

# GROWTH OF THE NATION AND GROWTH OF NEW YORK CITY

## Dr. Walter Laidlaw Makes Interesting Comparisons

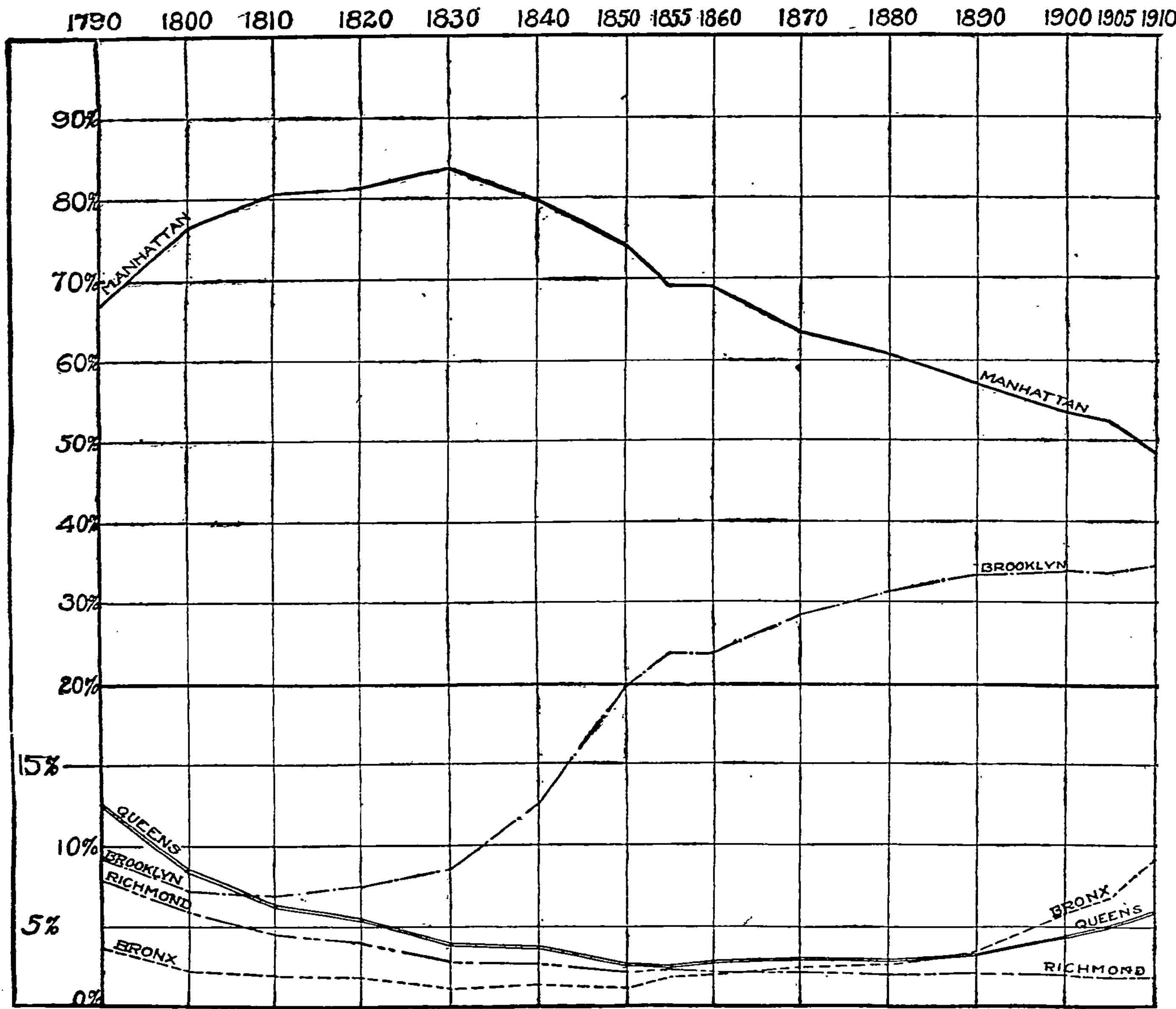
### of the Recent Census Reports and Those of Previous Years.

