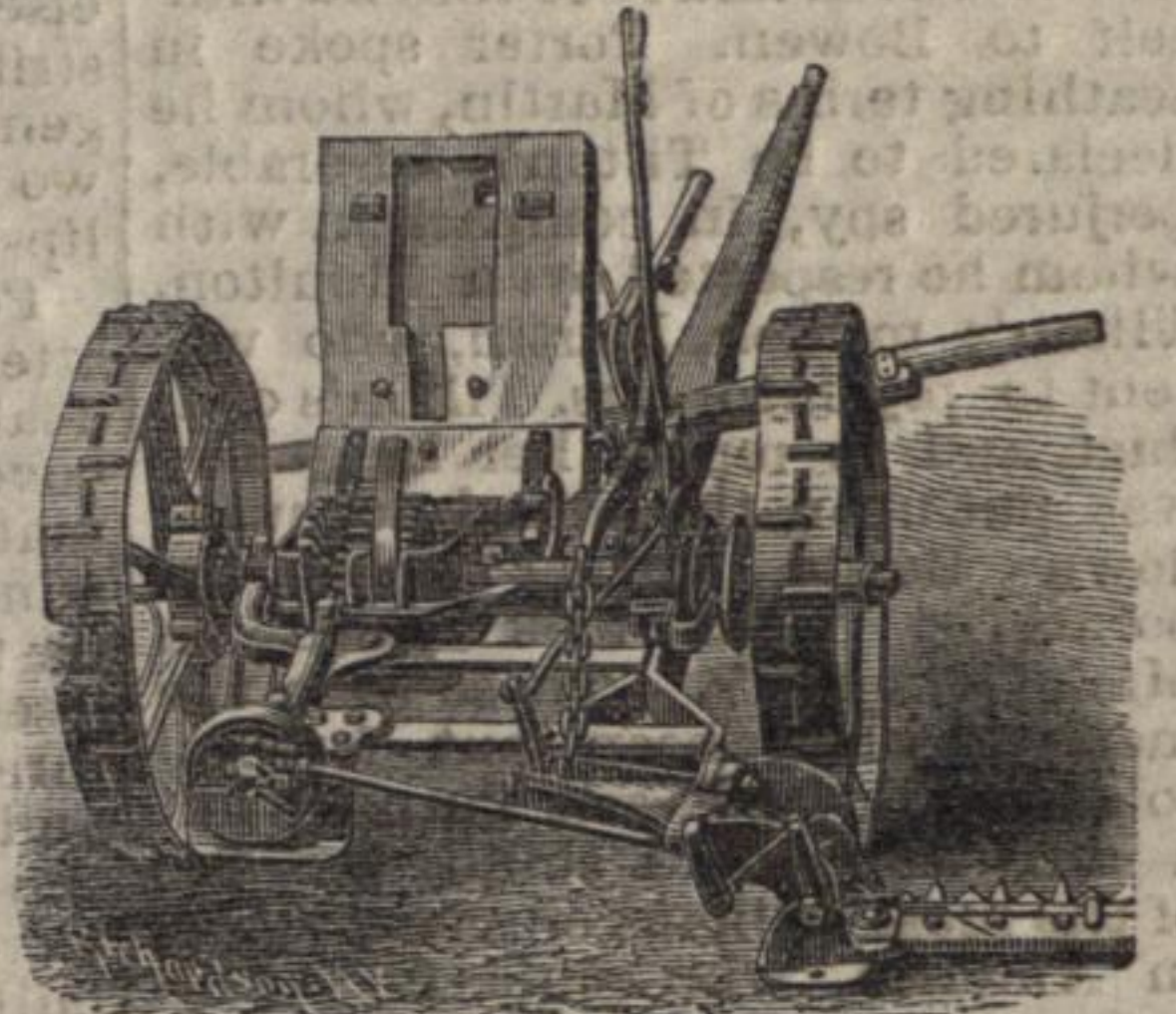
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NOTICE.

TO BENJAMIN F. BUTLER, or to whom it may concern, take notice: That I, M. T. Gisborn, have done work on the Silver Tail Mine, Ophir Mining District, Tooele County, Utah Territory, to the amount of sixteen hundred (\$1600) dollars, and your share amounts to four hundred (\$400) dollars, and if you fail to pay your portion within ninety days, your interest in the said mine will be forfeited by operation of law. MATT. T. GISBORN. Dated Ophir City, March 3rd, 1875. w6

NOTICE.

TO John Sullivan, George T. Henry, J. H. Walker, Daniel Driskel, Charles Adler, or to whom it may concern, take notice: That we, Frank Worthing, Michael Enright and John Gillooly have done work on the Harrington Mine, Ophir Mining District, Tooele County, Utah Territory, to the amount of four hundred and sixty (\$460) dollars, and your several shares amount to two hundred and twenty-five (\$225) dollars, and if you fail to pay your portion within ninety days, your interests in the said mine will be forfeited by operation of law.

FRANK WORTHING, MICHAEL ENRIGHT, JOHN GILLOOLY.

Dated Ophir City, Feb. 25th, 1875. d84