

January 31, 1878, be added to the figures of the school census, together with the element of our population not included therein, viz.: between seventeen and twenty, both inclusive (females seventeen to eighteen and males seventeen to twenty-one), also the increase by immigration, an aggregate will be obtained that will fully sustain the figures in our table to which it refers.

The estimate of the number of Chinese, thirty thousand (of which two thousand two hundred are women, and one thousand five hundred children), is based upon the judgment of reliable authorities who are familiar with that element of our population. During the past year, owing to local causes, this element in our population has decreased, it is estimated, seven per cent. According to the U. S. census, 1870, there were twelve thousand and eighteen Chinese of all ages residing in this city, of whom it was estimated that seven thousand were engaged in the different departments of labor. At the present date reliable data place the number, including domestics, at eighteen thousand, which, if correct, fully warrants the figures in the above table. The numbers of Chinese conducting business in this city, on their own account, is nine hundred and fifty, of which over four hundred are engaged in the laundry business. About two hundred establishments, of which over one-half are owned by Chinese, are engaged in the manufacture of cigars. The number of Chinese employed therein is estimated at four thousand. The returns of the six Chinese Companies in San Francisco show that there are in the United States 155,000 Chinese, of which 60,000 are in the State of California.

The remainder of the data in our estimate explains itself, and to those who are acquainted with the different elements referred to therein, the figures will not be considered over-estimated.

The aggregate of the present year (308,215), as compared with that of last year (301,020), exhibits a gain of 7,195, or 2.35 per cent., a much smaller increase than that of former years, this may be accounted for as the result of the general depression of our commercial and mining interests, and the comparative failure of our last year's crops. A slight decrease will be noted in our table of adult male population, but the adult females has increased in numbers seven and a half per cent., and the males and females under twenty-one and eighteen, respectively, about eight per cent.

Meteorological Observations made at San Francisco, from November, 1850, to January, 1878.

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In the following tables the reader will find, in a condensed form, the results of twenty-seven years' diligent observation of the climate of San Francisco, with more particular reference to rain.

Rain has fallen in every month of the year. In July it has rained only in one year; August has furnished rain in four years; June in eight years; September in twelve years; October in sixteen years. No account is made of a mere sprinkle, nor of the deposit of summer mist. The greatest quantity of mist which ever falls in twenty-four hours is about three hundredths of an inch. But this quantity is very rare. Near the ocean the mist is much more copious.

The driest season was 1850-51, which gave only seven inches. Next to that was 1863-64, with eight and one half inches. The winter of 1867-68 gave the most rain—forty inches. The average is between twenty-one and twenty-two inches.

The earliest setting in of the rainy season was October 8; the latest, January 12. An early beginning and an abundant supply are apt to go together, but there is no rule in this respect—the latest beginnings have been followed by an average supply.

The average date of the beginning of the rainy season is November 28; of the termination, April 10. March is as certain to bring rain in liberal amount as any other month. In one year out of every three there is no rain of importance after March. The last showers of the season come, with remarkable uniformity, about the third week of May.

The middle of January is the average dividing point of the rainy season. The mean quantity before January 1 is about equal to the mean quantity after January 31.

December gives the greatest average quantity; January is not far behind; February, March, and November come next, and are nearly alike; then April, May, and October, in the order named.

The greatest amount of rain in any one month was in January, 1862, when there fell the enormous quantity of eighteen inches.

The most extraordinary summer rain was in June, 1875, when 1.11 inches fell during a southerly storm which lasted several days. That this was an anomaly is made apparent by the fact that in the three summer months during twenty-seven years the whole quantity of rain, collectively, deducting this, was only 1.9 inches.

It is worthy of note that in the driest seasons there has been an abundant supply for agricultural purposes, had it been distributed evenly. Three inches in December, with one inch in each of the four following months, would produce full crops.

The rain table of San Francisco may be made the basis for estimating the fall in other parts of the State. The mountains of the north have from two to three times as much, and the southern section of the State about half as much, or even less in some localities. The valley of the Sacramento has nearly the same quantity as San Francisco; that of the San Joaquin one fourth or one third less, the quantity diminishing southward.