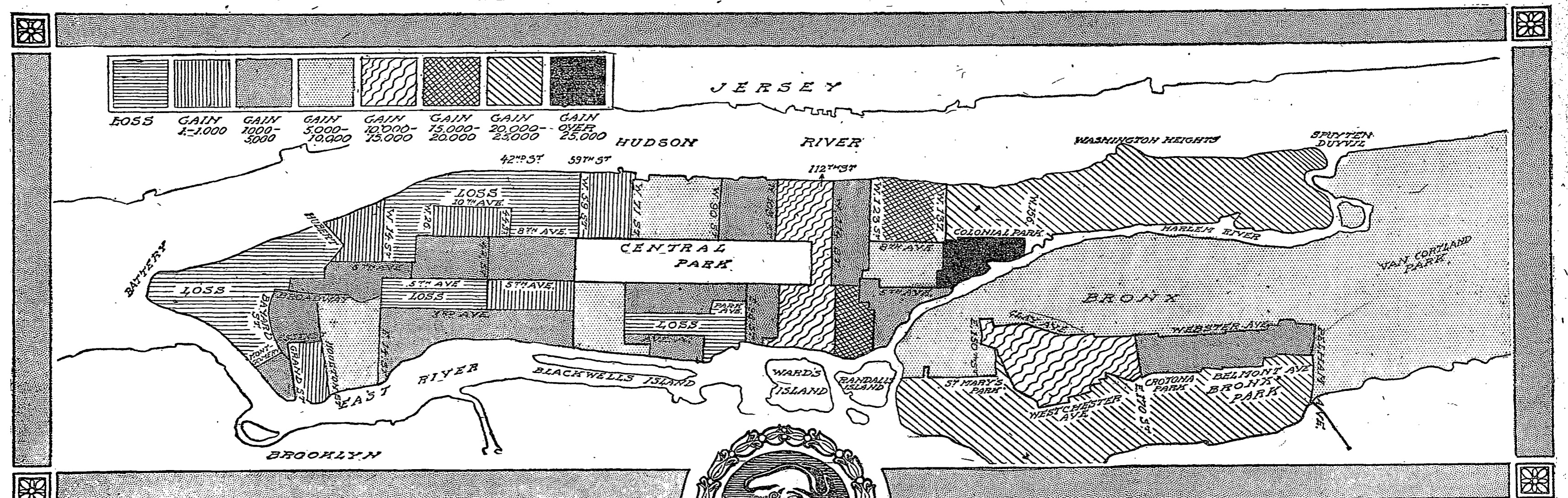


WHERE NEW YORK'S POPULATION IS GROWING MOST RAPIDLY

Manhattan Is Moving North, With Its Most Congested Block Above 100th Street--Upper Harlem and Washington Heights Show Biggest Percentage of Gain--Nationalities Shifting From Lower East Side.



PERHAPS the time has passed when any New Yorker can claim to know intimately his greater city. That was one of the comments made by Census Director Falck when the newspapers announced on Friday that Father Knickerbocker had 1,329,681 more children than he had ever had before.

It was not the size of the population that moved Mr. Falck to this remark so much as the character and dispersion of it, as discovered and analyzed by his enumerators. Mr. Falck learned things about the city that in all New York's talk about itself it has never known before. He was passing up and down its avenues every day while his flying army of counters were at work, and he found its population more restive, more on the move, and encamped in more unthought-of corners than he ever had anticipated could be the case.

He looked for the highest points of population for individual square blocks to be down in the far-famed congestion centres of the lower east side. Instead he found them up in Harlem, above 100th Street.

When he sent Italian census takers into neighborhoods that ought, by all the records, to have been exclusively Italian, they came back and reported that they could make nothing out of the people because they could not speak their language. Hungarians were substituted and had better luck.

The Germans—once found as numerous as the Hungarians are now in certain east side sections—had seemingly disappeared altogether. Nowhere could a distinctive German community be located where any number of them lived aloof, as do all newcomers.

