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Review

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Source: *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society*, Vol. 70, No. 4 (Dec., 1907), pp. 670-671

Published by: Wiley for the Royal Statistical Society

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2339577>

Accessed: 27-06-2016 06:50 UTC

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130,176,000. Since 1872 the annual estimates given by that paper have, it may be remarked in conclusion, ranged from 128,000,000 lbs. in 1883 to 167,000,000 lbs. in 1874. In 1858 Mr. E. Baines put the total clip at 175,000,000 lbs., in 1845 it was estimated by Professor Low at 157,000,000 lbs., in 1828 by Mr. James Hubbard and Sir George Goodwin at 111,161,000 lbs., and in 1800 by Mr. Luccock at 94,377,000 lbs. The present Report is an important authoritative addition to these private calculations, which were quoted by Major Craigie in a paper read before the Statistical Society and published in this *Journal* in 1883. L.L.P.

10.—*Physical Welfare of School Children. An Examination of the Home Conditions of 1,400 New York School Children found by School Physicians to have Physical Defects.* By New York Committee on Physical Welfare of School Children. (*Quarterly Publications of the American Statistical Association*, new series, No. 78 (vol. x), June, 1907.) 44 pp., 8vo. Boston: The Association, 1907.

The voluntary Committee above named was organised in May, 1906, funds having been provided for three years' work. In organising their work the Committee very wisely substituted the word *welfare* for *condition*, to indicate their intention to use the facts obtained through investigation for improving home and school conditions prejudicial to child welfare. They collected, to begin with, funds for three years' work, home investigation, investigation of schools, and investigation of school methods; and the present report embodies the first year's work under the first of the above headings. It discloses the facts as to physical defects and home conditions of 1,400 children of different nationalities found by school physicians to have defects of hearing, vision, breathing, teeth, nourishment. A copy of the statistical card employed in the investigation is given. The investigation was worked in conjunction with the school doctor's card report of physical defects found in the course of medical inspection of scholars at school. The home investigators were also doctors. The cost of the home investigation of the 1,400 cases was \$2,416, not including supervision given by social workers on the Committee, &c. Where material relief seemed to be needed the family apparently needing it was at once referred to another voluntary organisation. During the year 271 out of 3,690 families visited were so referred, and received various forms of relief as needed—clothing, rent, food, eyeglasses, and medical care. The "follow-up" work after these investigations is recognised as the real practical difficulty, and the Committee are unable to speak very definitely on this point, except in the cases referred as above. They comment similarly on the little use hitherto made by health or school officials of facts disclosed by physical examination of school children. A more general system of informing the parents of the defects found in the children is evidently called for.

The most significant facts obtained from this study of home conditions affecting the physical welfare of school children are summarised in the report. It is stated that if New York children are typical of school children in the United States, there must be

in the schools of that country 12,000,000 children having physical defects needing attention from parents and doctors. Similarly, if the 1,400 children are representative of school children in New York city, there must be in that city 41,600 handicapped by malnutrition, 182,000 by enlarged glands, 382,800 by bad teeth, 236,400 by defective breathing. It is noted that few of the defects can be corrected by nourishment alone, that neither race nor nationality affords proof against physical defects, and that only 7·8 per cent. of the children had failed to have a good start by being artificially fed from the beginning. The housing conditions of the children were generally bad, inadequate medical care was given to the children, and the employment of dentists was almost unknown. It is also noted that families with low incomes do not monopolise physical defects, though they show more than their proper share of these.

Many would incline to draw a sombre forecast from the above list of physical defects. That we are glad to note is not the view of this most valuable committee. They say: "The only new thing about the physical defects of school children is not their existence, but our recent awakening to their existence, their prevalence, their seriousness if neglected, and their cost to individual children, to school progress, to industry, and to social welfare." The first step towards improvement is knowledge of evils, and this step is being taken on both sides of the Atlantic. We commend this report to the notice of all social workers

A.N.

11.—*The Tariff Commission*. Vol. 3. *Report of the Agricultural Committee*. London: P. S. King and Son, 1906.

The investigations of Mr. Chamberlain's Tariff Commission possess a great interest, not only to supporters, but also to opponents of the changes to promote which its efforts are put forth. The report on agriculture possesses peculiar interest in many respects, and the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee which has examined this subject may be very instructively compared with the statement of the situation and the historical sketch which serve as a prelude. To these, rather than to the mass of detail contained in the bulky volume forming the report and appendix, attention must be confined in the brief space available here.

With the record of abandonment of wheat cultivation we are but too familiar, and the increasing dependence on imported supplies is patent. But the compilers of the report seem to have carried a mechanical process of calculation rather far when they declare that, in the first five years of the twentieth century, only 4·5 millions of the population were fed on home-grown wheat. The tables they give us show an average yield in those years of about 52 millions of bushels. The imports, on the assumed consumption of 5·5 bushels per head, may suffice for all but 4·5 millions of the population, but that scarcely justifies the conclusion that the 52 million bushels of the home crop, less seed, were consumed by that surplus of 4·5 millions. In fact, at the same rate of 5·5 bushels per head, the needs of the population would be about 235 million bushels, and of this amount the 52