By Walter Laidlaw, Ph. D.

**T**HE recent growth of the population of the Continental United States has been beyond precedent and beyond the power of prediction. Bulletin 71 of the Bureau of the Census, issued in 1907, estimated the increase of the five years 1901-1906 at 6,573,620, and the Bureau settled down into the decade 1900-1910 that the growth of the decade would therefore be 13,150,240, making the population of the Continental United States in 1910 89,153,815.

## PERCENTAGES OF GREATER NEW YORK'S POPULATION IN BOROUGHES, 1790-1910

MANHATTAN — BROOKLYN —  
BRONX — RICHMOND —  
QUEENS



Bureau, and as shown by Table 1, 2,531,830 beyond the increase of the decade 1890-1900, a decade surplus exceeding any other decade in the history of the Nation except the ten years 1870-1880. That decade recorded an increase 4,422,982 above that increase was really due to the defective character of the census of 1870, which had imputed to the Nation a growth, since 1860, 1,126,305 less than the growth of the decade 1850-1860.

had been 1,925,872 above the growth of the decade 1820-1840. The years 1840 to 1860 were years of large immigration, but the incoming foreigners of that time were a handful compared with the hosts who have recently been swarming in through Ellis Island.

**PERCENTAGES OF GREATER NEW YORK'S POPULATION IN BOROUGHES, 1790-1910**

of people will leave the city to make their homes in the suburbs. The present rapid transit puts a premium on congestion of population through its "short haul" principle of operation. People are discouraged from living in the Bronx on the Broadway Subway extension by the stoppage of so many trains at Dyckman Street. They do not enjoy being turned out on a shelterless platform to wait the grace of the company which undertook in its contract with the city to run trains at an average of 30 miles an hour, including stops. The bungling of rapid transit control is inimical to the city's growth.

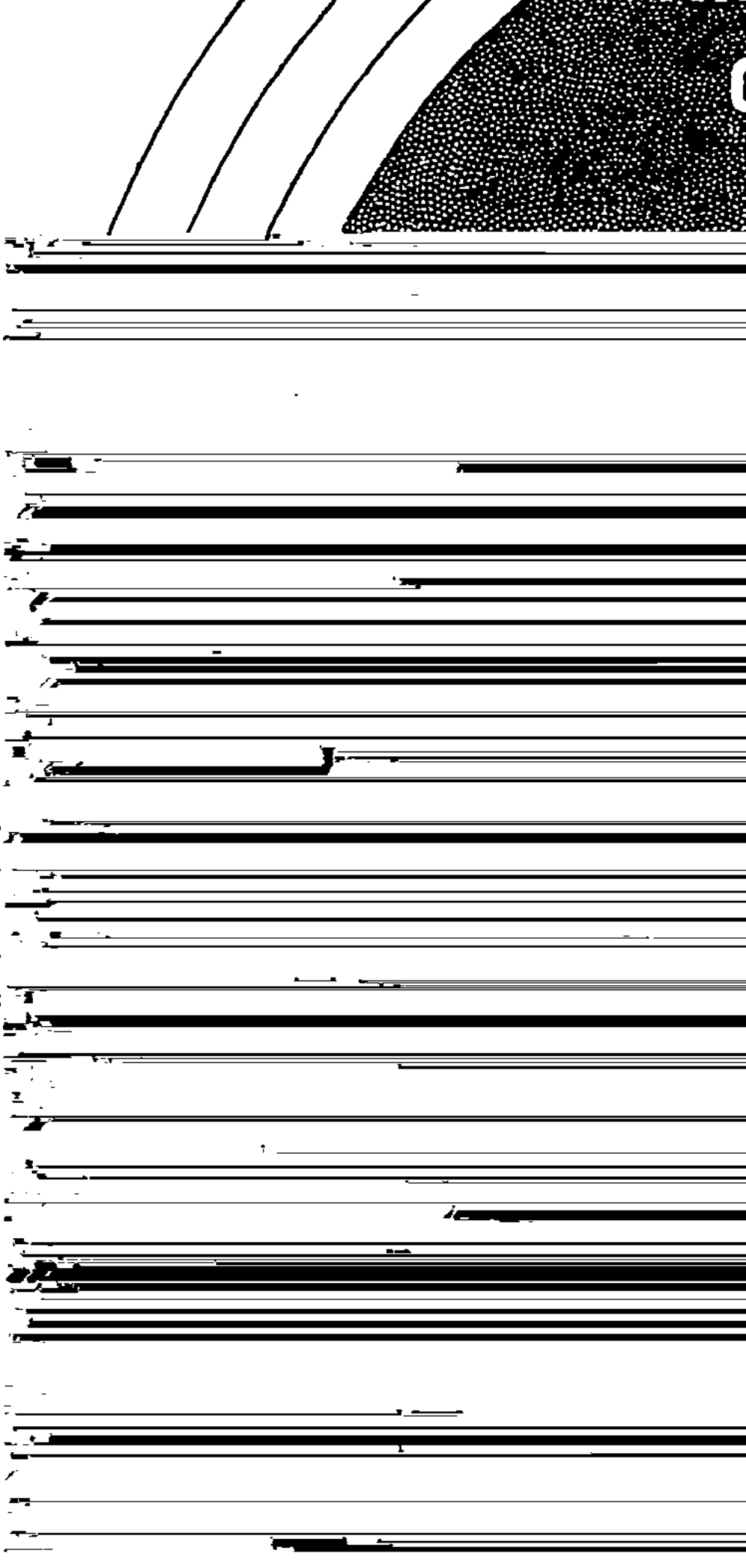
tion, in terms of minimum and maximum, as follows:  
Population in 1890.....73,994,573  
Population in 1900.....83,046,861  
Increase, 1890-1900, above increase 1880-1890.....254,030  
1880-1890.....254,030  
Minimum.....58,296,306  
Its maximum estimate, Federation founs upon the following facts: Immigration into the United States for the last thirty years has been as follows:  
1881-1890.....5,246,613  
1891-1900.....3,687,394  
Total 1881-1900.....8,934,177  
1901-1910.....8,785,358  
That is to say, the immigration into the United States for the last ten years has almost equaled the total of the twenty years preceding.

