

By regions, rainfall indications for 1939-40 are 11 inches for the south coast, as compared with a mean of 13.1 inches for the years 1916-39; for the Santa Barbara region, 13 inches as compared with a mean of 16.6; for the Hetch Hetchy val-

ley, 21 inches as compared with 31.1 inches. The expected precipitation for the north coast is 38 inches, as compared with a mean of 51 inches from 1919 to date.

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## PSYCHOLOGY

# Public Differs With Experts On How To Keep Out of War

## Poll Conducted by Psychologists of 150 Social Scientists and 1,000 of Public Shows Differences

*First of occasional articles prepared by the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues for distribution by Science Service. The SPSSI, comprising psychologists associated with the American Psychological Association who are doing active research on problems of social interest, emphasizes that it presents facts resulting from research conducted by competent psychologists, and that it will not take sides on controversial issues.*

**O**N THE question of keeping America out of war, the general public opinion differs quite markedly from the ideas of men who have spent years studying the problem of war.

This is shown in a survey of American public opinion, made before the outbreak of the present war, conducted by a committee of the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues, and announced through Science Service.

This committee, composed of Professors Ross Stagner of Dartmouth College, J. F. Brown of the University of Kansas, Ralph H. Grundlach of the University of Washington, and Ralph K. White of Cornell University, polled 150 social scientists and over 1000 people scattered throughout the country.

The experts were evenly divided on the question of increasing the army and navy, 39% approved an increase, 39% disapproved, and 19% were doubtful. The sample of the American public voted approval by more than 3 to 1. Business men were more favorably disposed toward an increase in military and naval strength and businessmen, clerks, and both skilled and unskilled workers were almost equally in favor of an increase. Farmers, professional men, and teachers were least favorably disposed of all the lay groups, although the percentage of people desiring an increase among these groups was higher than among the experts.

People were asked to say whether they approved or disapproved of the following statement pertaining to a desirable foreign policy: "Make it perfectly clear that America is ready to defend herself—that anyone who attacks our honor or vital interests must count on fighting it to a finish." Such a statement received slight approval among the experts but strong approval from the general public. Again business men, skilled and unskilled workers disagreed most of all with the opinions of social scientists. Closer agreement was observed between teachers and professional men on the one hand and the social scientists on the other.

When the question of curtailing military protection for American citizens and for trade and investments abroad was raised, the experts favored this policy by a slight majority. The largest number of "no" votes came from business men, followed by salesmen, clerks, and professional men. Teachers, workers, and farmers were even more inclined to accept this type of neutrality than were the experts.

This committee, which is preparing a book on the psychology of war, concludes from the responses to these and other questions that either the American people in general are not acquainted with expert opinion or they do not wish to follow it. Business men, salesmen, and clerks differ most often from the experts. Farmers and workers are intermediate. Teachers and professional men come nearest to the views held by social scientists who have made intensive studies of war.

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More than half of the earth's people live on five per cent of the land.



Tree Preparedness

**B**EFORE heavy fighting begins, military surgeons and nurses get ready for the repair of the inevitable human wreckage that will come streaming back in the endless lines of ambulances. They lay out carloads of bandages, prepare thousands of beds. Healing and rehabilitation are planned for even before the wounds are inflicted.

In like manner, German foresters, if they have not forgotten the thoroughness and foresight for which they have long been the objects of the world's unenvious admiration, should by now have begun preparations for the reforestation of the valleys of the Saar and the upper Moselle, which are marked for denudation of the most dreadful sort when the big guns break into their full chorus of destruction.

Everyone knows what a major battle does to a forest; pictures from the World War showed how the trees were blasted into tortured splinters and snags, like a Doré illustration for Dante's Inferno. The French had a long job, reforesting these devastated regions. Since the present war is starting on German soil, it will be up to the German foresters this time.

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