Northward instead of westward he found the course of population tubed its way. When the Census Director's men started in lower Manhattan their results were disappointing. There was a steady loss from the Battery to Washington Square on the west side of Broadway, and a steady loss to Brooklyn Bridge on the east side. It was not until Fourteenth Street had been passed that the enumerators began to find their totals measuring up with expected figures, and the gains did not begin to make themselves appreciably felt until Forty-second Street was reached.

When special sleuths were sent back over the trail to see what was wrong with the people or the figures, they found business blocks where tenements had swarmed ten years ago, and public parks where thousands had lived, while bridge approaches built on the sites of scores of former homes indicated the route by which their inhabitants had escaped to Brownsville and Williamsburg.

Census Director Falck was in a reminiscent mood when a TIMES reporter called upon him at his office yesterday. He was just packing up the last of his population tables to store them away to make room for his favorite gubernatorial candidate's campaign literature.

"Would you believe it?" he said as he turned away from dictating a letter on Congressman Benpet's political chances to talk of his recently completed tasks. "It is away up in remotest Harlem that the people have packed themselves the densest in the last year or two.

"I made it a practice to give each enumerator about 1,500 people to cover. That meant some of the blocks had to be split in two, where it was known the totals would run over 4,000 to the block.

"Well, Harlem went at the rate of about a block to an inspector. And calls for help began to come in right away. From 100th Street and First Avenue an enumerator sent in word that he had passed the 2,000 mark before he'd got half way through the block. Another enumerator working at 106th Street and Second Avenue said he had gone over 3,000 and hadn't yet got much more than half his job behind him. Both men wanted time extensions on their job. They were sent additional help instead and when the figures were completed they totaled over 4,000 for each block.

"Further north than that there was more trouble again. The largest gains in population in all Manhattan were not made on the upper west side, as one would suppose, but along the Harlem River front, extending west to Lenox Avenue and embracing the section from 136th Street to 145th Street.

"When you get into a Subway train you'll notice the negroes don't get off near San Juan Hill half so frequently as formerly. The answer is that they're up in that far Harlem country and close around them are Yiddish people, Italians, Russians, Poles—almost every nationality reaching out from the older east side sections and still engaged in deciding to what element that particular new country shall fall.

"It isn't the Subway altogether that's working the changes. The Italian and negro and Hungarian and Russian laborers are following their employment northward, and hard manual labor is now chiefly to be obtained in the aqueduct in Westchester and in railroad extension in Northern Manhattan and the Bronx."

While the enumerators were at work Director Falck chalked down on a big wall map in his office their findings. He marked with black the country from which the population was moving out, with blue where it was holding its own, and with buff and red the sections where it was jumping in totals from 10,000 to 30,000 increase.

The map is an interesting evidence of the population's northward shift, as it starts at the Battery in a black and blue blur, turns pink at Forty-second Street, and finishes in Washington Heights and along the Harlem in positive reds.

"If it hadn't been that the subway ran north as well as to Brooklyn and the Bronx," said Mr. Falck, "Manhattan would have made a sorry showing for itself. It lost wherever the old centres were established, and only its new population saved it from a disastrous humiliation in the totals.

