

# THE GROWTH OF GREAT CITIES.

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(SEE THE CENTURY'S MAP OF GREATER NEW YORK.)

ON January 1, 1898, the city of New York will become in population the second city of the world, yielding precedence to London alone, Paris being third in the scale, and Berlin fourth. Of all these cities New York is much the youngest, having been settled in 1623, while Berlin was founded in the twelfth century, and the original settlement of London and Paris antedates history. The ratio of increase in all these cities has been greatest in the present century, and largely within the latter half of it, London having nearly doubled its population since 1850, Paris more than doubled, New York nearly quadrupled, and Berlin more than quadrupled. In fact, the growth of Berlin since it became an imperial capital has been phenomenal.

It is a matter of rather curious interest that the Berlin of Frederick the Great, at the time of Voltaire's stormy sojourn there, was about as large as the London of Richard II; or as New York was when Washington Irving first introduced to its citizens the immortal Diedrich Knickerbocker. The Paris of the first revolution and of the great Napoleon was about as populous as the London of Samuel Johnson and Goldsmith, and as New York when Daniel Webster was dying; while the London beloved of Elia contained about as many people as the present New York did at the time of the assassination of Garfield, and the Greater New York when Tweed was in his glory.

The growth of these cities has not been

uninterrupted. Wars and revolutions have left wounds which did not heal for years. The periods of depression due to such causes are well shown upon the accompanying diagram, which exhibits the growth of the largest four cities of the world for the past one hundred years. The horrors of the first French revolution reduced the population of Paris from 660,000 in 1784 to 547,756 in 1800, and the subsequent Napoleonic wars stunted its growth until about 1830, when a normal increase began, again to be interrupted when Napoleon the Little slaughtered the young republic in 1851. The war of 1870, it will be seen, left its mark on both Paris and Berlin. The line of the Greater New York dips at 1814, when a census showed a decrease of about 1300 since 1810, and again in 1865, when it was found that the city had lost about 40,000 of its inhabitants since 1860, the preceding war being accountable in each case. London also shows the effect, in a slight degree, of the wars of Napoleon, although her growth has been virtually continuous.

New York is peculiarly situated as compared with these other cities. They are all inland towns, and the bodies of water that separate the different sections are comparatively narrow, and easily bridged or tunneled. New York being on the sea, its different parts are widely separated, and yet they constitute virtually a single commercial settlement bordering almost continuously upon the shores of the great arms of the sea that are here thrust far inland. Moreover, portions of this homogeneous and continuous settlement are situated in different States, and cannot at present be consolidated into one city, although really united by the closest of bonds, that of community of interest. If we combine all the population of the true metropolitan area, we find that it rises very near that of London, thus:

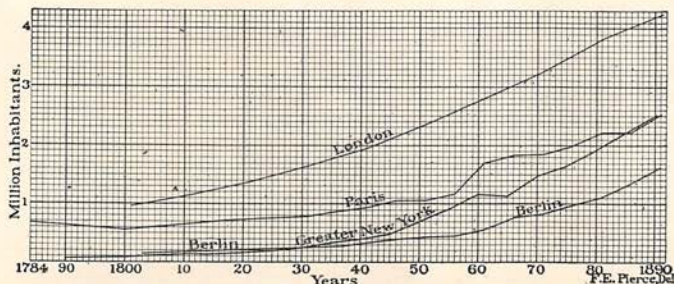


CHART SHOWING THE GROWTH OF LONDON, PARIS, NEW YORK, AND BERLIN DURING THE PRESENT CENTURY.

Estimated population of the city of New York, 3,388,771
“ “ “ Hudson Co., N. J. . . . . 367,314
“ “ “ Newark, N. J. . . . . 226,343
“ “ “ Elizabeth, N. J. . . . . 47,089
Total population of metropolitan area . . . . . 4,029,517

Borough.	Situation.	Height.
Manhattan	About one eighth of a mile north of 181st street, just west of Fort Washington Avenue . . . . .	258 feet.
Bronx . . . . .	Near 253d street, about one fourth of a mile east of Riverdale Avenue . . . . .	260 feet.
Brooklyn . . . . .	Near the corner of Prospect Avenue and Ninth Avenue . . . . .	170 feet.
Queens . . . . .	Near the southerly line of Cypress Hills Cemetery . . . . .	188 feet.
Richmond	About one fourth of a mile east of the corner of Manor Road and Ocean Terrace Road, and one mile south of Castleton . . . . .	413 feet.

This is about the population of London ten years ago, the Greater New York alone very nearly corresponding with the London of 1882.

