

MANY CHINAMEN NEVER EAT RICE STATISTICS SHOW

WASHINGTON, D. C., July 6.—Will the Chinese eat American wheat?

That question has been raised in newspapers following the proposal to buy American wheat to be sent to starving China.

Respective of the merits of this relief measure, the popular idea that every Chinese has a bowl of rice in hand three or more times a day is false, says a bulletin from the Washington, D. C., headquarters of the National Geographic society.

Eat More Wheat Than Americans
Millions of Chinese have never seen a grain of rice, much less eaten rice.

About 150,000,000 Chinese, it is estimated, live chiefly on wheat. That is, there are more Chinese who lean on wheat as the staff of life than there are Americans who eat bread.

No accurate statistics of China's grain production ever have been given. The United States department of commerce estimates that the annual wheat production of China lies somewhere between 200,000,000 and 600,000,000 bushels. Wheat is grown in practically all the provinces from the southern to the northern borders.

The northern provinces are China's true wheat belts. Manchuria is in the same longitude as Minnesota, but wheat ripens weeks earlier than in the Red River valley. Mukden, capital of Manchuria, is already a milling center, the Minneapolis of China.

Flour Exported to East.
China already uses considerable quantities of American wheat, mostly as flour since she does not yet grow enough to supply her own needs. During the first three months of 1929 the United States shipped to China 1,016,256 barrels of wheat flour valued at \$5,356,000. This year starts out like a record year for flour exports to the Far East. During 1928 the United States sent 1,965,287 barrels valued at \$10,567,000.

Shantung and Kiangsu provinces most affected by famine, are in north China. The region best adapted to wheat raising, Szechwan province on the Tibet border reports an average of 25 to 30 bushels per acre. In the Nanking region two crops of wheat are raised annually with an estimated production of 66,600,000 bushels. Shantung, famous for its rice, raises 47,000,000 bushels of wheat per year.

Manchuria Is China's Minnesota.
But it is Manchuria that has the brightest wheat future. Chinese are moving north into the unbroken plains of Manchuria like American pioneers moved into the middle west 100 years ago. Twenty million Chinese have gone to Manchuria in 20 years. It is one of the major migrations in the history of the world. A half of the arable land is still vacant.

Soy beans, which are used for soy and Worcestershire sauce, come first in importance, then wheat. With larger farms to work, the new farmers of Manchuria find they can use American farm machinery: tractors, harrows, plows and trucks.

Many Chinese students in American universities return to teach school, practice medicine or some profession. One young man has broken this tradition. After graduation in America he took up a 7000-acre farm in Manchuria. He is reported doing very well with his big farm run on modern methods. Like the pioneers of the American middle west, he has been compelled to organize a private militia or village guard to protect his property from bandits.

The Twilight Zone of Bandits.
World wheat statistics generally exclude China and Russia from their estimates. China has never been an important factor either in import or export, and Russia has ceased to be the big wheat exporting nation it was before the World war.

Stabilization of conditions in both countries would change the picture. The estimated Chinese production, 200,000,000 to 600,000,000 bushels, puts it well up among the wheat growing nations. The United States in 1928 raised 592,000,000 bushels of wheat. Argentina, an important country in the world trade, raised 275,000,000 bushels.

The increasing amount of wheat flour being shipped to China in face of apparent increased acreage, is believed to show a growing demand among the Chinese for bread.

FISH LOSS NEW PROBLEM IN MUSCLE SHOALS AREA
FLORENCE, Ala. (AP)—The Hoover administration has a brand new Muscle Shoals problem.

It pertains to the raising and lowering of the level of Lake Wilson through Wilson dam to control mosquitoes.

A protest has gone to Washington, charging that lowering the lake level not only destroys mosquito larvae but fish spawn as well, thereby ruining a lot of good fishing.

Several places of fingerling have been placed in the lake by the state bureau of fisheries, and the Florence Exchange club feels all will go over the dam with the mosquitoes. It is the sportsmen's contention that the mosquitoes can be dealt with in other ways than by lowering the lake level.