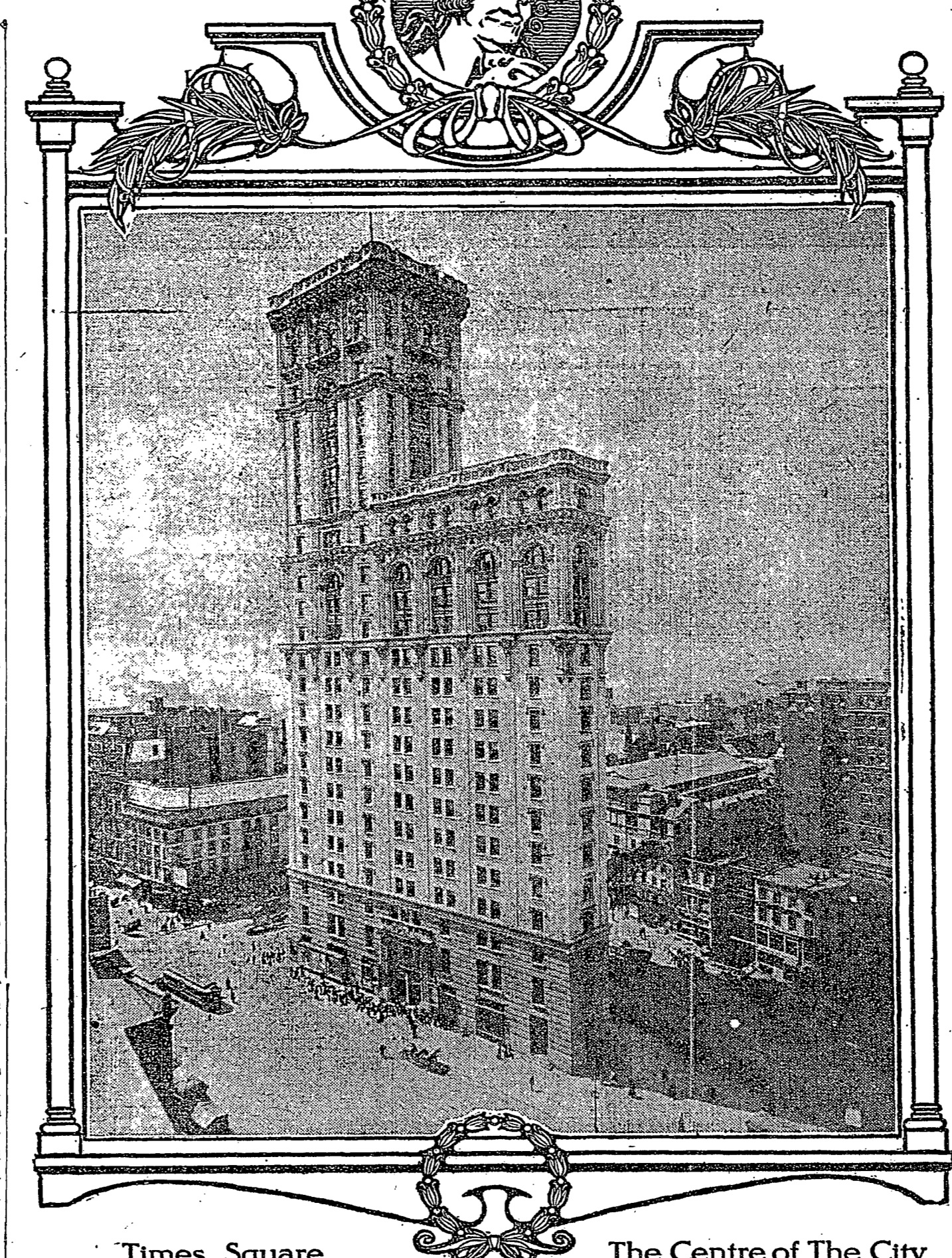
"The next line of progress seems fairly clear. Those who prefer to live on the west side will crowd themselves along Park—and in prospecting that 10,000,000 population our present rate of increase will give us by 1940 will fill in all the territory clear to Yonkers. They're already advertising flats, I believe, north of the park.

"The new immigrants will no longer look to the east side alone—that is, the old east side—but will join their people from their own country above 100th Street and out in the Bronx. The newcomers seem to make themselves readily at home with their countrymen wherever they find them, and it is for that reason that the new centres about which the Poles and Russians and Hungarian and Yiddish people are grouping themselves are so important. The aqueduct and other sources of employment for rough work may prove to be the greatest factors in redistributing the city's unamalgamated neighborhoods.

"There was one odd corner we ran into—quite an unexpected one. It was over in Bleeker Street, west of Broadway and Christopher Street. Instead of following the uniform rule of losses that had prevailed from the Battery up to that point, Christopher Street showed an increase of 375 people. We looked into it and found quite a colony of Italians had established themselves there and seemed to have taken permanent possession.

