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## UNCLE SAM'S GREAT BABY CROP

**2,250,000 Youngsters Estimated for 1910,  
With a Cash Value of Nearly  
\$5,000,000,000.**

King Corn is not really King. In spite of the agricultural statisticians the corn crop is not Uncle Sam's greatest. Figured on a cash basis of dollars and cents even, it must give place to the country's one greatest and most essential product. That is the baby crop. Based on the latest figures compiled by a Boston economist, the baby crop for 1910 will be worth the enormous sum of \$4,887,000,000. Even figured on the basis of former valuations, now acknowledged to be too low, the figure would amount to nearly \$1,300,000,000.

Nor are these figures fanciful or based on sentimental values. They represent as nearly as possible the economic value to the United States, based on potential productive capacity, of the 2,250,000 babies which it is estimated will constitute this year's crop. According to the latest figures the value of each newborn is \$362 a pound, or \$2,172 for the average six-pound youngster, giving a total value of nearly \$5,000,000,000, or nearly three times that of the corn crop.

Detailed information concerning the baby crop, its distribution, variation in different localities and the like, while naturally not so complete as similar data covering the corn crop, is far more interesting. As might be expected, New York, because of its greater population, produced the greatest number of babies of any one state last year, with 200,865, or nearly one tenth of the total. It was not, however, the leading state if the increase in babies to each 1,000 of the population be taken into account. Figured on this basis, North Dakota heads the list with 36.5 births, closely followed by Utah with 35.2, Oklahoma with 33.7 and Texas with 32.9. At the other end of the list come Maine with 17.6, and New Hampshire, with 18.—But in spite of the low ratio for the New England States, the figures show that the proportionate increase over the preceding decade was greater there than in any other group of states. In general terms however, the figures indicate that the West is the best territory for babies, just as it is the biggest corn producer. No hard and fast rule can be laid down, because of the seemingly unexplainable discrepancies which occur, as, for instance, in the case of West Virginia and Virginia. The excess of the birth rate over the death rate in the former is 28.4 per 1,000 population, while in the latter it is only 7.

Perhaps the most anomalous feature concerning the baby crop is that while it continues to increase, the size of the average family decreasing. In 18870 the number of persons constituting an average family was 5.1 persons. In 1880 it had decreased to 5; in 1890 to 4.9 and in 1900 to 4.7. How, then, does the baby crop continue to increase?

Undeniably, Uncle Sam is conserving his baby crop. The birth rates in Italy, Hungary and Austria, for example, are all higher than in this country, but the excess of births over deaths is far lower—little more than one half, indeed, of the figures here. In a word, Uncle Sam is saving his babies, and the manner in which he is doing it is one of the most remarkable stories of progress ever written.

There is, of course, no Federal Secretary of Infants, such as the Secretary of Agriculture, who advises farmers in thousands of pamphlets yearly concerning the best methods to pursue in raising crops. But all over the country, in laboratories and universities, thousands of physicians are carrying on the fight in behalf of the baby crop. Experiments on animals form the basis of all this advance, for since the discovery of anaesthetic and aseptic surgery results have been obtained which otherwise would have been impossible. Already many diseases have been conquered by the means which a generation ago were the terror of mothers.

Just how results obtained along these lines have benefited the baby crop may be shown by a concrete illustration. Thirty years ago, according to figures collected by the census bureau, diphtheria caused one death out of about

every nineteen that occurred. Mortality from this cause among children under 5 years old was enormous, and the disease ranked third as a cause of death. More than 28,000 persons died of it in 1880. But in 1900, in spite of the greatly increased population, the deaths caused by diphtheria, according to the census figures, were only 10,504, or about one fifth of what they would have been on the 1880 basis. Out of more than 9,000,000 children under 5 years only about 5,000, or one in 1,800, died from this former scourge. As a result, diphtheria has now fallen from third to twentieth place as a cause of death.

Similar figures might be given of other diseases, such as small-pox, meningitis, yellow fever and many others which once ravaged the baby crop, but which now, as a result of information gained by experiments on animals, are robbed of their terrors.

It is stated on high authority that the discovery of the diphtheria antitoxin has resulted in the annual saving of 3,000 lives in New York city alone. Proportionately for the whole country the annual saving of life is many times this number. Curiously enough, while diphtheria has undoubtedly existed for thousands of years, the chemical nature of the antitoxin by which it is subdued is not known. We cannot tell except by tests on animals whether a given serum has much, little or no antitoxin in it. The governments of the world, therefore, require that every producer shall test on animals the antitoxic strength of the serum sent out from his establishment. The antitoxin must not only be produced for us by animals, but must be tested upon them, and without such tests its use could not be certified.

