

THE CENSUS OF 1891, AND THE POPULATION OF LIVERPOOL.*

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THE method adopted by the Registrar-General for estimating the population of a town is based on the assumption that the same rate of increase or decrease continues in the present decade as in the previous one.

From 1871 to 1881 the population increased from 493,405 to 552,508, and the estimated population between 1881 and 1891 was calculated on the same rate of increase; but at the census of 1891 it was found to have fallen to 517,951, about 100,000 less than the estimated number.

It was well known that the population of the parish was decreasing, and in forming an estimate of it, the supposition was that the same rate of decrease prevailed as between 1871 and 1881, when the population decreased from 238,411 to 210,164, which gave as a probable decrease a further reduction of 33,000, making the estimated population 177,000, whereas the census of 1891 shows the population to have fallen to 156,991, a decrease of 53,173, a greater decrease by 20,000 than estimated.

The decrease in the population of the parish has been going on from 1861, when it was at its maximum, 269,742, and the loss had been more than met by the growing population of the out-townships up to 1881, when the decrease of the parish was 59,578 in the twenty years, and the increase in the out-townships for the same period was 168,148.

From 1861 to 1881 a large portion of the vacant ground in the out-townships, Kirkdale, Everton, and the Toxteths, had been covered with dwelling houses, but the building operations greatly declined between 1881 and 1891, owing in a large measure to the number of empty houses, there being no less than 10,294 at the census of 1881, and the limited space of land not built upon. Though it was known that the population in the out-townships was not increasing in anything like the same ratio as previously, it was not expected that the increase would have been so small as not to have covered the loss in the parish.

The reasons for this opinion were, first, the increase of houses erected during the ten years, which was 4,937 above the number demolished, including 2,352 under the Sanitary Amendment Act, 1864, as insanitary. That these houses were occupied as well as some of the previously untenanted ones is evidenced by the increase in the number of assessments for water rent, 5,215 over the year 1881.

Secondly, the natural increase of the population by excess of births over deaths. From 1881 to 1891 there were 191,720 births and 140,195 deaths,

giving an excess of 51,525 inhabitants. Now, if to this number is added the decrease of population, as shown by the late census, 34,557, the actual decrease of the population of Liverpool, during the ten years, has been 86,082, provided the census has been correctly taken.

The number of uninhabited houses at the census of 1881 was 10,294, and if to these be added 4,937, built in excess of those demolished, and 823, the reduction in the number of inhabited houses at the census of 1891, there should be 16,054 uninhabited houses in 1891.

By the return of the census for 1891, the number of uninhabited houses, or as the Registrar-General puts it, houses in which no person slept on the census night, was 14,618, giving a lower number by 1,436 than the previously calculated one.

The Head Constable, Captain Nott Bower, for police purposes, had a census taken on March 27th, 1892, of unoccupied houses, and has kindly supplied me with the returns, which show only 7,927 houses to be untenanted, and taking these figures as identical with those of 1891, there must have been on the census night 6,691 inhabited houses without any persons sleeping in them.

That many people have taken up their residences outside the Municipal boundaries is patent to all who witness the large numbers of people pouring into the city by the morning trains and steamboats, and departing by the evening ones; and for people who reside in the outskirts of the city, or just beyond the boundary there are the tramcars and omnibuses fully laden every hour of the day. That this is a desirable change, all sanitarians must admit, and has been brought about as much by the policy of the City Council as by the improved condition of the inhabitants in material wealth.

The density of the population is even now greater than in any other town, being 99.3 per acre, and a further reduction is desirable, the only drawback being that well-to-do classes migrate, and the poorest members of the community are left behind.

This migration has been into districts closely bordering upon the city, and though under separate governing bodies are still part of Liverpool, which is the heart and life of a population second only to London in number and importance.

Glasgow has claimed on the recent census to be the second city in the empire, but that has been brought about by different Acts for the extension of its boundaries, the most recent one of which came into operation on November 1st, 1891, and added an acreage of 5,750, with a population of 92,363, whilst Liverpool's municipal boundaries are the same as settled in 1836, and comprise an area of only 5,210 acres.

* From the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1891.