They had followed the Germans and Irish as the workmen of the warehouse district and had moved over to get closer to their work."

Mr. Falck's map showed by the printed totals in the margins how steadily the northward march had been, whose



In those portions of the city in which there is no loss of population, the gain varies with localities. The rate of gain is indicated in marginal key.

Along the East River an extra 17,000 people took up their homes in this same section. Lower down—from Seventieth Street to Fourteenth Street—the gains were slighter, ranging for the most part under 5,000, except near Fifty-ninth Street, where Bohemians have crowded in sufficiently strong to bring the gains up to 8,800.

The Bronx's leadership, of which all its folks were very proud as the news of their high estate spread into their midst, was indicated on Mr. Falck's map by gains of 21,895 in the eastern half beyond St. Ann's Avenue, and 17,000 along the line of the Subway through Westchester Avenue. The falling off toward the Fordham Road was marked, and in the Van Cortlandt Park section the gain netted only 5,305.

Manhattan lost in Brownsville, Brooklyn, a Yiddish centre made possible through the newer bridges. It took away the people who lived near their Manhattan terminals, and as parks and trees took the places of their demolished tenements, the loss was not made up by never immigration.

From the census's results Mr. Falck turned to a discussion of the memories the job of taking it left most firmly in his mind.

"There's a friend of mine," he said, "that I want to rub it in on hard some day. He was the meanest man to count in town, and he lives on upper Fifth Avenue at that. He treated the enumerators wholly as intruders, and you should have heard some of the line of talk he gave our men. At first he resented having such persons presume to invade the privacy of his home. Then he discovered that social engagements were being interrupted by the men with the questions, and after that his business even was being interfered with, which was a preposterous something not to be tolerated even for a minute, you know.

"Well, that fellow made more trouble than any dozen others, and it took a mighty lot of persistence to get his record into our hands. But it came, and his treatment of those who were after it was in marked contrast to the other extreme of attitude adopted by a merchant domiciled next door. This man invited the rejected and cast-down enumerator into his library, poured out a glass of wine, passed the cigars, and conversed in that consoling atmosphere about the things that Uncle Samuel cared to know.

"You'd be surprised at the way the boarding houses behaved. We made a mistake with them. You know many unmarried women live in boarding houses. The slips we sent out were general slips on which we had asked all of the boarders to write down their age and other familiarly personal data. Do you imagine we got results? Instead we had telephone calls from the boarding house keepers that they simply couldn't get the girls to sign up if they knew the other girls were going to see what they wrote, and individual slips would have to be sent up or it would be all off.

"And not only that. Angry girls began to arrive at the office daily protesting indignantly against the wholesale plan of gathering data. They were willing to tell things they assured us, but they were mighty particular that only we census men should know.

"We learned a point or two in those days about boarding houses, and soon we were getting along swimmingly.

"The poorer Bowery lodging houses gave us also our interesting moments. I wish that everybody with a dollar to give and a heart inclined to charity, or open social justice, could take a night trip through the downtown lodging houses. We had to wake people up in the night as they slept on chairs, in filthy cots clustered together in corners, and sometimes on dirty floors—conditions of squalor that couldn't even be guessed from the outside appearance of the places.

"In those visits our success was surprising to us. Every lodger seemed happy to possess a pedigree he could give, and he was anxious to have it listed on our sheets.

"Yes," repeated Mr. Falck in response to a suggestion, "our success was something much more easy to attain than we had counted on.

"I think the secret lay in two items: We assigned enumerators with special consideration to avoiding race antagonisms, and we worked with the pupils of the public schools for our allies.

"In many a household where the family heads stood afraid and confused before the enumerators, their children came in, did the interpreting, often supplied the answers the old folks couldn't give, and told their fathers and mothers their teachers had told them it was all right, so there was nothing to be frightened over.