On the map of the Greater New York a prominent mark will be noticed near the southwest corner of Avenue D and Tenth street. This indicates the center of population of the greater city. It is the point of intersection of two lines, one running north and south, and the other east and west. Each line divides the population into two equal parts, that north of the east and west line being equal to that on the south, and that east of the north and south line being equal to that on the west.

A matter of some interest, though not, perhaps, of great importance, relates to the topography of the four cities that have been compared so briefly. Berlin is built upon a sandy plain about 100 feet above tide-water. It is therefore remarkably level, although in the Tempelhof there was originally a slight elevation, called the Kreuzberg, which has been artificially increased to a height of about 300 feet, and is used as a reviewing-point for the army. The highest elevation in Paris is Buttes-Chaumont, of 404 feet; and in London at Hampstead there is one of 441 feet, which surpasses anything in the Greater New York.

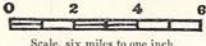
The highest points in the different boroughs are the following:

The following table gives, as nearly as they can be ascertained, various items of information relating to the three European cities, the corresponding data for the city of New York being printed upon the face of the map itself. The statistics of London relate to what is known as Registration London, commonly called London. But it is not so generally known that there is also a Greater London, known in England by that title. The Greater London comprises the entire metropolitan district under the jurisdiction of the metropolitan police. While Registration London covers a territory of 117 square miles with a population of 4,463,169, Greater London covers almost 700 square miles, with a population of 6,291,677. The additional territory is known as the Outer Ring.

The assessed value of real estate in London has been calculated upon the assumption that the annual ratable value of property for the purposes of taxation in 1896 represented three per cent. of its value.

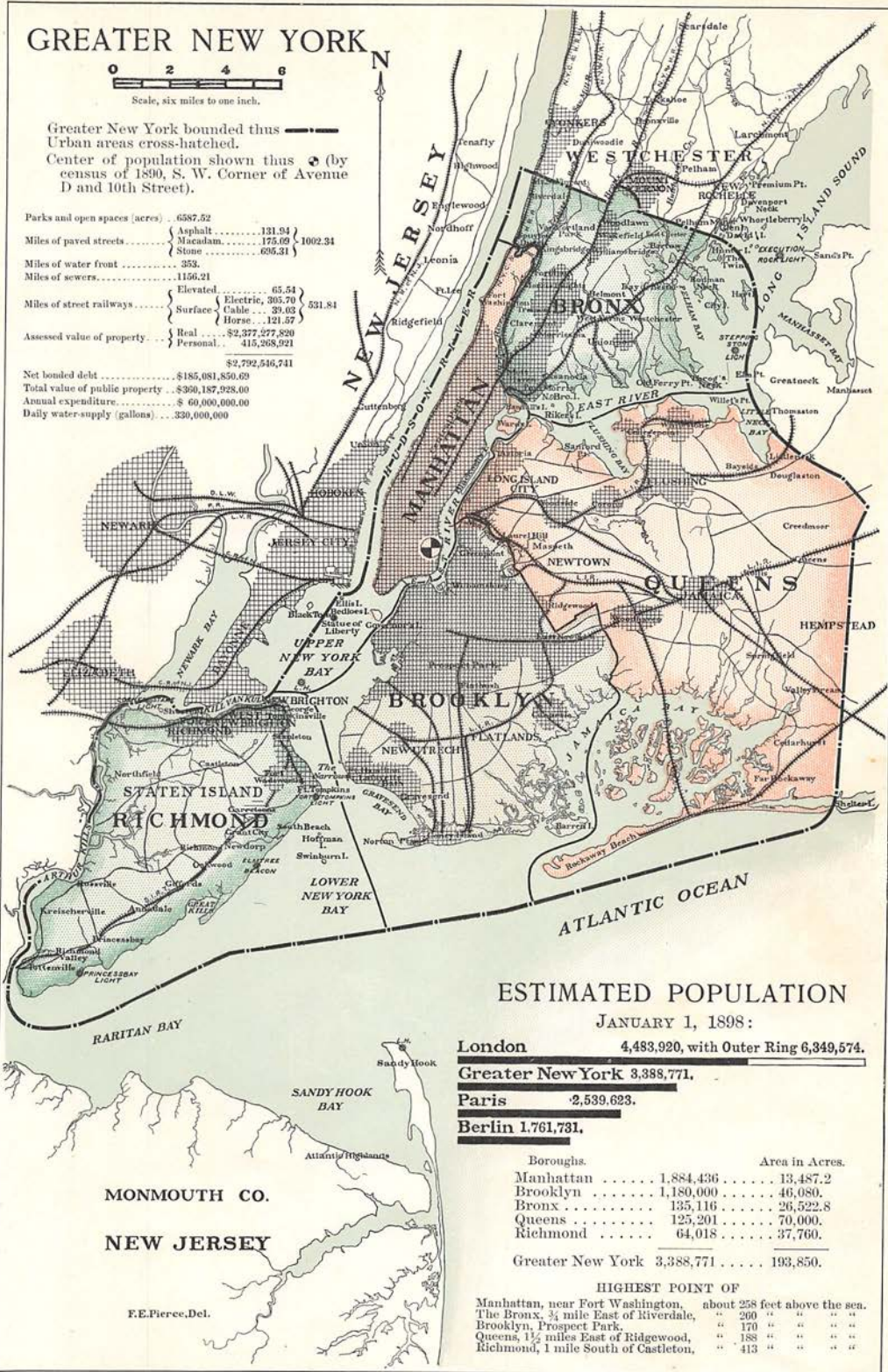
	London.	Paris.	Berlin.
Population . . . . .	Registration London . . . . . 4,463,169	2,511,629	1,726,098
	Outer ring . . . . . 1,828,508		
Area in acres . . . . .	Greater London, 6,291,677	19,279	15,662
	Registration London . . . . . 74,672		
	Outer ring . . . . . 368,749		
	Greater London, 443,421		
Parks and open spaces (acres) . . . . .	5,976	4,739	1,637
Miles of paved streets . . . . .	1,818	604	500
Miles of public sewers . . . . .	2,500	599	465
Miles of street railways . . . . .	.....	24	225
Assessed value of real estate . . . . .	\$5,335,140,654	.....	.....
Net bonded debt . . . . .	200,000,000	\$520,677,830	\$69,937,098
Annual expenditure . . . . .	65,000,000	72,701,700	21,294,333
Daily water-supply (gallons) . . . . .	203,000,000	136,000,000	30,000,000

