

sixth or more of surface soil has been removed.

There has been no increase in crop acreage for 15 years, nor in acre-yields of the crops as a whole for 30 years, yet agricultural production has increased about 50 per cent. since the beginning of the century.

The rate of population growth in the United States has long been declining but this fact has perhaps been obscured because of the size of the net increase decade by decade.

We shall probably attain a population between 145 and 190 million during the present century with the probability that the actual population will be nearer the lower figure than the higher.

A new type of population grouping is appearing: not the city, but the metropolitan community—a constellation of smaller groups dominated by a metropolitan center.

The motor age has brought "boom" suburban towns planted with as little planning as the "boom" towns which burst into existence in the railway age.

Men often commit criminal acts because of social conditions.

Crime fluctuates with the business cycle.

New chemical knowledge on the regulation, growth and functioning of the hormones may have astounding effects on personality and the quality of the population.

### No End to Invention

More and more inventions are made every year, and there is no reason to think that technological developments will ever stop.

The world may find much use for talking books.

The production of artificial climate may become widespread.

An efficient storage battery of light weight and low cost might produce changes rivaling those of the internal combustion engine.

Opening channels of communication tends to produce uniformities of speech, manners, styles, behavior and thought; but this tendency is counteracted in part by the increasing specializations arising from the accumulation of inventions which bring to us different vocabularies, techniques, habits and thoughts.

Those who are acquainted with past experience anticipate that, while business will revive and prosperity return, the new wave of prosperity will be termin-

ated in its turn by a fresh recession, which will run into another period of depression, more or less severe.

Is it beyond the range of men's capacity some day to take the enhancement of social welfare as seriously as our generation took the winning of a war?

In the two years following 1929, the aggregate money earnings paid to American employees fell about 35 per cent. while the cost of living declined 15 per cent.

### Unsuspected Merits

Not only is the housewife solicited to buy for two dollars down and a dollar a month a dozen attractive articles her mother never dreamed of; she is also told of unsuspected merits in products she has used all her life, which now come in new packages under seductive brands.

Our emphasis upon making money is re-enforced by the technical difficulties of spending money.

The population of three-fifths of the states remains more than half rural and by 1950 perhaps nearly half the states will still be more than one-half rural.

Women are employed in some 527 occupations; but they tend to concentrate in a few callings, for about 85 per cent. of the employed women are in 24 different occupations.

It has been said that some homes are merely "parking places" for parents and children who spend their active hours elsewhere.

About half of the nation's families live in rented homes.

Of the children of high school age, about 50 per cent. are now in school—evidence of the most successful single effort which government in the United States has ever put forth.

With shorter hours of labor a program of education for adults may be developed and become widespread, although at present the great enemy to adult education is the competition of amusements.

The church is legally separated from the state; it is not formally in politics, but it has taken interest in such problems as those of the family, marriage and divorce, the prohibition of the sale of intoxicating drinks, capital and labor relationships, crime, and many local community questions.

A comparison of the census records of 1920 and 1930 shows in general that artists of various kinds are increasing

more rapidly than the general population.

Recent trends show the United States alternating between isolation and independence, between sharply marked economic nationalism and notable international initiative in cooperation, moving in a highly unstable and zigzag course.

The tax bill of all the governments in the country in 1930 was ten and a quarter billion dollars, perhaps 15 per cent. of the incomes of the people. We spend about the same amount of money or more on recreation, approximately one-seventh as much on tobacco, and perhaps about one-fifteenth as much on cosmetics.

The almost omnipotent legislative authority set up at the outset of our national development has steadily lost to the courts on the one side and the executive on the other; and this process has gone on more rapidly than ever during recent years.

Shall business men become actual rulers; or shall rulers become industrialists; or shall labor and science rule the older rulers?

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### ETHNOLOGY

## Indians' "Hot Dog" Magic Conjures Up North Wind

**A**FTER A THAW comes in the late winter, up in the Big Woods of northern Canada, the Cree Indians of James Bay always want the north wind to blow, because then a crust will form on the snow, hampering the movements of the big game animals and making them easier to capture.

To conjure up a north wind they have many magics, says Dr. John M. Cooper, anthropologist of the Catholic University of America. Here are three of the many. The simplest consists in going out and swinging "bull-roarers" and other devices to make a loud, wind-simulating noise. A second magic, reputedly effective, is to strip all the clothes off a small boy and then send him forth naked to defy, like a young Ajax, not the thunderbolts of Zeus but the breath of Boreas.

But their third magic is the most spectacular, though admittedly a bit rough on the dog. The Indians carefully prepare a bunch of birch-bark ribbons, tie it to the tail of a dog, and then set fire to it!

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Remedies for baldness are among the formulas of ancient Egypt.