

NATION'S FOOD SUPPLY.

What it Costs to Feed the People of the United States One Year—Significant Facts and Figures.

BY GEORGE B. WALDRON.

Copyright 1910 by the S. S. McClure Company. Your breakfast this morning was by no means elaborate. Ten million other American families fared equally well. Yet that simple meal which cost you only a few cents represented the combined labors of hundreds of thousands of workers and brought into use capital representing thousands of millions of dollars. The oatmeal was prepared from oats raised on a western prairie farm and ground in a million-dollar mill. The cream came from cows pastured 40 miles back in the country. It

wheat used for seed and for purposes other than human food, the present consumption is estimated to be a little less than one barrel of flour per capita, or 70,000,000 barrels for the nearly 75,000,000 population. That means an annual consumption of 14,000,000,000 pounds of flour—a bulk which, put into a single receptacle, would require a barrel twice the weight of Washington monument and correspondingly big of circumference. Were all this flour made into bread it would yield 29,000,000,000 pound loaves. Reversing the metaphor of the sermon on the mount and "giving bread for a stone," these loaves would pave a roadway six feet wide and extending around the world. If bakery

grains used directly for human food cannot be determined, but probably another 6,000,000,000 pounds must be added to the wheat flour, making a total of 20,000,000,000 pounds used each year as food. Large as this seems, in the aggregate it is less than three-quarters of a pound a day to each person—not a very ample meal in itself, but fully sufficient when taken with the abundant varieties of other foods. Another favorite food of the American is the potato. Its average crop in recent years has been about 25,000,000,000 bushels. The export and import trade in this vegetable is insignificant. To supply his family with the average quantity the head of the household needs to purchase for each member about half a pound a day, or three bushels a year. Sweet potatoes are also a favorite food, some 45,000,000 bushels being needed for the annual consumption. The yield of peas is 6,000,000 bushels, of beans, 2,500,000, and of onions, 2,500,000 bushels. Over half a million bushels of onions are imported, most of which are of choice Spanish and Bermuda varieties. Three hundred million pounds of rice are

fish. The canned salmon alone is placed at \$0,000,000 pounds. Americans are drinkers as well as eaters. Last year they used 735,000,000 pounds of coffee and 10,000,000 pounds of tea. At the average strength, the coffee in the cups would measure 1,200,000,000 gallons, and the tea, 1,190,000,000 gallons. To these must be added 1,200,000,000 gallons, wines, 25,000,000, and distilled spirits, such as whiskey, brandy and rum, 50,000,000 gallons. This gives a total of over 3,000,000,000 gallons of about 45 gallons for each man, woman and child. If we add the cocoa, soft drinks, mineral waters, etc., the total, not including plain water used for drinking purposes, is easily swelled to 4,000,000,000 gallons, or more than a gallon a person per week of fluids other than clear water. On the average a person drinks his own weight of these drinks every three months. All told the consumption of solid food by this one nation during the year amounts in its raw state to some 50,000,000,000 pounds, or a little more than three pounds a day for each person. This means that the people eat

milk as large as a water service tower, an egg 100 feet long, an apple of equal height and a 600-foot cube of sugar making up most of the day's food. But the giant does not forget to ask for drink. Besides two or three glasses of water, each the height of a modern office building, he drinks half the beer from a bottle which lowers above 75 feet. He also drinks a quart of wine, two (stout) fingers of whiskey, a mammoth cup of coffee and another nearly as large of tea are disposed of during the day. Besides all this, he drinks and drinks only the quantities of these articles that disappear down the throats of the American people every 24 hours.

MOTHERING FLEDGLINGS.

A Man and a Good Gopher Tried It, But He Starved the Family.

One would hardly believe that the ordinary work of Mother Robin is enough to wear out the patience and endurance of an able-bodied man, yet such appears to be the case. A man who doesn't in the least mind traveling over the golf links together, relates his experiences trying to play mother to a nest of little robins, who, by some accident, had been deprived of their rightful mother's care. He diligently sets to work digging angle worms, and supposed that he was fulfilling his whole duty when he discovered the poor little songsters died. Upon examination of the body, which was reduced to skin and bone, the foster parent came to the conclusion that it must have died of starvation. Deeply grieved at his shortcoming, he redoubled his efforts, determined to at least save the other two. It was not long, however, before he passed on, died, evidently of the same malady. The good man then resolved that whatever the third one died of, it should not be starvation, and took off his coat and went to work to earn it. He kept on with the diet of angleworms until he found that his one little bird was consuming from 14 to 18 yards of angleworms a day. This was too much for his patience, and he proceeded to substitute the more easily managed diet of bread and milk, and other delicacies, which were, however, not nearly so much to Miss Robin's taste. Wanting to discover whether he had been catering to a family of abnormal appetites, one friend took to watching the methods of a robin mother bird, and found that she fed her young every two minutes. He then consulted the learned books upon birds, and discovered that 14 yards of worms a day with measure every two minutes is the average rate of feeding fledglings. He has, therefore, quite decided that he does not care to take up raising birds by night as a business. Nevertheless, creatures have to eat not only enough to "grow on," but enough to dress on, and a fair proportion of their food goes into feathers. Then, too, the temperature of birds is very much higher than that of human beings, and they require fuel in proportion.

DELIA T. DAVIS.

Beats the Klondike. Mr. A. C. Thomas of Marysville, Tex., has found a more valuable discovery than has yet been made in the Klondike. For years he suffered untold agony from consumption, accompanied by hemorrhages, and was absolutely cured by Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption, Coughs and Colds. He declares that gold is of little value in comparison with this marvelous cure, would have it, even if it cost a hundred dollars a bottle. Asthma, Bronchitis and all throat and lung affections are positively cured by Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption, Coughs and Colds. Regular size, 50c and \$1. Guaranteed to cure or price refunded.

