

CHAPTER VII.

THE INTELLECTUAL AND RELIGIOUS LIFE.

1. WHAT DO OUR PEOPLE READ? 2. CLUB LIFE IN MINING TOWNS.
 3. THE WORK OF TEMPERANCE REFORM. 4. OUR CHURCHES AND THE CLERGY.
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WHAT DO OUR PEOPLE READ?

In the year 1899 there were 87 papers of all kinds published in the anthracite coal fields, while in 1902 there were 130, which is an increase of nearly 50 per cent., while the increase in population during that period was only 25 per cent. In this time the number of dailies increased from 18 to 26, and the number of weeklies from 65 to 99, which is an increase of 44.4 and 52.5 per cent. respectively. The semi-weekly and the monthly issues remained the same. The circulation as given by the dailies in 1889 was 48,476 and in 1902, 133,997. Thus twelve years ago one daily paper was issued to every ten persons in our territory, while last year one was issued for every five persons in the same area. In addition to this, there were 97,658 copies of the weeklies issued in 1889, which was one copy for every five persons; and in 1902, 153,743 copies were distributed, which was one copy to every 4.5 persons. Thus, as far as reliance can be placed upon the figures given as to circulation, the dailies have increased in number about 50 per cent. and in circulation about 100 per cent., while the weeklies have increased in number and circulation about equally.

The following classification is made of the political affiliation of the papers which expressed a preference :

	1889.	1902.
Republican.....	24	38
Democrat	10	17
Independent.....	30	33
Independent Democrat.....	4	4
Independent Republican.....	0	1
Silver Democrat.....	0	1

About seven of the dailies issue a Sunday edition. If we consider the purpose for which the papers exist we have the following classification :

	1889.	1902.
Prohibition.....	1	0
Technical.....	3	3
Law.....	1	1
Literature.....	1	2
Labor.....	1	3
Religious.....	1	4
Railroad.....	0	1
General news.....	79	116

In 1889, only one of these papers was published in the interests of the Sclavs, a sheet edited by some of the priests of the Ruthenians. To-day we have three printed in Polish, three in Lithuanian, three in Slovak, two in Ruthenian and five in German, making all told sixteen weeklies published in foreign languages in our territory. In addition to this, newspapers, magazines, etc., from other cities are sold in our towns. To have some idea of the number and character of these papers which circulate in the anthracite coal fields, we will take two typical mining towns, one in the Northern and one in the Southern coal fields.

In the town of Mahanoy City, with a population of 13,500, there are two dailies and one weekly published. Besides these 750 copies of the Philadelphia and New York dailies are sold, and about 1,200 copies of Sunday editions distributed each Lord's Day. Of the dailies the following is their order in numerical importance. *North American*, Philadelphia *Inquirer*, Philadelphia *Record*, while about 20 copies of the Philadelphia *Ledger*, and the same number of the New York *Times* are sold. On Sunday the following is the classification according to the numbers distributed: Philadelphia *Inquirer*, *North American*, Philadelphia *Record*, and Sunday *Journal*. Thus in this town the Philadelphia and New York dailies circulate at the rate of one copy to 18 persons, while the Sunday distribution is one to 11.2 persons. Besides this about 50 copies of monthly magazines are sold. They are *Munsey's*, *McClure's*, *Everybody's*, *Leslie's* and the *Strand*.