The following table is taken from Dr. Russell's report on the census of 1891 :—

	Acreage.	Population.	
Old Glasgow ...	6,111	565,710, or 93 persons per acre.	
New Glasgow ...	5,750	92,363, or 16	„ „
Greater Glasgow	11,861	658,073, or 56	„ „

Dr. Russell states that if they take the population massed within a radius of four miles of the Exchange, they have a population of 806,085.

Now if we compare this report with the condition of Liverpool, we find within the municipal boundaries on 5,210 acres a population of 517,951, but if we add the suburbs—

Walton (including Bootle) ...	92,779
Crosby ...	14,625
Litherland ...	17,242
West Derby ...	37,779
Wavertree ...	28,321
Toxteth Park ...	21,046
	<u>211,792</u>

Greater Liverpool contains 729,743 people.

If we take the population massed within a radius of four miles of the Liverpool Exchange we should have to include—

Birkenhead ...	99,184
Wallasey ...	33,227
	<u>132,411</u>

which would give a population of 862,154 to compare with 806,085 in Glasgow.

For statistical purposes it is quite misleading to take an old and densely populated town whose area has not been extended for fifty-five years, and comparing it with other towns which have been absorbing rural districts, inhabited by well-to-do people, and by the low mortality in the new districts, giving an apparent decrease in the death-rate of the whole, which does not in reality exist.

Old Liverpool appears as if it would share the fate of Old London, whilst decreasing in resident population, growing in wealth and importance, and spreading its people over larger areas which, though under the management of local boards, owe their existence and well-being to the old town.

Within the last few years nearly every large town has had its boundaries extended, but the application by Liverpool for similar purposes has been refused by Parliament.

THE BRITISH INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC HEALTH.
—The Hon. Secretary of the above sends us a letter stating that the Council of the Institute will welcome any Fellow or Member of the Incorporated Society of Medical Officers of Health at their Annual Meeting, to be held under the Presidency of Sir Charles Cameron, at Dublin, August 17th, 18th and 19th, 1892.

THE DUNDEE POLICE ACT.

A NEW Police Act comes into force this day (August 1st) in Dundee—certain of the provisions are an advance on the present statute law—and we, therefore, give a short summary of the sections of the Act dealing with sanitation.

LIGHTING OF STAIRS AND PASSAGES.

It is provided that the owners of common stairs and private courts and passages are bound to provide and maintain in the same all lamps and other means of lighting and all necessary means of extinguishing the light, and are also bound to supply the gas or other light as may be required by the Police Commissioners. They are under an obligation to do this within seven days of receiving an order there-arent from the Police Commissioners under a penalty of forty shillings, or, in default of payment, to a period of imprisonment not exceeding one month, and to a daily penalty of like amount.

Owners supplying gas or other light shall be entitled to recover the amount expended by them for same from the occupiers proportionately according to the rent paid by each. It is the duty of the occupiers to clean, light, and extinguish the lights at such times as shall be fixed by the Commissioners, and the orders of the Commissioners in regard to this must be published once weekly for at least two weeks in some newspaper published in the city. Occupiers failing to comply with such orders render themselves liable in a penalty not exceeding twenty shillings, or, failing payment, to a period of imprisonment not exceeding fourteen days, and to a daily penalty not exceeding the like amount. The Police Commissioners are also authorised, if they think fit, in the case of such common stairs, passages, and courts as they consider insufficiently lighted, to erect and maintain the appliances for lighting and extinguishing, to supply the gas or other light, and to light and extinguish the same. In these cases they can recover the expense incurred by them as a debt from the owners, and the latter can in like manner recover the amount expended in providing the supply of gas from the occupiers in proportion to their respective rents. It is, however, provided that the expense recoverable by the Police Commissioners shall not in the case of a common stair lighting exceed twenty shillings per burner per annum, and in the case of all other lighting twenty-five shillings per burner per annum.

NUISANCES.

Every person who accumulates or suffers to remain within any enclosure, area, house, etc., any offensive matter or thing, and the occupier of any house who keeps the same, or any water-closet or sink in an unwholesome or unhealthy condition, shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding forty shillings, or, in default of payment, to a period of