and other ports of entry with the statistical methods of the Bureau of the Census. Both are bureaus of the Department of Commerce and Labor and when they are better correlated and the vital statistics of the Nation are standardized the population of the continental United States ought not to be beyond the power of prediction.

The size of the Nation in 1910 was underestimated at Washington: the size of New York City in 1910 is popularly overestimated in New York.

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POPULATION OF NATION AND NEW YORK. 1790.....3,929,244  
1800.....3,308,483  
1810.....7,239,881  
1820.....9,685,753  
1830.....12,800,702  
1840.....17,093,353  
1850.....22,191,777  
1860.....31,443,321  
1870.....38,538,371  
1880.....46,355,783  
1890.....62,947,714  
1900.....73,994,573  
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It is within the memory even of the present generation that Philadelphia was the great manufacturing city of the Nation. Every writer and speaker of the first rank so described the Quaker City to preceding generations. On the other hand, New York City was the great manufacturing pre-eminence in other days. This city was the premier of foreign trade, a great distributing and financial center. It lacked cheap fuel, was poor in skilled labor and even in the main unskilled labor ranked below many American cities of less pretension. But New York willed and did to secure an undue advantage over the rest of the Nation. It was the first to use a striking illustration, to make Chicago a seaport town and to put New York in the interior; and it was 47.75 per cent. in 1908, and 47.41 in 1909.

