
Review: Maize

Source: *The Geographical Journal*, Vol. 44, No. 1 (Jul., 1914), pp. 93-94

Published by: geographicalj

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/1778798>

Accessed: 08-06-2016 19:05 UTC

Your use of the JSTOR archive indicates your acceptance of the Terms & Conditions of Use, available at
<http://about.jstor.org/terms>

JSTOR is a not-for-profit service that helps scholars, researchers, and students discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content in a trusted digital archive. We use information technology and tools to increase productivity and facilitate new forms of scholarship. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.



The Royal Geographical Society (with the Institute of British Geographers), Wiley are collaborating with JSTOR to digitize, preserve and extend access to *The Geographical Journal*

'The Natural History of the Toronto Region, Ontario, Canada.' Edited by J. H. Faull. (Toronto: Canadian Institute. 1913. Pp. 419. *Maps and Illustrations*.) Every department of natural history is dealt with by acknowledged authorities in this volume, and the chapters of main geographical interest are those by Prof. A. P. Coleman on the geology and R. F. Stupart on the climate of the region. The production of such a comprehensive study is an earnest of the advancement of science and local research in the Dominion of Canada.

'Brazil in 1912.' By J. C. Oakenfull. (London: Atkinson. 1913. Pp. 498. *Map and Illustrations*.) The fourth issue of this work, which has appeared annually since 1910, is substantially increased in length, though it remains of convenient size as a handbook. It contains a large amount of valuable descriptive matter in addition to its political and economic information. Taking into consideration the announcement that it is intended mainly for free distribution it is well produced and generously illustrated. A map shows in some detail, but very roughly, the distribution of leading products, in addition to railways, rivers, towns, and divisions.

AUSTRALASIA AND PACIFIC ISLANDS.

QUEENSLAND.

'Reminiscences of India and North Queensland.' By Robert Gray. Pp. x., 271. 7s. 6d. *net*. *Map and Illustrations*. Constable. 1913.

Mr. Gray's account of his experiences as a pioneer squatter in Queensland in the 'sixties affords interesting reading, and is of more than ephemeral value. It gives an instructive insight into an interesting phase of the colonization of this Australian state, which was formerly regarded as the Australian Cinderella colony. The author incidentally shows that he possessed the stuff of the true colonist. In his sheep station in a comparatively unknown part of Queensland he successfully waged war against drought, floods, encounters with marauding bands of aborigines, absence of adequate means of locomotion, and other obstacles. The dangers from blacks in the 'sixties were formidable, and the author calculates that probably 10 to 15 per cent. of the white settlers in North Queensland lost their lives at the hands of the aboriginal races. His experiences are modestly but vividly described, as well as his earlier exploits in India during the Mutiny.

Mr. Gray gives a striking account of the origin of the absurdly named city of Townsville, which, lacking all natural advantages, has developed at the expense of Bowen, now fallen into decay. It was due to a quarrel between Messrs. Towns and Co., the most important station owners in Queensland, and the leading merchants in Bowen; the upshot being that Messrs. Towns declared that they knew of a creek (the site of Townsville) closer to Woodstock than Bowen, and that they would send their schooner there in future.

The last chapter is a thoughtful and well-considered analysis of the present conditions and prospects of Northern Queensland, and incidentally the author gives his views on the burning questions of a "White Australia" and the "Aboriginal policy."

E. A. R. B.

GENERAL.

MAIZE.

'Maize: its History, Cultivation, Handling, and Uses.' By J. Burt-Davy. London: Longmans. 1914. Pp. xl., 831. 25s. *net*.

Both in format and in substance Mr. Burt-Davy's 'Maize' is cyclopædic, treating every conceivable aspect of the subject and supplied with an admirable

bibliography and a fair index. As a senior official of the Department of Agriculture in the Union of South Africa, Mr. Burt-Davy is naturally most interested in his own area, and he proves his case—that there is no reason why South Africa should not eventually control the maize market. Of course, the importance of maize is enormous, as a crop very easy to grow, very prolific, and in great demand. At present, nearly five-sevenths of the world's output, which approaches *four billion* bushels, is produced by the United States, where the crop has a value (fully £250,000,000) greater than that of wheat and cotton combined, and where the return per acre (over far more than 100,000,000 acres) is nearly twice that of wheat (c. 110s. as against 70s.). As this result is obtained by White labour, and as only 1·5 per cent. of the crop is now exported, South Africa, with its native labour already identified with maize-raising, has an obvious opening. Even the seven "Corn Surplus" States of the U.S.A. Maize Belt have a less favourable climate than the Maize Belt of South Africa, which may be defined roughly as the land between 1000 and 6000 feet lying east of 26° E. and between 25° and 30° S.; the best areas being in the N.E. of the Orange Free State and the S.S.E. of the Transvaal. As a native of tropical plateaus, maize is not very sensitive directly to either temperature or altitude *per se*; and South Africa supplies the optimum temperature of a midsummer mean of c. 77° F. (sea-level), with a mean for the four summer months of 65°–70° F. So with rainfall, which—unlike the temperature and the altitude—has a very direct relation to the yield. The three summer months have the necessary minimum of twelve inches, and c. five-twelfths falls when the ears are growing most rapidly (January to July); and the fall is intermittent—maize, as an "open plateau" product, being peculiarly sensitive to sunshine. The dry winter, too, which makes *ripe* maize impervious to the frosts, gives South Africa a great advantage over Argentina, where the alternate visits of frost and wet force farmers to cut much of their crop immature, the initial "drying month" of April being constantly wet. Even over the U.S.A. crop the South African has an advantage of 4 per cent. less moisture, lessening danger of damage in transport and aiding manufacture. There is also in South Africa a local market, at present not known in Argentina; and the grain can be put on the European markets, *i.e.* practically, Liverpool and London, in July—*i.e.* before the United States crop is in sight, and after the bulk of the Plate crop has been moved. The other large producers, India, Mexico, Hungary, and Rumania, are not serious rivals. India consumes, mainly in the hills, all she does, or is likely to, produce; the grain is a staple food both in Mexico, where the crop might be doubled by irrigation and trebled by better methods, and in Rumania, where very heavy yield leaves a larger surplus for export (to England) only so long as the local demand does not increase greatly; and in Hungary the crop has reached its limits, and is stationary. There seems, therefore, to be a very promising opening for South Africa; and any one interested in the growing, the shipping, or the manufacture of maize, especially with reference to South Africa, may turn with confidence to this volume.

'Cecil Rhodes: the Man and his Work.' By Gordon Le Sueur. (London: Murray. 1913. Pp. xiii, 345. *Illustrations*. 12s.) This book, apart from any controversial matter which may be found in it, gives a vivid and attractive picture of Rhodes, towards whom his secretaries, of whom the writer was one, stood in an unusual position of friendship and intimacy. It is a work which no one interested in the personality of a great man should pass over.