July in the Skies

By Robert H. Baker, Professor of Astronomy, University of Illinois.

URBANA, Ill. (AP)—The celestial butterfly can be seen nearly overhead in the early evening sky during July.

It will not strain the imagination seriously to find this large butterfly with outstretched wings outlined by the stars of the constellation Hercules.

The two stars which locate the body of the butterfly are about halfway between the well-known semi-circle of stars of the northern crown and the brilliant blue star Vega, the brightest star in this part of the sky. They are all nearly in the zenith. It is best to face east to find them.

Hercules is one of the configurations of stars which the ancients recognized and called by a name. But they called it the Kneeler, and it was at much later time that the constellation was renamed Hercules.

Why it should have received either name is unknown. The resemblance to a butterfly is more satisfactory. This constellation contains a remarkable cluster of stars.

A little more than halfway from the head of the butterfly along the upper edge of the left wing a sharp eye may catch a glimpse of the great cluster in Hercules. A telescope will serve here to advantage. In a large telescope the cluster is a beautiful sight, appearing like a great starry chrysanthemum.

"The Gibraltar of Japan"

WASHINGTON, D. C., July 6.—Hakodate, the "Gibraltar of Japan," lies about 25 miles south of Mt. Komagatake volcano, yet it was enveloped in volcanic smoke during the recent eruption.

Hakodate is located, lies north of the Japanese mainland. Hondo, says a bulletin from the Washington, D. C., headquarters of the National Geographic society, "like the rest of Japan, it is a region of seismic disturbance. This last eruption of Komagatake was its worst since 1905."

Guarded by Rocky Promontory.
Hakodate won its nickname of the "Japanese Gibraltar" because it is built at the base of a rocky promontory which is crowned with a fort. It has a splendid harbor filled with shipping, and frequent boats connect it with Yokohama and other Japanese ports.

"The city's cheery, clean, electrically-lighted streets are always busy. Throngs of coolies carry bundles of dried seaweed or cured fish or rice. Japanese women, wearing colorful kimono with their obis (sashes) arranged in precise folds, mine along the thoroughfares. Many of the houses of wood and paper look frail and airy enough for a strong wind to blow them away, but their sturdiness belies their appearance."

The pride of Hakodate is its large public park which commands a panoramic view of the city. In its shaded environs are a library and a museum of marine products.

"Great Britain and the United States both have consulates in the city, which for many years functioned as the capital of Hokkaido. According to the 1925 census, Hakodate, with its population of more than 165,000, was the largest city on the island."

An Original Treaty Port.
Trade between Hakodate and the United States has been carried on since 1854. It was one of the original treaty ports.

"Hakodate experienced thrice during 1868, the Japanese civil war of 1868. In its harbor was waged a battle between the imperial forces and the rebels. The rebel leaders offered to commit hara-kiri (suicide) by disemboweling themselves, but were saved. As this was not permitted, they surrendered themselves and thus obtained the immunity of their troops."

Few Foreclosures.
HOUSTON, Tex. (AP)—The Federal Farm Land bank here claims the lowest foreclosure record of any such institution in the country. Only 45 foreclosures have been recorded in the bank's 12 years of existence. More than \$185,000,000 has been loaned to 52,000 Texas farmers during that time.

Ragweed Infests Iowa.
AMES, Iowa (AP)—A recent survey revealed that at least 80 per cent of pastures in Iowa are infested with annual ragweed. The weed is especially bothersome in the fall, when it attains full growth.

MILAN, Italy (AP)—Wireless has been installed on the Stimpion-Orient express, the famous thru train between Constantinople and Paris, from its arrival here until it reaches the French capital. Its principal use is to afford diversion to the passengers in the dining car.

CHANCE FOR TRIP TO ENGLAND LURE FOR BOY SCOUTS

NEW YORK. (AP)—Half a million Boy Scouts are hiding their manners these days, for it is up to scout masters and local councils to choose the 1500 who will represent America at the third jamboree in England in August.

More than 30,000 scouts from 43 nations are expected to attend the rally which will mark the twenty-first anniversary of scouting. They will camp for two weeks on the plains of Birkenhead, across the river from Liverpool, and an elaborate program has been prepared for their entertainment.