While the experiments which led to the discovery of this antitoxin were, of course, long and complicated, the history of its achievement indicates the manner in which the study of the effect of various inoculations on animals has benefited the human race, particularly the child. Roux, at the Pasteur Institute in Paris, studied the nature of the diphtheria toxin and found that a very violent poison was given off from the bacilli growing in bouillon. This can be filtered off from the bacteria and has peculiar properties. Starting from earlier studies, Van Behring experimented upon the effect of injecting small but increasing doses of this toxin into animals and discovered the remarkable fact that these animals become absolutely immune to the poison and that their blood not only contains this antidote for the poison, but contains this antidote in such large amounts that a little of the blood serum transferred to another animal will protect it from infection by the most virulent diphtheria bacilli. When in a test tube small amounts of this protective serum are added to large amounts of the toxin, it is found that the poison is completely neutralized so that it has no more deleterious effects than water. When injected into animals this antitoxic serum was found to protect them against infection for a number of weeks. The serum was then injected into a few children suffering from diphtheria with beneficial results. It was found also to protect them, as in the case of animals, from infection. Its use became more and more general, so that at the present time 90 per cent of all cases of diphtheria are treated with it, with an annual saving in Europe and America of something over 100,000 lives.

In other fields work has been and is being carried on along similar lines. By means of experiments on animals greater and greater mastery is being obtained over diseases which would otherwise be unconquerable. An increasing baby crop is, of course, an economic necessity, and many of the benefits of animal experimentation are therefore most directly appreciated through their protection of children. But here again an analogy may be drawn between the baby crop and the corn crop. In neither instance is it a question of a single crop. It is the future which counts and makes the necessity of considering coming crops paramount. Improvement in the general health of

parents means healthier babies, and it is for this reason that all over the country research is being carried on looking toward the mastering of diseases not alone peculiar to infancy but affecting all ages.

It takes no great amount of acumen to predict an annual \$10,000,000,000 baby crop for this country in the near future. Any one who thinks this value fictitious or sentimental, holding that corn is bought and sold for so much a bushel, while babies are particularly never deal in for money considerations, as only to remember that if it were not for the baby crop all the agricultural products and the output of mills, mines and factories would not be worth a cent.—Baltimore Sun.

## MOTOR ON RAMPAGE—DOWN HILLS AND DOWN

Three Negroes Fatally Hurt—Two Cows Dead and One of Occupants Injured. Savannah, Ga., April 8.—While going at a very high speed on the grand prize race course near Savannah early tonight, an automobile in which were Alfred Marshall and Harry Noyes, prominent young society men, became unmanageable, left the road and struck first a small negro man, a negro man and later a negro woman who were on the sidewalk, killing all three property, then after killing two cows, the machine turned over, badly injuring Noyes. Noyes was sent to a hospital and Marshall was arrested and is at police station tonight to remain until the result of the injuries to the negroes are known. They are all badly hurt and it is expected will die. The car which had just been purchased and was being tried out, was wrecked.

## HELP DR. COOK PROVE CLAIM

About \$175,000 Has Been Guaranteed Towards Funds to Help Explorer Prove His Claim to Discovery of North Pole. New York, April 2.—On authority of Capt. B. F. Osborn, one of the most active supporters of Dr. F. A. Cook, it was announced today that about \$175,000 had been guaranteed towards a fund to help Dr. Cook prove his claim to discovery of the North Pole.

"A prominent Western man," Captain Osborn said, had pledged \$100,000 of this sum. Captain Osborn said that he was in correspondence with the explorer and that he expected the doctor home by the latter part of the present month.

## Heavy Rain and Snow

Denver, Col., March 29.—Heavy rain and snow and high winds are sweeping the entire Rocky mountain region north of Central New Mexico today. Telegraph service has been seriously crippled and several hours central Colorado wall all cut off from the outside world.

Heavy snow is reported at Santa Fe, N. M., with a temperature of 24 above, a drop of 32 degrees since yesterday. The snow extends all the way to central Wyoming, Durango, Telluride and other mountain cities of Colorado report heavy snow.

The storm in Denver took on almost the proportions of a mid-winter blizzard.

## Sight of Mother Drove Him Mad.

Lexington, Ky., March 30.—When Andrew Mullin, a young man whose home is near Natural Bridge, in Lee county, yesterday called at the eastern Kentucky asylum for the insane here to see his mother, who is an inmate, the shock produced by her falling condition and the fact that she was unable to recognize him unbalanced his mind. At the conclusion of his visit he became violent on the streets and was subdued by the officers only after a sharp struggle.

Anti-fat remedies are seldom needed by the man who leans on hope.

Improvements for Fort Caswell. Louisville, Ky., March 31.—Eleven hundred negro men, women and children employed in one of the American Tobacco Company's stermeries here struck today for an increase of one-half of one per cent per pound for stamping. The strikers were disorganizing to such an extent this morning that the police were twice called to the tobacco district.

Nearly two thousand tobacco workers are now on a strike and other walkouts are expected.

## RAILROAD IMPROVEMENTS

Lynchburg, Va., April 3.—(Special)—One of the biggest improvements in the Southern Railway Company's track line between Lynchburg and Vicksburg, Miss., is now nearing completion. The building by the Southern Railway Company of a new bridge 1800 feet long, 100 feet wide, and 150 feet above the waters of the James river.