THE SWELLING CITIES OF THE NATION 1850-1910

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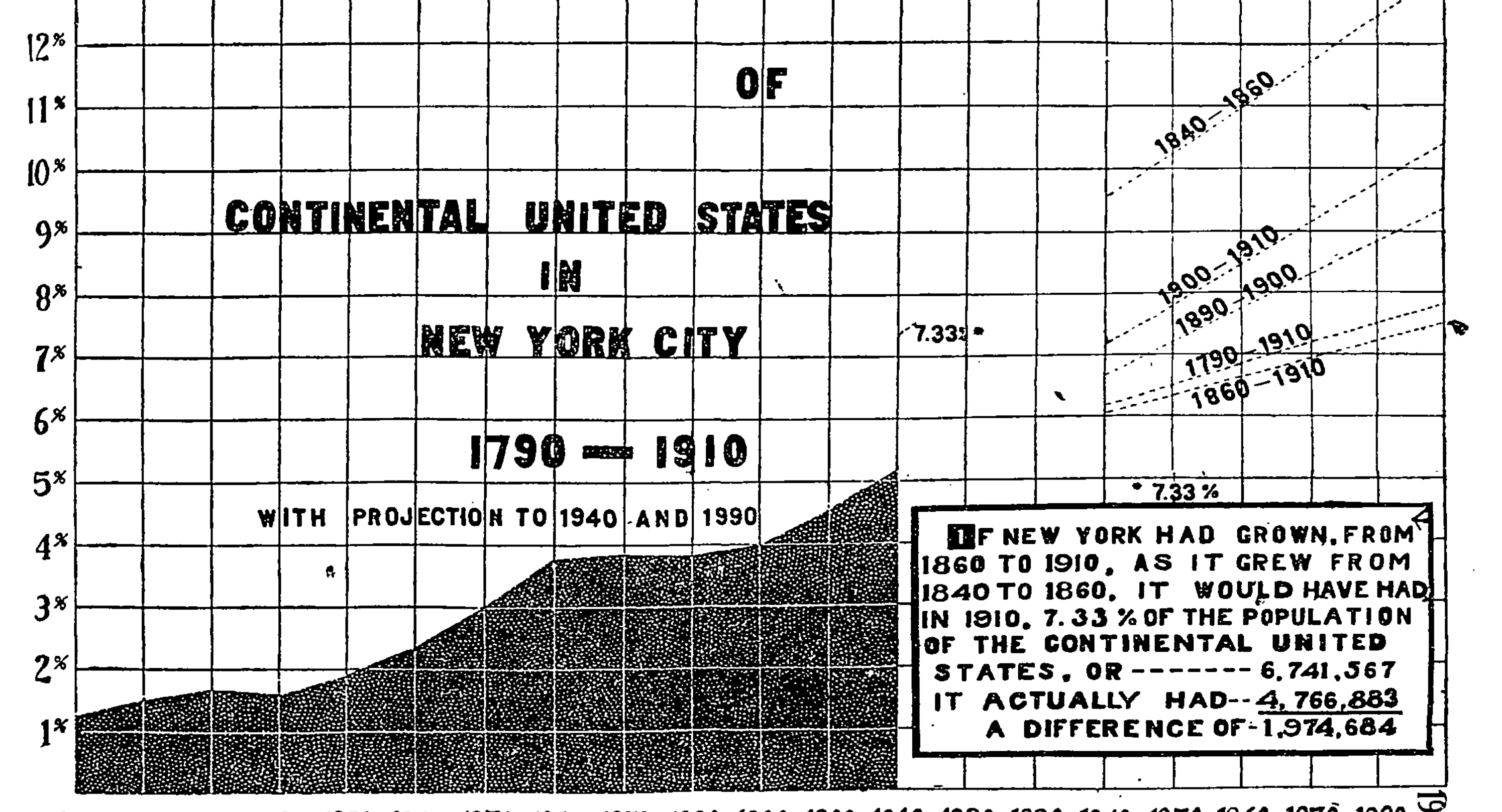
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## PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION OF CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES IN NEW YORK CITY 1790-1910



advantage can be perpetuated for the next thirty years will depend upon the provision of barge terminals for the enlarged Erie Canal.



# GROWTH OF THE NATION AND GROWTH OF NEW YORK CITY

(Continued from Preceding Page.)

continental United States lived in New York, in 1850 300 of every 10,000, in 1860 373 of every 10,000. In 1850, therefore, there were living in New York City 71 more of every 10,000 people living in the continental United States than in 1840, and in 1860 73 more than in 1850. New York grew from 2.29 per cent. of the Nation in 1840 to 3.3 per cent. in 1860, and if it had continued to grow at a like rate up to the year 1900, it would have had in 1900 over 6½ per cent. of the Nation, or over 1,500,000 more people than it actually did have. New York added to itself, 1840-50, 71 in every 10,000 of the Nation; from 1850 to 1860, 73 in every 10,000, and 1860-1900, only 54 in every 10,000.