"Every east side public school was the headquarters of an inspection district. If an enumerator had trouble, he reported it to the District Supervisor, who took the matter up through the teachers in the school, and soon had the children at work straightening the matter out.

"The public school children were the most effective first-aid-to-the-confused that we had, and next to them came the Greek interpreters, who seemed able to talk nearly every language in Europe. Besides the Greeks we employed two Chinese, three Russian Poles, a Dane, a Swede, a Frenchman, a Syrian, and two Italians.

"Our negro enumerators, of whom we employed over twenty, proved a surprise to us. Their handwriting was uniformly better than that of their white competitors, and their reports were put into neater form. Most of the negroes were unusually intelligent and eager about their work.

"We took the count principally in June, when the tide of outward-bound Summer-travel had already set in. In 30,000 cases we found houses closed, belonging to well-known Manhattan residents. We found where they had gone, forwarded our blanks to Berlin, London, Paris—pretty generally all over Europe—and the reports kept coming in for more than a month afterward. In this way we caught Manhattan's Summer tourists on the wing.

"As hard a problem almost was the elimination of the tourists who happened to be sojourning here, who were likely to be registered elsewhere. We sent slips to all the hotels, asked every one to answer the questions, and then threw those sets of answers away which seemed not to belong in a Manhattan count.

"In the apartment houses we devised a new way of getting results without friction. Instead of making the tenants answer questions offhand when they were not just in the mood for it, we left blanks to be called for a week or ten days later. We almost always found on collecting the slips that the lady of the house—or the flat—had talked things over with the man, and between them they had answered all the questions with much more detail than would have been the case if they had been required to reply offhand to unexpected queries. I am making a special report

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The Sky Line of New York City as It Looks To-day.

(Continued from Preceding Page.)

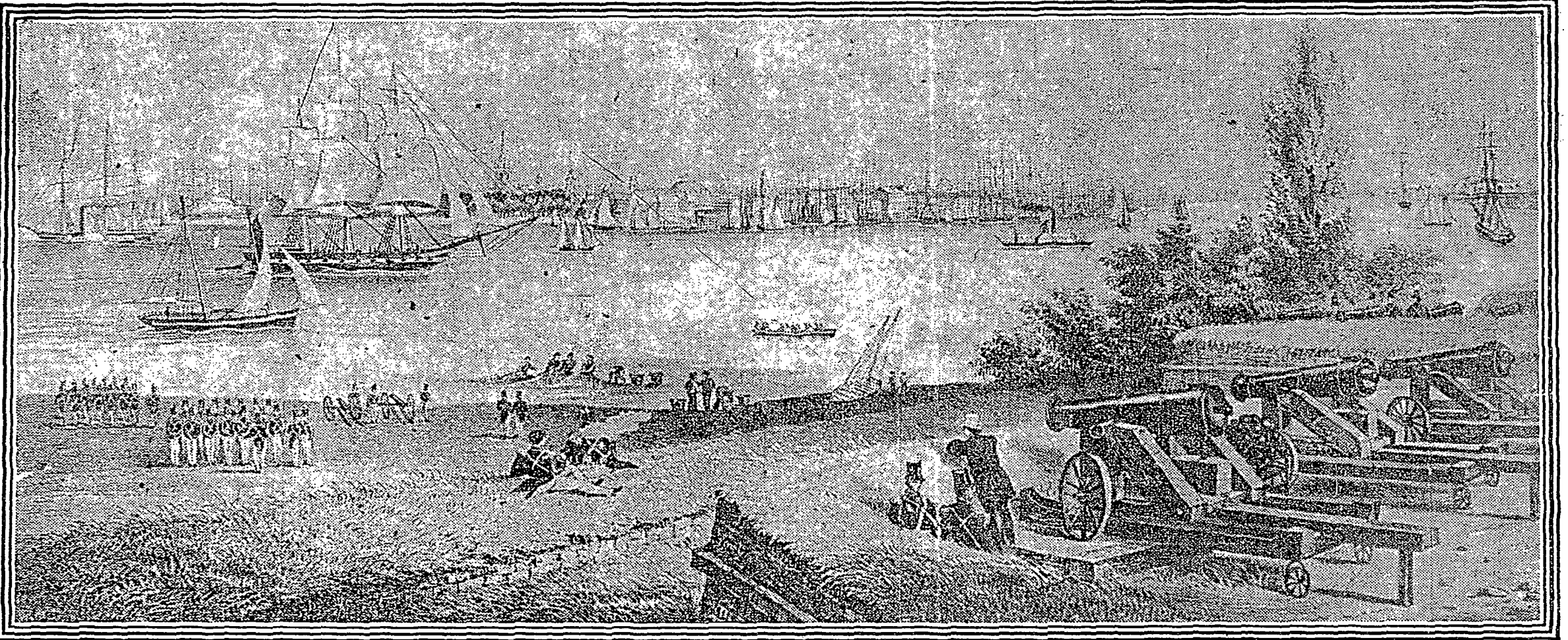
in our "advance sheet" innovation, and I hope to see it adopted as a permanent feature.

