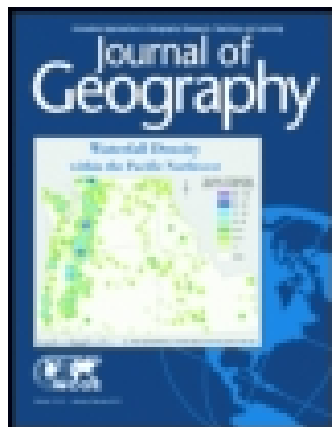


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## Geographical Publications: Valuable Government Publications

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## GEOGRAPHICAL PUBLICATIONS

## VALUABLE GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS

Several recent publications of the Smithsonian Institution deserve a place in the reference library of every geography teacher. They possess two characteristics often wanting in government publications: first, they deal with subjects of timely and general interest; and, secondly, the treatment, though scholarly, is nontechnical and well illustrated. The publications referred to are a series on "The Mineral Industries of the United States": they may be obtained free of charge from the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C. The series comprises the following:

(1) **Bulletin 102, Part 1: Coal Products: An Object Lesson in Resource Administration**, by C. G. Gilbert, Nov., 1917, 16 pp. Emphasis is here laid on the inadequacy of the development of our chemical industries, particularly as applied to coal products, and remedies are suggested.

(2) **Bulletin 102, Part 2: Fertilizers: An Interpretation of the Situation in the United States**, by J. E. Pogue, Oct., 1917, 22 pp. The subject matter deals with the importance of fertilizer materials in war time, when foreign supplies are cut off or diminished and an unusual food production is demanded at home. Heretofore we have depended on Chile for nitrates, Germany for potash, and Spain for pyrite for the manufacture of sulphuric acid to render our own supply of phosphates available. The chart which accompanies the text presents the whole fertilizer situation at a glance and the effect of war conditions on the demand.

(3) **Bulletin 102, Part 3: Sulphur: An Example of Industrial Independence**, by J. E. Pogue, Nov., 1917, 10 pp. As the title indicates, our sulphur industry is independent of foreign supply. The development of two important deposits in Louisiana and Texas, near the Gulf, has made this region the leading sulphur center of the world. This development was made possible by an ingenious method of extracting the mineral: hot waters are forced underground, the sulphur melted, then pumped out and allowed to crystallize.

(4) **Bulletin 102, Part 4: Coal: The Resource and Its Full Utilization**, by C. G. Gilbert and J. E. Pogue, 1918, 26 pp. An analysis of the coal situation, sources of waste, transportation problems, and recommendations for improvements.

(5) **Bulletin 102, Part 5: Power: Its Significance and Needs**, by C. G. Gilbert and J. E. Pogue, 1918, 53 pp. An excellent treatment of our sources of power, their relation to transportation problems, the economic correlation of coal and water power, and the necessity of intelligent dealing with the question as a national rather than a local problem. Diagrams, maps, and tables serve as good summaries.

(6) **Bulletin 102, Part 6: Petroleum: A Resource Interpretation**, by C. G. Gilbert and J. E. Pogue, Aug., 1918, 76 pp. The tremendous waste, the somewhat limited sources of supply, together with the possibilities of developing the oil shale supply, are discussed.

(7) **Bulletin 102, Vol. 1: The Energy Resources of the United States: A Plan for Reconstruction**, by C. G. Gilbert and J. E. Pogue, is a summary of Parts 4, 5, 6, with an introduction and conclusion co-ordinating the whole.

W. O. BLANCHARD

#### SKETCHES FROM A TROPICAL WILDERNESS: BRITISH GUIANA

**Jungle Peace.** By William Beebe. 297 pp.; ill., index. Henry Holt & Co., New York, 1918. \$1.75. 5 x 7½.

Outside of the home area much of a teacher's success in making regional geography a living subject lies in the use of wide supplementary reading. "An ordinary textbook is limited to concise and generally meager statements, and it is difficult to create a mental picture as a result of these statements; yet in the creation of such a mental picture lies the secret of real and lasting instruction," says the chapter on Geographical Novels in that invaluable work "Guide to Geographical Books and Appliances" published by the [British] Geographical Association (2nd edit., revised, George Philip and Son, London, 1910, 5s.).

Mr. Beebe's book is not a novel, but it has all the vividness that people are apt to think is only the attribute of fiction. Mr. Beebe was sent to British Guiana by the New York Zoological Society to establish there a tropical research station. The station was placed on the edge of the jungle (at the mouth of the Mazaruni River). Of the technical aspects of his work Mr. Beebe has written elsewhere (Beebe, Hartley, and Howes: *Tropical Wild Life in British Guiana*, New York Zoological Society, 1917); here he has given us the "atmosphere" of the jungle. The first chapters of the book also give us sketches on the way to Guiana via the West Indies, and, on the edges of the jungle pictures, we get glimpses of the human life of the colony. A vastly interesting cross section is seen, for instance, along the "Pomeroon Trail" that runs through great sugar plantations to the bush. "The first part of the Pomeroon road was one long ribbon of variegated color: hundreds of tiny huts, with picturesque groups of coolies and negroes and a smaller number of Chinese, all the huts dilapidated. . . . All were embowered in masses of color and shadowed by the graceful curves of coconut palms and bananas. . . . The yellows and reds and greens of the coolies added another color note. Everything seemed a riot of brilliant pigment. . . . Here and there tiny red flags fluttered from tall bamboo poles, reminiscent of the evil-spirit flags in India and Burma. But with the transportation across the sea of these Oriental customs certain improvements had entered in—adaptations to the gods of ill of this new world. So