As above seen, New York grew most rapidly during the immigration of 1840-60, which, in the main, came from Ireland and from Germany. Even more, proportionately, of the immigration of those twenty years settled in New York City than of the immigration 1860-1900. New York was proportionately more foreign-born at that time than now.

It was in the decade 1870-80 that New York's growth was less rapid than the growth of the Nation, and it was in that same decade that the foreign-born were distributed over the new territory of the United States more largely than in the original area of the country.

The number of foreign-born in the added area of the United States continued to increase in the decade 1880-90, when New York added to itself only 17 of every 10,000 persons added to the Nation; but in the decade 1890-1900, when, as shown by the chart, the foreign-born in the original area of the United States again approximated the conditions of 1850, and came within 500,000 of the foreign-born in all the added area, although the volume of immigration, 1891-1900, was smaller than 1881-90, New York added to itself 54 of every 10,000 persons added to the Nation, or three times as many as in the decade preceding.

New York, in other words, has grown most rapidly, compared with the Nation, when immigration has remained within the area of the States enumerated in the census of 1790, but has not kept up with the growth of the Nation when immigration has been settling in the added area. If in the future, as in the past, immigration falls off, the upcurve of the growth of New York, as compared with the growth of the Nation, will show the same decline as is shown on Chart 1 from 1870 to 1880; and if immigration is dispersed to other sections of the country the upcurve of the growth of New York will be lessened thereby, as it was, 1880-90, as compared with 1890-1900.

It is not possible to ascertain with absolute accuracy the number of foreign born within the limits of Greater New York in the year 1890. The number of foreigners in the small part of Westchester County, annexed under the act of consolidation which became effective Jan. 1, 1898, cannot be ascertained; nor can the number of foreign born in the portion of Queens which became Nassau County, be accurately determined. Totaling, however, all the foreign born in

Manhattan, Bronx, Queens, and Richmond, as returned for counties in the year 1890, and subtracting that total, 962,763, from the foreign born in New York City, in 1900, it is certain that a minimum of 33.1 per cent. of New York's population increase, 1890-1900, was from immigration. In the same ten years, Boston grew 34.6 per cent. from immigration; Chicago, 22.8 per cent.; Philadelphia, 10.4 per cent., while the number of foreign born in St. Louis and in Baltimore was actually less in 1900 than in 1890.

The population increase of Manhattan and Bronx from foreign born, 1890 to 1900, was 210,934. From 1900 to 1905 the Borough of Manhattan alone gained at least 99,800, and the Bronx 18,593 from the foreign born.

Are there at present any causes in operation likely to reduce the growth of New York from immigration which parallel the causes likely to reduce its growth from the influence of the Erie Canal?

In the opinion of the writer the following are all such causes:

1. The big increase of immigration into the Argentine Republic. One hundred thousand Italians are said to be going there annually.

2. The inability of the New York Jewish colony to absorb a larger Jewish immigration.

3. The efforts which the Government is making to develop other ports of entry, to decrease the proportion of the immigration into the United States arriving at the Port of New York, and to distribute Ellis Island arrivals where they are needed.

4. The large immigration from the American Northwest into the Canadian Northwest and the large increase in the near future of immigration from European sources into Canada.

The new President of the Argentine Republic has raised the cry of "South America for Latin Europe." A considerable portion of the Latin immigration into America has no intention of making America a permanent home, though it is probable that the percentage of such immigration is decreasing from year to year. The new subways of New York will undoubtedly attract a new volume of Italian immigration, which will be employed on enterprises offering a short day and large pay. A considerable portion of the immigration into New York in recent years has been due to the big improvements on the terminals of the Pennsylvania and New York Central systems, and the writer has talked with Italians employed on these projects who claimed to have saved enough to enable them to return to Italy and live in comfort the balance of their days.

