

EUROPEAN WOMEN SEEKING HUSBANDS, HOMES, AND HAPPINESS IN AMERICA

FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND alien women have landed on American shores since the war was over, and immigration officials say that by the end of 1921 the number will have been augmented by another half million. They come, these fair invaders, from the sections of the Old World that are short several million men as a result of the war, and the quest of most of them in this land of abundant males is husbands. They began coming over almost as soon as the armistice was signed and have been coming ever since in constantly growing numbers. Within the last few months the matter has received careful consideration on the part of the officials of Uncle Sam. They began asking the reason for this tremendous annual migration of women of other nations, and also what was to be done about it. To find answers a search of the census records was instituted, which is probably the first time in history that such dry-as-dust data came to the aid of Dan Cupid. The result was a mass of information regarding conditions in this country that might be published in pamphlet form under some such title as "The Romantic Possibilities of the United States," and would make interesting reading. The data unearthed by the census investigators revealed, for instance, that in the United States, as a whole, there are 106 males for every 100 females. In some sections, particularly along the Atlantic seaboard, the women outnumber the men, but in most other parts of the country, notably in the West, the reverse is the case, and the matrimonial opportunities in these sections open to the seeker after home, husband, and happiness are excellent and plentiful.

The subject of the migration of women engaged the attention of European statesmen long before America took up the question. Even before 1914 Europe had an excess of women and girls in its population. This situation was intensified by the war. A French statesman recently estimated that in his country there are now 1,000,000 women for whom there are no mates, while similar conditions exist also in England, Italy, Germany, and Austria. Various remedial measures were proposed, among them the establishment of government matrimonial agencies and advertising in America for young men to emigrate to Europe. In the meantime the women, having learned initiative and enterprise during the war, were doing some planning themselves. Being great believers in direct action and the taking of short cuts to attain their ends, it occurred to them that the way for a woman to get a husband is to go where husbands abound, and they straightway set out to act upon that idea. Instinctively, as it were, their thoughts turned to America. To quote a writer in the *New York Herald*:

In America there were men, and young men and young women mingled and were friends. There were few restrictions on social pleasures. Furthermore, in America young girls and women worked and earned money to support themselves. They visited theaters, the public parks, and restaurants, and, when necessary, without male escorts. Men, it seemed, were unnecessary to free enjoyment of social facilities in America. On the other hand, there were many, many men there, and if one were pretty,

chic—why, who knew what might happen? Some man might want to get married.

The steamship companies began to enlarge their accommodations for women. In the first rush of immigrants to the United States after the armistice women came to a large extent in the steerage. They were of the type made familiar at big American ports by bright shawls and many irregular-sized bundles as baggage. But gradually the women immigrants began to invade the second-class cabins of the big Atlantic liners. Then their numbers increased among the first-cabin passengers until the number of women traveling alone now is remarkable.

At present women are flocking into the United States at the rate of 1,300 for every day in the year, including Sundays and holidays. They form nearly 50 per cent. of the total volume of immigration, which during 1921 will total approximately 1,200,000 persons. Before the war less than thirty in each 100 of arriving immigrants were women. Most of these were middle-aged.

The immigration reports now, however, show that in some nationalities the women constitute nearly half of the total arrivals. Italian women form 49 per cent. of the total number of arrivals from that country, while the English arrivals are 48.7 per cent. women, the French an even 48 per cent., and the Scotch, 47.9 per cent. These are the war-torn countries. A far smaller percentage of women are coming from the countries which did not engage in the war, as follows:

Portugal, 27 per cent.; Scandinavian, 41 per cent.; and Spain, 13 per cent. In the neutral countries men form a larger proportion of the population.

The reports, official and unofficial, indicate that a very large proportion of the women now flocking to the United States from the war-torn countries are under thirty years of age and single. Those arriving from the neutral countries, however, for the most part seem to have domestic ties.

But there is unmistakable evidence that the women of Great Britain, Ireland, Italy, and France now hastening to America are seeking husbands. From all facts available in government departments here their chances are excellent of achieving success in their romantic quest. The United States, it would appear, during the next few years is slated to become the world's matrimonial center.