# GREATER NEW YORK



Greater New York bounded thus Urban areas cross-hatched.  
 Center of population shown thus (by census of 1890, S. W. Corner of Avenue D and 10th Street).

Parks and open spaces (acres) . . . . .	6587.52
Miles of paved streets . . . . .	{ Asphalt . . . . . 131.94
	{ Macadam . . . . . 175.09
	{ Stone . . . . . 626.31
Miles of water front . . . . .	353.
Miles of sewers . . . . .	1156.21
Miles of street railways . . . . .	{ Elevated . . . . . 65.54
	{ Electric, 305.70
	{ Cable . . . . . 39.03
	{ Horse . . . . . 121.57
	{ 531.84
Assessed value of property . . . . .	{ Real . . . . . \$2,377,277,820
	{ Personal . . . . . 415,268,921
	{ \$2,792,546,741
Net bonded debt . . . . .	\$185,081,850.69
Total value of public property . . . . .	\$360,187,928.00
Annual expenditure . . . . .	\$ 60,000,000.00
Daily water-supply (gallons) . . . . .	330,000,000



## ESTIMATED POPULATION

JANUARY 1, 1898:

London	4,483,920, with Outer Ring 6,349,574.
<b>Greater New York</b>	<b>3,388,771.</b>
Paris	2,539,623.
Berlin	1,761,731.

Boroughs.	Area in Acres.
Manhattan . . . . .	1,884,436 . . . . . 13,487.2
Brooklyn . . . . .	1,180,000 . . . . . 46,080.
Bronx . . . . .	135,116 . . . . . 26,522.8
Queens . . . . .	125,201 . . . . . 70,000.
Richmond . . . . .	64,018 . . . . . 37,760.

Greater New York 3,388,771 . . . . . 193,850.

### HIGHEST POINT OF

Manhattan, near Fort Washington,	about 258 feet above the sea.
The Bronx, 3/4 mile East of Riverdale,	" 200 " " " "
Brooklyn, Prospect Park,	" 170 " " " "
Queens, 1 1/2 miles East of Ridgewood,	" 188 " " " "
Richmond, 1 mile South of Castleton,	" 413 " " " "

THE CENTURY MAGAZINE MAP OF GREATER NEW YORK,

SHOWING THE BOROUGHS OF MANHATTAN, THE BRONX, BROOKLYN, QUEENS, AND RICHMOND;  
 WITH CENTER OF POPULATION, AND STATISTICS.

[See article on "The Growth of Great Cities," November, 1897.]