

POPULATION

Urge British Depopulation

► SEND 15,000,000 Englishmen to other parts of the British empire. That is suggested as Britain's way out of her economic plight.

This solution suggested by Guy Irving Burch, director of the Population Reference Bureau in Washington, would relieve that crowded island of its large surplus population which, if not exported, is "practically certain to continue Britain's chronic crisis."

Emigration of about a third of Great Britain's population would save the American people billions of dollars in capital and natural resources, Mr. Burch claims. It would also help to build up friendly nations on at least three sides of the United States in case of war.

The surplus people that Britain can not support from the combined yields of her land, industry and foreign trade, according to Mr. Burch's plan, would be moved to thinly inhabited British areas, such as Australia, Canada and parts of Africa, at the rate of 500,000 person a year.

Pointing to Ireland and contending that the heavy emigration from that country helped raise its living level from one of the lowest to one of the highest in Europe, Mr. Burch suggests that Britain do likewise.

Because Britain's reproduction rate is just about replacing losses, every person who leaves will be helping the situation. Mr. Burch also suggests that every Englishman who moves overseas will better his own chance of getting more adequate living conditions.

Great Britain has more than two and a half times as many people per square mile as Europe and more than 11 times as many as the United States. Only Japan among all the countries of the world is more crowded than the United Kingdom, Italy, Germany and India have less than half as many people per square mile of arable land, Mr. Burch's figures show.

Britain was able to increase her population from 20,000,000 to 49,000,000 during the last hundred years on the strength of her supremacy in industrialization, trade,

naval force and foreign assets, in none of which she is now supreme.

The suggested mass migration would not be an easy job, Mr. Burch admits, but he contends that it would be cheaper to move a person once than to move some 1,400 pounds of food, plus other raw materials, every year to support that person if he remains in Britain.

Danger of both war and communism argue for the decentralization of British population. A crowded Britain just missed being starved into submission by submarine and air warfare during two wars and should not risk a third attack, Mr. Burch urges. Danger of communism in Britain is considered as serious as that of war, and hunger and social unrest are basic causes of communism, it is pointed out.

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ENGINEERING

Underground Aluminum Cables Used Successfully

► ALUMINUM-covered under-ground, overhead and submarine cables for the transmission of electrical power have been successfully introduced in England and Germany, the American Institute of Electrical Engineers was told at its meeting in Cincinnati by H. V. Menking of the Reynolds Metals Company, Richmond, Va. He said that investigations are being made of the possibility of using aluminum wire and cable without steel support for building wire to replace copper.

The aluminum is not suggested as a substitute for copper, but as an alternate in view of the expected increasing scarcity of the latter metal. He revealed also that transmission towers, built from aluminum and rolled or extruded shapes, are under study.

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METEOROLOGY

Wind Blows West Over London, Balloons Tell

► HIGH up over the heads of Britishers, from 10 to 20 miles aloft, the winds are from the west again, after having been from the east during the summer.

This is one of the facts about the weather that can be reached through high flying giant balloons tracked by radar and carrying miniature radio broadcasting sets that report the temperature.

The Air Ministry's Meteorological Office, in studies by Dr. F. J. Scrase reported in London, finds new confirmation of earlier theories, based on the way sound of explosions is transmitted, that the direction of the winds in the extreme upper air re-

verses about in April and then turns about again in the fall.

It is not as cold 20 miles up as it is at 10 miles aloft. But it is very cold at either height by surface standards: 40 degrees Fahrenheit below zero at 20 miles high and 76 degrees below at 10 miles high.

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Words in Science— STALACTITE-STALAGMITE

► THOSE beautiful fairy-like formations you see in caves are stalactites and stalagmites.

The stalactites—you say it stu-lack-tite with the stress on the lack—hang from the roof. They are lacy icicle-like formations caused by the deposit of minerals, especially calcium carbonate, from the moisture that condenses on the roof of the cave and drips down slowly.

Stalagmites—pronounced stu-lag-mites with the stress on lag—are similar formations on the floor of the cave which are built up from the drippings that fall from the stalactites overhead.

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