

The evidence indicates that the proportion of income expended for food is declining rapidly particularly during the present century.

If this be true what may be the cause? The answer is obviously the improvement in technique made possible by investigation, invention and research and specifically the more general adoption of methods embraced under what is known as scientific agriculture.

To avoid any possibility of underestimating the importance of this cause it is only necessary to examine the records of some sections of the world where what is embraced under the term scientific agriculture is unknown. This is possible. A recent survey in a section of China where scientific agriculture is yet unknown finds the struggle against starvation there so intense that the expenditure on fertilizer is greater than on education and authorities had to secure the assistance of the militia to help to collect not the 1931 taxes but those of 1939<sup>(4)</sup>.

A report from India states that in the Acadian simplicity there prevailing 97 to 98 per cent of the total expenditure is necessary to secure the absolute necessities of life.

Apparently the benefits of scientific agriculture have been secured by society in general by securing food of better quality for the expenditure of a rapidly decreasing proportion of effort.

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(4) Brown, H.D., and Li Min Liang. Survey of 50 farms on the Ching tu Plain, Shweckwan, China, 1928.