These jamborees are held at four-year intervals, the first having taken place in England, the second in Denmark and the third being scheduled for England because of the anniversary. Sir Robert Baden-Powell, founder of scouting, will be guest of honor and several other notables will attend.

The scouts selected will sail from New York in groups of eight with an adult leader late in July. They will return in September in time for school. A number of parties have been arranged for tours of the continent and several groups will be entertained by scouts of European countries.

In the Birkenhead camp the scouts will be divided into patrols and will live in tents, each patrol preparing its own meals. Drill competitions and contests in scoutcraft will take place between patrols representing each country.

Lorne W. Barclay, scout executive of Florida, will lead the American contingent. Mr. Barclay has been an important figure in social work for years and was decorated by the French government for his work with the committee for devasted France.

The jamboree committee consists of Frank Presbrey of New York, chairman; Mortimer Schiff and Geo. D. Pratt of New York; Barrett Rich of Buffalo and all members of the executive committee.

Walter W. Head of Omaha, Neb., is president of the Boy Scouts of America.

INVENTION OF SELF-STARTER

Publication of the book "Men, Money and Motors," reveals for the first time the story behind the development of the self-starter.

The authors, Theodore F. MeManus, Detroit advertising man who has been intimately identified with the automobile industry for nearly 25 years, and Norman Bensley, say this invention, more than any other single development in the industry since the inception of the first car, has been the motivating force behind the vast popularity the motor car has achieved.

It is a morning early in 1910. The scene is in the office of Henry M. Leland, then president of the Cadillac Motor Car company.

Charles F. Kettering, an electrical engineer, was telling Mr. Leland of his idea for a self-starter. Mr. Leland, after listening, began discussing the death of a dear friend.

The story from the book follows: "He was driving across the Belle Isle bridge, here in Detroit, and he saw a woman trying to crank a stalled car. Stopping his own machine, he got out, went over and asked if he could help. The woman thanked him. He grasped the crank handle. The engine kicked back and the handle struck him in the jaw. Unthinkingly, the strange woman had not retained the spark. My friend died—from the injuries."

"You know, I loved that man. I am glad you are going to work on something that will do away with hand cranking."

Kettering returned to Dayton and thought of little else except a self-starter for an automobile. A year later he brought what he had built to Detroit and demonstrated it to engineers. They were skeptical.

"It won't work," they declared, as he concluded his theoretical explanation. "How do you know?" he challenged. "Because it takes from two to five horsepower to crank an automobile."

"No it don't." "How does this device work?" "It operates off the storage battery."

This must have sounded ridiculous to them, for they laughed. "Don't you know that no small storage battery can furnish enough power to crank an automobile?"

"How do you know this starter won't work until you try it?" Kettering asked.

That sounded reasonable as a suggestion, so they made the test, and the self-starter worked.

Once his experimental car slid into a ditch, breaking his leg. That same night the garage which contained the Cadillac test car on which had been installed the only other self-starter in existence was destroyed by fire.

Kettering, to ays after his accident, with his broken leg in a heavy cast, traveled 200 miles on a train, and then worked on his back, underneath a car, until he had his only starter again in operation.

Several months later, in June, 1911, Cadillac announced electrical starting, lighting and ignition as standard equipment for its cars. Mr. Kettering, inventor of them, is now president of the General Motors research laboratories and a vice president of General Motors.

Since this memorable contribution to the industry, he has likewise been responsible, probably more than any other single individual, for two other tremendous accomplishments. Development of the latter was a direct outgrowth of the self-starter, since engineers who found fault with the starter held it responsible for what they called a "spark knock." Kettering argued they were wrong, that the "spark knock" was actually a fuel knock.

Crop For "Rainy Day"

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (AP)—A combination of soy beans and silage is the most critical time for farmers and dairymen who desire emergency crop to Missouri farms.

ers by Sam Jordan of the department of agriculture is the most critical time for farmers and dairymen who desire emergency crop to Missouri farms.

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