The former Commissioner of Immigration at Ellis Island, the Hon. Robert Watchorn, has stated that the main magnet of immigration is the outgoing mail from the United States, addressed by successful immigrants to acquaintances in Europe informing these acquaintances of the opportunity for employment at gainful wages in America. When the Italian immigrants into the Argentine Republic have achieved a similar suc-

cess South America will be as attractive to Italian immigration as North America has been, and it is altogether likely that an increasing percentage of Italian emigration, hitherto coming to New York and remaining in the Middle States, will go to South America.

Jacob H. Schiff and other eminent Jewish citizens of New York have recently endeavored to persuade members of their race living in New York to advise their persecuted fellows in Russia and other countries to take passage, in coming to America, to ports other than the Port of New York, and Galveston, Texas, has already begun to receive a large Jewish immigration.

The extent to which Jewish immigration into America can be diverted from New York City is, as yet, problematic, but there will undoubtedly be some diminution of the growth of New York City from the Jew of Russia, Poland and Austria-Hungary. The vigorous Industrial Removal Committee, which has developed Jewish agricultural colonies by removals from congested Jewish sections of New York will doubtless in the future be able to deal with causes of conditions, as well as with conditions themselves, by inducing the Jew, while en route to America, to engage in agriculture, or to seek some city other than New York for manufacturing occupation, whether in the garment trade or in some other.

It is too soon to forecast the success of the efforts the Government is making to reduce the percentage of immigration into the United States arriving at Ellis Island. In 1906 the percentage of the nation's immigration arriving at Ellis Island was 79.9 per cent.; in 1907, 78.2 per cent.; for the year ended June 30, 1910, 75.5 per cent.; but while the percentage of admitted immigration, arriving at the port of New York has fallen off, the volume of immigration has been so high that hitherto no marked change is noticeable.

On the other hand, 29.4 per cent. of the immigrant aliens admitted for the year ended June 30, 1909, declared New York State as their destination, and but 27 per cent. of the immigration for the eleven months, July, 1909-May, 1910. In the twelve months ended June 30, 1909, 530,921 declared States other than New York as the destination, and for the eleven months ended May 31, 1910, 682,964.

If the project of an inter-coastal canal, now agitated by Eastern business men, issues in success, it will in all likelihood do more to divert immigration into the Southern States than any other cause.

It is claimed that in the South not more than one-half of the available tillable land is actually used, and an inter-coastal waterway might do for the South what the Erie Canal has done for the West.

While such a canal would be of great advantage to New England and New York manufacturing interests, by giving them basic freight rates both for raw materials and manufactured goods, the project ought to register itself in the growth of cities south of New York even more largely than in the growth of New York itself.

New England held in 1900 a higher percentage of the foreign born in the United

States, from every quarter of the world, than it held in 1850, and the Southern States, on the contrary, held a lower percentage. The Middle States, of which New York, in the tabulation by the Census Office, is one, held a lower percentage in the case of every country except Italy.

Sixty and three-tenths per cent. of all the Italians in the United States in 1900 were living in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Delaware, whereas in 1850 only 28.2 per cent. of the Italians in the United States were living in these four States. Next in percentage, in 1900, in the four Middle States, were natives of Russia, Finland, and Poland, but whereas 55.1 per cent. of the natives of Russia, Finland, and Poland, in 1850, lived in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Delaware, their percentage in 1900 was only 46.4. The Census volume referred to, in fact, shows that retained Italian immigration on the Atlantic seaboard, in percentage as well as in volume, was higher in 1900 than in 1850, whereas a smaller proportion of the natives of other foreign countries were residents of the Atlantic seacoast States in 1900 than in 1850.

Nearly 1-7 of the Italians in the United States in 1850 lived in the Southern States; in 1900 only 1-50 of them.

An inter-coastal canal ought to do much to develop the agricultural interests of the Southern States, and it is perhaps in this area that North America will compete with Argentina for Italian immigration in the future.

