



LICO THE CHAMPION

In one dock area in Le Havre, in 1930, where as many as 145 rats were caught in only 8 days, there are now no more rats, Dr. Loir reported to the Academy. Five rat-catching cats, one of whom is Lico's son, patrol this area which the rats of Le Havre have learned to dread more than the plague itself.

One day Herriot, formerly Prime Minister, paid a visit to Le Havre, where he was so impressed by Dr. Loir's initiative that he begged a cat of him for the benefit of the town of which he was mayor, Lyon. It seemed that the abattoirs of Lyon were overrun by rats. It was the story of Dick Whittington all over again.

As Dr. Loir told the story, the Mayor of Le Havre was not deaf to this appeal. Le Havre was to come to the rescue of Lyon. A special credit was opened to allow the director of the abattoirs to receive Le Havre's envoy with the necessary distinction. Her name was Pouquette, and the litter of kittens to which she gave birth shortly after her arrival was a practical gesture indicative of her appreciation of the hospitality she had enjoyed. On November 24, 1932, the director of the abattoirs wrote: "I wish to tell you that the abattoir of Lyon is completely rid of rodents of every size."

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ECONOMICS-PSYCHOLOGY

Prolonging of Life and Vigor Blamed for Economic Chaos

Old Men Control Politics and Industry, Says Biologist; Average Age of British Cabinet 57, Roosevelt's 58

CAPITALISM alone is not to blame for the economic situation of the world today, in the opinion of Prof. J. B. S. Haldane, the British biologist, but some of the difficulty must be charged to the fact that in our public thinking we have never considered the results of the prolongation of life which we owe to medicine.

Not only do many men live beyond 60, but they preserve a great deal of vigor, Prof. Haldane writes in a book of radio talks just published, "Science in the Changing World" (Century).

And that has brought about a control of economic life by old men, men whose intellects have not decayed but who can not keep pace with the rapid increase of knowledge. Such is Prof. Haldane's belief. He insists that the world will have trouble so long as it is not biologically minded.

Prof. Haldane says that the reasons for the present crisis are fairly simple, and the most important is this: Science has immensely increased our capacity for production. No attempt has been made to insure that the goods so produced could be distributed.

Not Adaptable

This lack of facing the situation he attributes to the age of the men in power. A man of 60 or over has generally gained a lot of experience of life, Prof. Haldane admits. But the man over 60 can not adapt himself easily to a new situation, and the present world situation is something entirely new. You can not expect old men to deal with it.

The average age of the British Cabinet (a year ago) was 57. None of them was under 40, and 9 of the 20 were over 60. In a former great national crisis, 150 years ago, William Pitt became Minister at 25, Prof. Haldane reminds us.

President Roosevelt's cabinet has an average age of 58. None is under 40 and 6 of the 10 are over 60. The Hoover cabinet when it went out of office

had an average age of 61 years, with the youngest age 50 and 5 over 60.

"An electorate which thought in terms of human biology would see that at least a third of the Cabinet were under 40, and not more than a third over 60," Prof. Haldane contends. "They would also take measures to transfer the control of industry to younger men, whether its ownership was public or private.

Directors' Age 62

"Not only our politics, but our industry, is controlled by old men. The average age of the directors of a number of representative companies is 62. Neither capitalism nor any other economic system could keep abreast of the times under such guidance."

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ENGINEERING

Camera Pictures Beauty and Progress at Hoover Dam

See Front Cover

THE photographer for the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation has caught the spirit of the beginnings of Hoover dam in the picture reproduced on the front cover of this week's SCIENCE NEWS LETTER.

He was looking upstream toward the dam site when he snapped his camera. The structure will rise beneath the cables which appear as dim streaks stretching from rim to rim of the canyon in the background. The dry ground in the bed of the river before the cables is the coffer dam and rock barrier built to keep the water from backing up to where actual construction is going on.

Another coffer dam out of sight farther up the river turns water into the four diversion tunnels whose outlets are seen in this picture.

The pouring of concrete on the dam proper is scheduled to begin July 1, 1933 and end April 1, 1936.

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