

# HOW THE WORLD IS FED

Continued from May issue

**SYNTHETIC** chemistry is delving deeper into the mysteries of nature's laboratories in the roots and stalks of the plant world, and is gradually coming to the point where it can take the raw materials that the plant itself takes from the soil, and make foods in factories perhaps as well as nature makes them on the farm.

## Continental Characteristics

In any study of how the world is fed, one discovers very soon that the various continents are characterized by widely varied forms of diet. Australia, smallest of continents, is the largest meat eater of them all. Asia, the largest continent, is the smallest meat eater among them. Africa and South America lean toward vegetarianism, while North America and Europe are large consumers of meat and other animal products.

Although Asia has fifty-three out of every hundred of the world's inhabitants living within its boundaries, it has, outside of India, comparatively few cattle, only a negligible number of hogs, and not a great many sheep. Fish, rice, and vegetables form the principal articles in the Asiatic market basket.

The average meal of the laboring class of China consists mainly of rice, a little cabbage boiled in a lot of water, and a small piece of turnip, pickled in brine, as a relish. From our standpoint, the Asiatic is a greatly underfed being, and yet wherever men are employed every tribute is paid to the physical endurance of the Chinese coolie.

The food of the 180,000,000 people who live in Africa is almost as simple as that of the Asiatics. It is largely vegetable, although roasted elephant foot is still one of the favorite dishes of the jungle dinner. South Africa eats largely as Europe eats, while the make-up of the North African market basket is almost identical with that of southwestern Asia.

It is probable that less than one-third of the earth's population gets what an American would call three square meals a day.

The world at large uses in the neighborhood of 47,000,000,000 pounds of meat a year. This would be an average of about 39 pounds per capita throughout the world. The people of the United States a few years ago were eating 172 pounds per capita, which is more than four times as much as the average for the race.

Next to the Australians, the American people are the largest of all meat eaters. In butchers' meat, the latest statistics showed the American to be eating 172 pounds, the Englishman 119 pounds, the German 113 pounds, the Frenchman and the Belgian 80 pounds, the Austro-Hungarian 64 pounds, the Russian 50 pounds, and the Spaniard 49 pounds. The average

much beef as the German but less than half as much pork.

## Meat Supply of Central Europe

It is interesting to study the per capita production of meats in the countries of the Central Powers at the present time. The statistics of the United States Department of Agriculture reveal the fact that Germany, Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria and Turkey had a total of approximately 50,000,000 cattle before the war began.

The Department of Agriculture says that about one-fifth of the total number of cattle in Germany are slaughtered annually. Assuming that the net weight of those of Germany and Austria-Hungary corresponds with the net weight of our own cattle, and that the net

German ratio of the sheep killed to those found on the farms of the country at a given time, the annual slaughter of sheep in the region controlled by the Central Powers is 31,000,000.

Assuming that the average dressed weight per sheep is only 30 pounds, as compared with 41 pounds in the United States, there would be a production of 941,000,000 pounds of mutton, or 67 pounds per capita. This gives a total production of meat, omitting horse and goat meat, of 887 pounds per capita among the Central Powers. The Department of Agriculture gives the average German consumption as 113 pounds, and the average Austria-Hungarian consumption

as 64 pounds. It is probable that Bulgarian and Turkish consumption approximates that of the Russian, which is 50 lbs.

## The Rise of Refrigeration

How one steps in the progress of catering to the world's food demands makes another possible is nowhere better shown than in the case of the packing industry. When that humble citizen of Florida, John Gorrie, invented the ice-making machine, he not only enabled the whole world to know

the delights of a plentiful supply of cold water, but he also made it possible to exchange its perishable products, so that the tropics might give to the temperate zone their fruits, and the temperate zone might send to the tropics their excellent corned meats and other cold-storage foods.

Once there were entire nations where only the favored few ever knew the refreshing experience of a cold drink, and it always happened that these nations were situated in those regions where a cold drink means most to humanity. The ice factory, which has meant so much to us in its relation to our own food supply, has brought the delights of ice-cream and soda water to those hundreds



The Staff of Life—Still in the Primitive A Mexican Out-door Bakery.

American eats 80½ pounds of beef, 7½ pounds of veal, 78 pounds of pork and lard, and 6½ pounds of mutton and lamb a year.

Where we eat 80 pounds of beef, the Englishman eats 56 pounds, the Frenchman 37 pounds, and the German 36 pounds. Where we eat 78 pounds of pork, including lard, the Englishman eats 33 pounds, the German 67 pounds, and the Frenchman 26 pounds.

We eat 7½ pounds of veal where the Englishman eats 4 pounds, the German 7½ pounds, and the Frenchman 8 pounds; and we eat 6½ pounds of mutton and lamb where the Englishman eats 26 pounds, the German 2½ pounds, and the Frenchman 9 pounds.

From these figures it will be seen that the Frenchman eats less than half the beef we do. He eats as

weight of those of Bulgaria and Turkey is only 300 pounds where ours is 543, it would appear that there is a 34 pound per capita production of beef in the Central Powers.

Since the foregoing was written, war conditions of course have entirely changed the content values of the central powers but at or about the date at which war broke out there were 37,000,000 hogs in the countries of the Teutonic Alliance. The Department of Agriculture's statistics show that the annual slaughter in Germany is 110.4 per cent of the total number of hogs on hand at a given time; therefore it would appear that there is a per capita production of pork amounting to 45 pounds in the Central Powers. Based on the

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