The recent immigration into Canada from the American Northwest has been quite large in volume. For the six months ended June 30, 1910, about 160,000 immigrants came into Canada, and of this number 90,000 were American and 70,000 British and continental. Immigration into Canada, as a whole, is in absolute contrast with immigration into the United States.

For the eight years ended March 31, 1909, 73 per cent. of the Canadian immigration was Teutonic and Celtic, while 23 per cent. of the American immigration in the same period was Teutonic and Celtic. In the same eight years 27 per cent. of the Canadian immigration was Slavic and Iberic, while 77 per cent. of the American immigration was from the same European sources.

Canada requires that each incoming immigrant shall have from \$25 to \$50 in his pocket, and this drastic regulation tends to diminish the volume of its immigration; nevertheless, immigration into Can-

ada is growing, and will continue to grow, and among the factors likely to reduce the growth of New York City from immigration in the future immigration into Canada must be included.

If, like Canada, the United States should in the future require each incoming immigrant to have from \$25 to \$50 in his pocket, the volume of immigration into the United States would undoubtedly greatly decrease.

A precise prediction of the size of New York a decade hence, or thirty years hence, is impossible to any one living this side of the stars, and when, in the balance of this article, Federation predicts for New York City in 1940 a population a million or millions less than the prognostication of others, it makes no pretension to infallibility in its estimates. But it confidently challenges the predictor of more than 9,600,000 people in Greater New York in 1940 to produce his reasons for imputing to New York at that time a population larger than the figures above given, and it inclines to put the population of 1940 at no more than 9,000,000.

The method hitherto employed by the Federal Census Bureau to compute the population of a city has been to add to its last recorded population the proportion, to any given time, of the annual increase of the preceding decade. In Federation, April, 1906, the writer showed that this method would have led, in the case of New York City, to a shortage up to 1905 of 112,208, whereas the compounding of the percentage of increase of the decade 1890-1900 would have led to an excess of 58,780. Over four years ago, therefore, Federation adopted a method of its own, and that method applied to the population of New York as at April 15, 1910, led to a result only 5,044 in error. The same method is now applied to a calculation of the size of New York in 1940, and after subtraction to "checks and balances" supplied by the foregoing considerations of the comparative growth of New York and of the Nation, will furnish a maximum and a minimum figure, and the article will conclude with a computation, even more difficult, of the distribution of the future population of New York amid its various boroughs.

The thirteenth Federal census imputed to New York City in the nine and seventh-eighths years ended April 15, 1910, a growth of 1,320,637.

From this Federation subtracts, as due to April enumeration.....	75,000
And adopts as corrected growth the figure.....	1,254,637
Which for ten full years would be.....	1,270,518
The growth of 1890-1900 was.....	929,738

Leaving a decade surplus, 1900-1910, of.....	340,780
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Conceding that New York will continue, 1910-40, to grow as rapidly as it grew in the last decade, and that it will add in each of the three decades, 1910-40, as many people above the growth of 1900-10 as it added, 1900-10, above the growth of 1890-1900, New York's population in 1940 would be:

The population of 1910.....	4,766,883
Three times increase of 1900-1910.....	3,811,534
Continuation, 1910-1940, of 1900-1910 surplus.....	1,022,190

Possible population 1940.....	9,600,607
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This figure credits New York with a growth of 161,124 people annually for the thirty years, 1910-40, or nearly 35,000 more per annum than during the decade just closed.

When these figures are subjected to test by applying to them the implications of the hitherto increment of the percentage of the population of Continental United States in New York City, they appear to be a maximum rather than a minimum estimate.

The foregoing statements have meant nothing if they have not proved the possibility of the reduction of the rank of New York as a port and manufacturing centre, and as an inlet and reservoir of immigration. They have shown that, 1840-60, New York grew, compared with the Nation, more rapidly than 1890-1900, and the upcurve of the growth of New York, as compared with the Nation, was shown to be practically stationary, 1860-90.

The prophets of a larger population growth of New York City in the future must be able to prove that, 1910-40, the continuation of the growth of the city, as compared with the Nation, must be in contrast with the period, 1860-90, whereas the foregoing statements have presented some consideration which warrant the belief that the years 1910-40 may resemble 1810-20, when there was a positive diminution of the percentage of the Nation resident in New York City, or, at least, the years 1860-90, when the increase of the city, as compared with the Nation, was negligible.