This writer goes on to show what chance these damsels have of forming a matrimonial alliance in this country. Figures are cited that shed light on the romantic possibilities in our land. We read:

The present population of the United States, on the basis of the 1920 count, is in round figures 105,000,000 souls. Approximately 67 per cent. of this total is, at any given period, represented by adults. The United States now has approximately 70,350,000 adults. The single or unmarried proportion of the total population is a practically fixt figure, so that the United States now includes within its borders about 24,700,000 unmarried adults of both sexes. Unmarried male adults total approximately 14,000,000 and the unmarried females 10,500,000. This would seem to indicate the presence of 3,500,000 unmarried males, who might be rated as confirmed bachelors, unable ever to marry because of a lack of sufficient women to go round. Recalling that women now are flocking to the United States at the rate of approximately 500,000 a year, it would seem that they might expect to continue their migration for seven years, with every possible chance in their favor of bringing matrimonial joy into the life of the confirmed American bachelor.

The Census Bureau, however, rates as adults all persons fifteen years of age and over. The excess of unmarried males, therefore, would seem more apparent than real on this basis. American men, it appears in another chapter of the Census Bureau romance reports, begin to think of matrimony early, translating their thoughts into romantic action at the age of twenty. Taking twenty as the age at which the American male becomes competent to take to wife a foreign bride, the United States now has approximately 10,000,000 unmarried males and 5,250,000 unmarried females over twenty. This puts the class of available confirmed bachelors at approximately 4,750,000. Analysis of the census returns shows that in the case of the Western cities there is a much larger proportion of men than in the East. In New York, for instance, the women are slightly in the majority. The same is true in Boston and Philadelphia, where the women outnumber the men in greater proportion than in any other Eastern city. Cities on the Atlantic seaboard would be poor hunting-grounds for the international invaders gunning for the American bachelor. Atlantic City seems to be in the class of the European cities, as are Philadelphia and New York. That famous resort now has 26,507 females to 24,200 males, or but 91 males for each 100 women. Matrimonial invaders should beware of Atlantic City. Similar warnings should be posted at Jacksonville, Fla., where the proportion is 96 males to 100 females; Baltimore, with 97 males to 100 females; Harris-

Literary Digest for March 19, 1921

—the second of two pages—

burg, Pa., with 96 males to 100 females, and Nashville, Tenn., with 91 males to 100 females.

But Chicago, that jazz gateway to the West, may be said to be holding out a beckoning hand to Cupid's invaders with a proportion of 103 males to each 100 women. Chicago in the last census reported approximately 106 males to each 100 women. That, however, was ten years ago, and presumably Chicago has cast aside some of the characteristics of the great frontier West.

Kansas City stands in need of members of the feminine invaders, having more than 108 males to each 100 women. The actual figures are: Males, 51,811; females, 49,366. Going farther West through Colorado, taking in the Dakotas and Montana, and finally coming to a pause in balmy California, the huntress of the American bachelor would find the cities of those Far-Western States sadly lacking in the feminine influence. Seattle a few years ago had 177 males to each 100 women, but more recent counts place the disparity at less than 136 to 100. San Francisco is almost in the same class as Seattle, while Los Angeles is in little better situation. Los Angeles is the home of the famous movie bathing-girls. Whether this is a factor in

attracting large numbers of males is a matter that the Census Bureau has not as yet investigated.

Taking all the reports available from the analysis of the 1920 census count—so far as it has proceeded at the Census Bureau, Gary, Ind., would seem to be doomed as the matrimonial center of the United States during the next few years. Gary, according to the most recent analysis, has a total of 31,819 males, as against only 23,559 females, which is a proportion of 135 to 100. Gary thus seems to be more sadly in need of the ministrations of romantic love than any other city in America despite the apparent alarming totals of the Pacific-coast cities.

Taking into consideration all the circumstances of the distribution of bachelors throughout the entire United States, four Western States seem to present the best matrimonial possibilities for the perplexed mademoiselle of France, the golden-tressed British maid, or the pink-cheeked lady late of the Scandinavian peninsula. These four Western States are Wyoming, Montana, Nevada, and Minnesota, where, according to the latest available census reports, nearly 40 per cent. of the population is listed as unmarried. This, of course, includes women, but males greatly predominate in the populations of these States.