"There was one woman on our force of whom we are very proud. She had an invalid husband at home and she wanted to work. She distributed advance sheets through one district, gathered them all up, and was so business-like about it that we gave her an extra district on which the enumerator hadn't produced results. One of our enumerators was a college graduate who was suffering from heart trouble. He went down under the strain and his check, which arrived a week after his death, is still being held for relatives.

"Another was a young man who wanted to get away from the dull gray routine of adding figures in an electric light company's office. He got a vacation on some excuse or other, but one of the first places his bad luck led him to as an enumerator was to his employer's home. The employer hadn't expected to meet his employe with a power to ask official personal questions, and when he came to work next morning he found a letter telling him his vacation from the office would be permanently continued.

"In previous census taking about 200 enumerators have thrown up the work in disgust over its annoyances. We only lost ten men in that way, and so were able to keep our force intact.

"Mostly its work was under district leaders, but we had to concentrate it to take the park sleepers and the lodging house inhabitants. Once we had to concentrate the interpreters in a single building. It was close to Chinatown and we found in it and in its close



The Sky Line of the City as It Looked in 1816. From a Rare Old Print From the N. Y. Public Library, Lenox Building.

neighbors on the block representatives of fifteen different nationalities. They kept our entire interpreting staff pretty busy getting out of them their respective life stories. I don't think there is such a profusely cosmopolitan group to be found anywhere else in the city. "In one of the houses of that section an enumerator found three Arabians living together who had been here four months. They were all students in a night school and in the daytime two of them worked as street peddlers, while the third was a barber. "The enumerator who found them also discovered a mother living in a single room with six children and an invalid husband, who was suffering from paralysis. He was so moved by their destitution that he remarked it

might be well to send the children to some institution. The tongue lashing he got was something he won't soon forget, and several times in our conferences afterward he and others mentioned the intense pride in keeping families intact regardless of the suffering entailed that they found everywhere on the east side. When he learned this particular family wouldn't think of letting the children go, he raised a purse, and many of the enumerators chipped in a little of their earnings to make it up.

"Not all the census taking had to be done afield. Scrubwomen, possessed of a fear that they were going to be overlooked, dropped into headquarters late in the afternoons to make personal requests that they be listed.

"With them came many callers who had sorrowful stories to tell of lost relatives—couldn't we please tell them the names of such were on our lists? It was hard to make them understand that the individual was quickly lost in the census papers and only his pedigree and classification was tabulated out. We had to refuse more than a hundred such requests, and nearly all the applicants went away certain that we could have found the names if only we had been willing to look, and that by not looking we had treated them unfairly."

Mr. Falck's army of nearly 2,000 census takers has already dispersed, the census headquarters has been turned over to a law firm, and yesterday all of the papers not a portion of the formal report were being packed away to make office room. Except for the detailed data to be given out at Washington from time to time during the coming year the census and its taking has already passed into history.