

POOR DOCUMENT

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THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1920

STATISTICS ABOUT WHEAT CANNOT FEED HUNGRY MEN

According to a calculation of an eminent English authority—Sir James Wilson—the world wheat supply is considerably in excess of need. The exporting countries, he says, in the crop year ending in July, 1920, will have a surplus of 1,024,000,000 bushels. He estimates the importing countries will not take more than 680,000,000 bushels. This would mean a world surplus of 344,000,000 bushels with which to begin the new crop year commencing August 1, 1920. Fortunately for mankind, Nature is not of the same mind as those who put prices before production.

Calculations of exportable surplus made by nearly all grain statisticians include what may be produced by India, Roumania and Russia. Such bread conforms with the Catholicism's definition of faith. This spring India may harvest an exportable surplus of 50,000,000 bushels, but it is by no means assured. We know that Roumania has no surplus. There is much conflict of expert opinion as to Russia, but the British Economic Mission says that the Ukraine has about 240,000,000 bushels of wheat available for export. Assuming the calculations to be correct, there still remains the question of getting it out of South Russia, which in present circumstances seems more difficult than bringing wheat from Australia.

Sir James recognizes these difficulties and readily admits that without these supplies all the wheat in Canada, United States, Argentina and Australia, including the surpluses of old grain, will be needed to carry the world through to the new crop year, or August 1, 1920. A calculation like this, when analyzed, should dispose of the prediction of ruinous surpluses, made to discourage spring planting. Wheat is no longer a provincial matter, and if the next season begins with an available surplus, here or in Russia, the world will be the better for it, because with the accumulated surpluses of the southern continent consumed, the 1920-21 supply may not be put to midday in excess of what is needed.

Measurements in the field which in time of peace would have been regarded as possible only in a well-equipped laboratory. The method as developed was to meet the conditions of position warfare, but Professor Williams believes that improvements in instruments may yet make it adaptable to mobile war. One of the great difficulties—making a proper allowance for the wind—was so far overcome that guns could be readily located as lying within a circle of fifty meters radius. Another difficulty was to locate guns in intense artillery action. But this was often not the work of the sound rangers, for it could be more easily done by other means. The sound rangers were not called upon to locate small pieces; they were more concerned with large pieces carefully concealed and far back of the lines. They were frequently located these pieces during intervals of comparative quiet, then carefully mapped their position so that in case they become troublesome the data were at hand for their destruction.

Praise For Civilian Scientists. As Professor Williams points out, much of the research work in the military development of the sound ranger was done by civilian scientists. Professor Augustus Towbridge of Princeton and Professor Theodore Lyman, of Harvard, as representatives of the United States, spending considerable time at the front. Professor Williams, speaking from his own experience, says there is much in favor of the adoption by the American army of a policy of encouragement toward scientific research on military matters by its own officers. Much precious time, he declares, would thus be saved. While this may be true, it is not at present, and has not been the policy of the army to train specialists. The United States will very likely be compelled to depend, as other nations have in such special matters, upon their trained scientists. As a body they have always in the past nobly responded to their country's call.

The German System. Captured documents showed that the Germans had a sound system of their own. It was, however, crude. Either they did not realize the accuracy which could be attained in the field, or, as Professor Williams says, "by the time that they realized it their military and economic situation was such as to preclude the necessary development work and diversion of technical personnel." Sound ranging is a method of locating the position of a gun or of a bursting shell by the determination of the relative times of the arrival of the sound at a system of listening stations of which the position has been definitely determined by survey. At the listening stations were sensitive instruments which would be affected by the arrival of the sound waves. Their indications were recorded on an accurate chronograph at a central station, and from these records the intervals were read off, and computers rapidly worked out the solution of the problem and gave the locations.

Wonderful Field Work. The application of sound ranging to war really involved "the making of 'SYRUP OF FIGS' CHILD'S LAXATIVE". Look at Tongue! Remove Poisons from Stomach, Liver and Bowels.

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1.50 yd. 28-inch Corduroy,	\$1.00 yd.
1.50 yd. Novelty Silk,	\$1.00 yd.
90c. yd. Silk Mull,	69c. yd.
1.25 yd. Mercerized Poplin,	69c. yd.
90c. yd. Mercerized Colored Voiles,	69c. yd.
1.25 yd. Novelty Dress Goods,	2 yds. for \$1.00
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INTERESTING CHAT ON BOOKS FOR BOYS

(Edmund Lester Pearson in The Review)

Will the boys of today read the books which their fathers and uncles read twenty-five, thirty or forty years ago? Some of the publishers believe they will. As when Scribner's issued "The Last of the Mohicans," with its fine colored illustrations by Mr. Wyeth. If they will read that, they will read others of a later epoch; the books themselves will please the boys, and the pursuit of them will bring joy to the fathers and uncles. Recently I delighted in arousing envy in a group of venerable persons (forty years old, plus or minus), by producing a "Tom Sawyer," with the old illustrations, which I had just bought.

"That's the very blue cover that mine had! Say, where did you get it?" So when you introduce "Boy Scout of 1920 to 'Tom Sawyer,'" to "Huckleberry Finn," and to that dramatic and thrilling story, "The Prince and the Pauper," try to get copies with the old pictures. You must hunt second-hand dealers a little, but do not insist on first editions, unless you wish to pay fancy prices. With these goes Aldrich's "The Story of a Bad Boy," and this has been adorned by A. B. Frost's drawings. Another writer who entertained boys when Grover Cleveland was in his first term, is Frank Stockton. I know a senile gentleman—about the age of the group mentioned above—who chuckled all day, recently, when he picked up a copy of "The Floating Prince," by Stockton. "There's the picture," said he, "of the Reformed Pirate knitting tidies that I used to see in St. Nicholas, or somewhere." But "The Floating Prince" is for boys under ten—or over thirty-nine—the ones in between may not like it. "A Jolly Fellowship" is another of Stockton's inimitable books.

As for Stevenson, I would guess over the ones so often recommended, and suggest "St. Ives" and "The Wrecker"—even if a boy has to skin all chapters of the latter to Chapter XII. We grown-ups are apt to insist upon a literary finish to which boys are usually insensitive. So we smugly inform them that they must like "Kim" and "The Jungle Book," when, perhaps, the straight adventure of "Killing" "The Naulahka" will please them better. My enjoyment of Dickens was deferred for five years, because it was pronounced to me that I must begin with "Oliver Twist." Now, I would experiment with "A Tale of Two Cities" and see how it worked. If the boy seemed bored, there are the two excellent historical novels by Conn Doyle: "Mick Clarke" and "The White Company." If he remained torpid, I would administer "King Solomon's Mines," and see how he woke up, or myself give up. How I hated the superior persons who said that Rider Haggard had "no literary merit"—how I still hate them! For two other stories of adventure, Javiers, "In the Saragasso Sea" and Clark Russell's "List, Ye Landsmen!" For humor, Lucretia Hale's "Peterkin Papers." For American history, Roosevelt and Lodge's "Hero Tales From American History." For a book telling how to make a hundred un-useful and delightful things: "The American Boy's Handy Book," by Dan Beard. I sometimes see the author on the street, and long to stop him and tell him how much string and gunpowder, and glue, and buckshot, and how many fish-bones and reid's ears and other things I employed in trying to follow his recipes—and what a good time I had.

Just One More. The Human Encyclopedia had answered more than 10,000 questions correctly and was about to retire, when a man in the rear of the hall shouted, "Just one more question, please!" "State your question, sir," smiled the Human Encyclopedia confidently. "When is a trolley car full?" asked the man—Cincinnati Enquirer.

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