The University of Utah. Entrance examinations will be held Sept. 14, 15 and 16, beginning at 10 a. m. Registration day is Sept. 13. Instruction begins Sept. 14. Certificates and diplomas will be offered in lieu of entrance examinations should be presented to the registrar, G. Q. Conroy, before registration day. Candidates having no record in the department, or having records to lay to the students, will please send addresses and rates to the custodian, August A. Nordvall, University of Utah.

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THE NATION DRINKS IN ONE YEAR.



COFFEE 1,200,000,000 GAL. BEER 1,200,000,000 GAL. WINE 25,000,000 GAL. DISTILLED SPIRITS - 90,000,000 GAL. TEA 110,000,000 GAL.

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was collected in cans from scores of farms, then whirled over the rails at 25 miles an hour. After being skillfully "mixed" by the local dealer it was delivered at your door in the early morning. The juicy beefsteak came from a steer raised by cowboys on a big Montana ranch. The animal was transported 2,000 miles to Chicago, there to be converted into beef by the most approved modern processes in a five-million-dollar slaughter house. Refrigerator cars brought the fresh meat to your city "butcher" to be delivered at your door. Your bread grew as wheat on a Dakota prairie farm, was turned into flour in an immense Minneapolis flouring mill, then brought east to be fashioned to your use by the elaborate machinery of the bread trust. The sugar was grown on German beet farms, converted into the raw product in a million-dollar factory, then brought 2,000 miles across the ocean and made ready for table use in a huge Brooklyn refinery. The up-country farmer supplied your potatoes, a village creamery your butter. The salt came from immense works at Syracuse, the pepper from the Indies. Your coffee was brought from Brazil and your fruit from Florida, California or the tropics.

used during the year, one-half of which comes from other countries. This is only about four pounds a year to each person, against ten pounds in Great Britain, fourteen in Italy, 200 in Japan, and 545 in the Indian province of Bombay. America's sweet tooth is said to be abnormally developed. The consumption of sugar reaches the astonishing total of 5,500,000,000 pounds; but only one-eighth of this is raised at home. Last year nearly a third of the supply came from Germany, and 8 per cent more from the rest of Europe. The West Indies sent 24 per cent, and the East Indies 14 per cent. Fully half the sugar imported came from countries no better able to produce it than is the United States herself. Last year we raised 135,000,000 pounds of beet sugar. There are those who prophesy that in the decade of the future the entire amount of sugar needed for home consumption will be produced within our own borders. The present average is about 70 pounds a year each, or a pound a day per family of five.

their own weight of food about once each month. The total cost must be placed at not less than \$2,500,000,000 a year, to which must be added another \$1,000,000,000 for drinks, making the total \$3,500,000,000 more than can be purchased by the entire gold supply of the world. Of this expenditure, roughly \$1,000,000,000 goes for meat and fish, \$700,000,000 for eggs and dairy products, \$500,000,000 for wheat and other grains, an equal amount for vegetables. The 30,000,000,000 pounds of food consumed is about 1,500 pounds a year for each person. Physiologists state that the grown man needs about 1,500 pounds of the grown woman 1,200, and the child from 500 to 1,000 pounds, so that on a fair average the Americans may be considered a well-fed people. As to whether this food is of the proper

Such a breakfast, costing but a few cents, is easily within the reach of four-fifths of the American families. Yet it represents a combination of men and money possibly only in the highly complex social organism of today. Materials like these with a few others equally simple, such as eggs, fish, cheese and onion vegetables, constitute the larger part of the nation's food.

Then there is the oat crop averaging 700,000,000 bushels, most of which remains in this country. Americans are rapidly following the Scotch in the use of oats as a table food, still only a small fraction of the total crop is consumed in the home. The average barley crop is 70,000,000 bushels, all but 5,000,000 bushels of which remains within the country. The usual yield of rye is 25,000,000 bushels, very little of which is exported. But the barley and rye are largely reduced to fluid form before the American consumer takes them into his stomach. Some 25,000,000 bushels of buckwheat enter each year into the composition of our national consumption. Excluding the

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THE NATION'S YEARLY CONSUMPTION

Hot. Washington Star: The man who believes in making the worst of everything happened to see the Washington monument looming up in the distance. Immediately he began to cough. "What's the trouble?" inquired the friend. "Don't it suit you?" "It has been approved by monument experts from all parts of the world." "That's very nice, but as far as I'm concerned, if some enterprising man would fill it up with mercury and a glass tube what a thing it would be for measuring the weather!"

Painless.

Detroit Free Press: "They can take photographs in the dark now." "That's good; those beautiful photographs he was to call upon the nation to supply him with food. He would need an amount equal to that consumed by the entire 75,000,000 people. Set his daily supply before him and see what it would be. On a bread plate half as large as a city block would rest a loaf of bread 200 feet long and half as tall. Beside it would stand a pig large around as a gas holder. From a saucer the size of a ferryboat he would sip his oatmeal with a spoon whose bowl could hold a trolley car. A smoking piece of beefsteak would be 25 feet thick and extend over an area equal to 10 city lots; a covered dish contains three marshmallows, potatoes and a sweet potato each 100 feet long. His pat of butter would measure a hundred feet in diameter. By his side is a glass of

Backwoods Joke.

Yonkers Statesman: "Did you say the man was shot in the wood, doctor?" "No, I didn't, I said he was shot in the lumber region."

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