Nevertheless, the concession, to the prophets of a limitless population in New York, that the city will continue to grow 1910-40 as it recently has grown, reveals the fact that the produced upcurve of the growth of New York 1900-1910 would result in 1940 in the location of but 7.18 per cent. of the Nation in New York, which, conceding the Continental United States will grow 1910-40 2,000,000 more per decade than they grew 1900-1910, would place in New York City a population of only 10,448,882 in the year 1940.

Federation is unwilling to concede that 716 of every 10,000 people in the Nation will be living in New York City in 1940, as against 518 in 1910. If it conceded that, why should it not concede that in the year 3240 New York City and the Continental United States will be synonymous terms? It is straight line prophecy to predict that if New York 1910 has 5.18 per cent. of the Nation lying in its borders and 94.82 per cent. living outside its borders, and is to continue to subtract from the Nation 0.66 per cent. per decade, it will absorb the balance of the Nation in 143 decades, or 1,430 years, and, though London, 1,850 years old, has as yet not one-quarter of Great Britain within its borders, the prophets that New York is going to continue to grow in the future as it has recently been growing, are virtually claiming that, in 1,714 years from its founding, New York City will have within its borders the whole population of Continental United States!

Manifestly New York must, one of these days, cease to grow less rapidly than the Nation. Federation claims that that may happen between 1910 and 1940, and has given some reasons for the claim. Instead of crediting New York in 1940 with 7.18 per cent. of the Nation, Federation would rather credit it only with 6.72 per cent., which adds to the figures of the

year 1910 5.18 per cent., the increase of the years 1840-70, which was 1.54 per cent. This adds to two fat decades of immigration, 1840-60, the lean decade 1860-70, and would give New York in 1940 6.72 per cent. of the Nation, or 9,804,838 people.

On the whole Federation believes that the city may continue its growth for the next thirty years as in the decade just closed, and it therefore adopts as a maximum a population of 8,620,930; as a maximum, 9,600,627.

The maximum is 4,000,000 less than the estimate of Joseph Caccavaio, over 5,000,000 less than The Times's editorial of March 12, 1910, 15,000,000 less than Jamaica Estates estimates, and far below the figures which have been appearing in various newspaper columns since the Census Bureau's announcement of the population of New York. Mr. Caccavaio claimed that New York would grow 40 per cent. during the decade 1900-1910. Deducting 75,000 additions to the population of New York due to April in place of June enumeration, and correcting the figures of the Census Bureau, which were for 9½ years, New York grew, 1900-1910, 1,270,518 on a previous population of 3,437,202, or 36.9 per cent., as against 37.1 per cent. in the decade 1890-1900.

Nevertheless Mr. Caccavaio predicts for New York, 1910-20, a growth of 45 per cent., or 6.8 per cent. more than the uncorrected percentage announced by the Federal Census Bureau for the decade 1900-10. Federation desires to get at the truth in this matter, so far as it can be ascertained, and, in view of the fact that New York has ceased to compound its percentage of increase from decade to decade, it asks the prophets of the 15,000,000 New York City to answer the following questions:

When will New York City have 15,000,000 people?

How many people will the Nation have when New York City has 15,000,000 people?

How many people will be living in New York State when New York City has 15,000,000 people?

Where will the centre of population in the United States then be?

Will Texas, at that time, have developed as much, due to the Panama Canal, as New York developed in the quarter century following the building of the Erie Canal?

Concluding, moreover, as promised, by reference to the future distribution of the population of New York over the area of its five boroughs, Federation would ask the defenders of the existing building laws of New York the following questions:

How many people will there be in New York in 1940?

What is the basis of your belief?

How many people do the present building laws of New York City permit to be housed within its area?

Should the building laws of New York to-day be adapted to a population of 12,000,000, and if not, why not?

Should not effort be made to encourage in 1940 the distribution of the population of New York amid its boroughs, as the lines of its recent growth, Chart 3, indicate?