the huts in course of alteration, and the new ones being erected, were guarded not only by the fluttering and the color but by a weird little figure of a dragon demon himself drawn on the cloth, a quite unoriental visualizing of the dreaded one.

"As we flew along, we gradually left the villages of huts behind. Single thatched houses were separated by expanses of rice fields, green rectangles framed in sepia mud walls, picked out here and there by intensely white and intensely Japanese egrets. . . . The rice fields gave place to pastures and these to marshes; thin lines of grass trisected the red road—the first hint of the passing of the road and the coming of the trail. . . . Forest palms appeared, then taller brush, and trees in the distance. Finally, the last three miles became a scar through the heart of the primeval jungle, open under the lofty sky of foliage, the great buttresses of the trunks exposed for the first time to the full glare of day."

#### AN IMPORTANT ATLAS

**Geography of the World's Agriculture.** By V. C. Finch and O. E. Baker. 149 pp.; maps, diagrs., indexes. U. S. Dept. of Agric., Washington, D. C., 1917.

A short notice of this atlas was given in the List of Atlases prepared by Professor J. Paul Goode for the June, 1918, number of the *Journal*. Here special attention is called to it as a work justly described as "invaluable."

The atlas includes maps, graphs, and text. The maps show by dots agricultural distribution, both plant and animal, in the world as a whole and in individual countries. Examples of the type of map may be seen illustrating the article "Agriculture in the Nile Delta," by V. C. Finch in the March, 1918, number of the *Journal*. The world maps are on the Mercator projection, hence caution must be employed in their interpretation. Because of exaggeration of area in the higher latitudes density of distribution is seemingly less. But the reader is duly warned, and the graphs serve to correct any wrong impression that may arise. The graphs show approximate figures of production and acreage: the text emphasises the geographic factors controlling the distribution. In connection with the geographic discussion should be noted the two colored maps of relief and rainfall appropriately forming the first two plates in the volume.

The atlas obviously constitutes a most accessible source of reference, but its special value to the teacher lies in the graphic quality of the maps. The mere statement that the United States produces 71 per cent of the world's corn is less impressive than the map on which the solid black representing corn cultivation in our Middle West dwarfs the spots representing corn cultivation in Mexico, Argentina, and southeastern Europe. Moreover, the maps are reminders of facts one is apt to forget or overlook. The vast production of food staples in Europe, a fact whose importance in the shortage due to war conditions has been pointed out by G. B. Roorbach (*Annals*

*Amer. Acad. Polit. and Social Sci.*, Philadelphia, Nov., 1917; abstracted in the *Geogr. Rev.*, Vol. 5, 1918, p. 243), is well brought out in the maps of wheat, rye, potato, etc., production.

If asked to name the great sheep-rearing countries of the world, would one be likely to include the United Kingdom, an intensely industrial country of dense population and high land values? The map shows the United Kingdom and the Balkans as the major sheep-rearing countries of Europe, and the graph shows the United Kingdom to be seventh in the world list of actual head of sheep, 30,000,000. The home production of meat and wool still forms an important feature of British agriculture. Similarly the maps remind us that in total number of cattle (though not in number per square mile) India is far ahead of all other countries, having nearly twice as many as the United States, second on the list. In India cattle are not used for meat and but little for milk; they are beasts of burden and draft animals; as the detail map shows the great number is concentrated in the plains of the Ganges where cattle form an essential element in the intensive system of agriculture necessarily adopted by a very dense, non-industrial population. How dense that population is may be gauged by the map of population distribution, Figure 9.

The legends accompanying the figures are useful and suggestive. For example, in the description of the three maps showing respectively the distribution of grain sorghum and millet, wheat, rice in India, attention is called to the complementary nature of these distributions and thus to the three major climatic regions of the country—the Dekkan, with dry, warm climate over the greater part; the plains of the Punjab, still drier but with a cool winter and irrigation possibilities; the lower valley and delta of the Ganges, hot and humid. As a final illustration we quote from the legend of Figure 48, the distribution of barley in Europe and northwestern Africa: “Barley reaches its highest acreage relative to the population in two regions of entirely unlike geographical conditions—Denmark and Algeria. In Denmark cool summers make corn production impossible, and barley is grown primarily because of its early maturity and because it yields a larger weight of grain per acre than oats or rye, an important item in connection with intensive animal industries. In Algeria, where early and severely dry summers make an early-maturing grain imperative, barley is the chief food and export cereal.”