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 an answer 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 100 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 no 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,
The steamship companies began to enlarge their accommodations for women. In the first rush of immigrants to the United States, women who desired to come in steerage. They were of the type made familiar at big American ports by bright shawls and many irregular-sized bundles as being gradually getting the women immigrants to invade the secondary cabins of the big immigrant liners. Then their numbers increased among the first-cabin passengers until the time the process was general by the middle of the century.

At present women are flocking to the United States at the rate of 3,100 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. Moreover, these numbers have increased.

The immigration reports now, however, show that in some nationalities the women constitute nearly half of the total arrivals. Italian women form forty-two per cent. of the arrivals. The Dutch, who are mainly from that country, while the English arrivals are 45.7 per cent. women, the French an even 48 per cent., and the Scotch, 47.9 per cent. These are the figures. A far smaller percentage of women are coming from the countries which did not engage in the war, as follows: Portugal, 27 per cent.; Scandinavia, 41 per cent.; and Spain, 13 per cent. In the neutral nations 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 are older.

But there is unmistakable evidence that the women of Great Britain, Ireland, Italy, and France now hastening to America are some of the most capable and most promising of the young people of their countries. The facts show that the women of these countries have been able to help support their families, to purchase goods for their homes, and to contribute to the general welfare of their countries. It is evident that these women have been able to carry out these tasks with a more efficient and more helpful manner than their counterparts in other parts of the world.

This writer goes on to show what change these damsel have in forming a matrimonial alliance in this country. Figures are cited that show that this is a popular possibility in our land.

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 the total number, or 68,500,000, are not married, representing 44,000,000 single persons. The United States now has approximately 70,500,000 adults. The single or unmarried proportion of the total population is a practically fixed 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 have already begun to marshall the forces with which they meet the men, whose numbers are increasing with every possible chance in their favor of bringing matrimonial joy into the life of the confirmed American bachelor.

The figures are based on the ratio of men to women of all persons fifteen years of age and over. The excess of unmarried males, therefore, would seem more apparent than real on this basis. American women are more the infrequent of the two. The Bureau of Census reports, in fact, that the American woman marries as early as the American man.

The Bureau reports, however, are only the beginning. As the Bureau experiments, it will begin to think of the problems of early marriage and of the problems of the young modern woman. The Bureau reports, however, are only the beginning. As the Bureau experiments, it will begin to think of the problems of early marriage and of the problems of the modern woman.
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, 49,868. 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 130 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 133 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-checked 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.