

tionate to increase in population, then it is only a question of time when our civilization will be torn to pieces and will have passed beyond the stage of recovery.

Many judge the advance or decline of our civilization from a viewpoint of our inventions and discoveries in the arts and sciences. If these are advancing, it is regarded by them as an advancing civilization. We have had one instance of this in the known history of the human race. At the time of the fall of the Roman civilization and the coming of the Dark Age, arts and sciences were making wonderful strides and the wealth of the known world was pouring into the Roman empire. The wealthy class was growing wealthier and great national improvements were in progress. But tenantry and poverty were increasing with all the demoralizing attendant results that mark our civilization of today. The voice of alarm was then raised throughout the land as it is being heard today. It was true then and is true now:

“Ill fares the land, to hastening  
    ills a prey,  
Where wealth accumulates and  
    men decay.”

The voice of alarm was not heeded and Roman civilization, with its improvements,

arts and sciences, was engulfed in a sea of human savagery. At that time the world was only partly inhabited and many fled to uninhabited parts of it and there rehabilitated civilization. There are now no uninhabited parts of the world to which a distressed people can flee.

By a test of the increasing number in crimes, suicides, insanity, tenantry and divorces, ours is now a declining civilization. The foundation of our civilization is being undermined, and if the increase is to continue, may it not be foreseen with accuracy that our arts and sciences and wonderful inventions and improvements will be lost in an era of mental and moral dementia and engulfed in a sea of human savagery.

I am not giving the statistics as to the increase in crimes, suicides, insanity, tenantry and divorces, all increasing disproportionately and faster than increase in population, for they are now a part of our daily reading. There lies before me the Gazette, of Salisaw, Oklahoma, of the current week's issue, which says: “According to a recent bulletin issued by the Census Department, we have in Sequoyah County, 3,249 farm homes and of this number 952 are occupied by owners and 2,297 are occupied by tenants.”\* This may be, and no doubt is, an instance where the proportion

\*Confirmed by Census Report, 1910, Vol. 1, Chap. XVI, page 1341.