This work which means an entire change of the main line of the Southern from Wimsap, north of this city, to Durbin on the south will involve an expenditure of two million of dollars and will include besides the finging of the tunnel, the building of the bridge, and the heavy grading necessary the erection of a handsome new passenger station and the building of a viaduct to span the railway tracks at Fifth street, one of the most important thoroughfares of the city.

The completion of this notable piece of work will result in better service for every point on Southern system. At present time every freight and passenger train on the main line of the Southern, north and south bound, has to climb a heavy grade going out of Lynchburg on account of the drop practically to the river's edge to cross the bridge now in use. When the new line is completed trains will pass through Lynchburg without having to climb a grade exceeding 40 feet per mile which will greatly facilitate the moving of the freight on the main line and hence benefit every point on the lines of the Southern Railway.

Instead of crossing the James river at the foot of the hills and passing through a very restricted section of the east side of the city the line will run through the western portion of the city on a much higher plane, avoiding the heavy grade, which is now such an obstacle to through traffic. The local freight terminals now in use will remain as at present but the passenger station, located much higher and in the western part of the city, will be much more convenient.

The last piers for the bridge are now being completed and gangs of bridge workers are engaged in putting the great girders in place. About one-third of the bridge has been completed and work on the remainder is being rushed in order that materials for the concrete work in the tunnel may be taken by train to the northern end. From lower Lynchburg this bridge will present a magnificent sight and it will be one of the country's notable railroad structures.

In the tunnel alone, which will be one of the finest specimens of work of this character to be found in the country, 250 men are at work and greater headway is being made than at any time since the gigantic task was undertaken. Excellent progress is being made. Materials are being hauled by train to the southern end and the same will be done at the northern end as soon as the bridge is completed.

It is confidently expected that all of this work will be completed in time for the trains by October 1st.

## Improvements for Fort Caswell.

Improvements at Fort Caswell to cost between \$50,000 and \$90,000, and consisting of two new sets of officers' quarters, a power plant and an ordnance shop, will be made within the next few months, the appropriation for the work having already been secured and the plans and specifications having been completed by Superintendent of Construction H. P. O'Hagan of the quartermaster department of the fort.

## ASKS DAMAGE BECAUSE NEGRO WAS IN PULLMAN.

Mississippi Woman Files Suit Against Railroad for \$25,000 Damages—Claims Presence of Negro in Sleeper Made Her Extremely Nervous. Vicksburg, Miss., March 29.—Claiming the Alabama & Vicksburg railroad did not obey the "Jim Crow" law, and that a negro was permitted to occupy a berth in a white sleeping car, Miss Pearl Morris has brought suit for \$25,000 against the company. Miss Morris states that in February she bought passage and sleeping car tickets from Vicksburg to New York and that the company sold three negro men tickets for passage on the train and permitted the negroes to use the same Pullman sleeper in which the plaintiff was riding. A negro spent night in the sleeping car and the plaintiff avers she was frightened so that she became extremely nervous and suffered therefrom.

There was once a hospital parasite who had all the doctors guessing for a while. This fellow, a professional deadbeat, had a mysterious complaint, the only symptom of which was high temperature. The height to which his fever would rise, whenever the doctors came around, was astonishing; yet the patient, had an extraordinary appetite, and slept well. The high fever was what alarmed the physicians. Finally it was discovered that the rascal had a trick of rubbing his tongue against the thermometer, generating by the friction enough heat to run the mercury up to whatever degree he desired. The doctors had noticed that he didn't "feel" very hot; and he gave himself away by overdoing his specialty.

Some of these hospital malingers will undergo actual torture in order to deceive the authorities. A negro in a St. Louis hospital, pretending to be unconscious, actually withstood the ammonia test. This consists in making the sleeper inhale the fumes of strong ammonia. But this particular colored gentleman escaped during the night following the test, and has not been heard from since.

By far the most important form of malingering is the simulation of insanity, usually in order to escape capital punishment for murder. The following case, reported by a prominent alienist in the Journal of the American Medical Association, is interesting:

"Warden McClaughry, of the Federal Penitentiary at Leavenworth, had a prisoner, who, he thought, was simulating insanity. He called in an expert. They did everything they could to find out the true condition. The man was accused of a serious crime and the warden decided that he was simulating. But was the man insane. Finally the expert made the suggestion that the case should be discussed in the presence of the prisoner and this was done. The expert said: 'This man is in a serious condition, and I know of nothing that will do any good except to open up the head and examine the brain; it will probably kill him, but he is a goner if we don't do it, and there is about one chance in 700 if we operate on his head that he may live.' They began to prepare the patient for operation, when he gave up and said: 'Hold on, gentlemen, I have been making this up. No surgery for me!'"

Perhaps the most unique instance of malingering on record was the case of a Philadelphia reporter who pretended to be insane in order to get into a large asylum, the management of which he wanted to write up. Speaking of this case a well-known nerve specialist says:

"Some points in the case are worthy of recall, as illustrating the manner in which the intelligent but badly informed simulator overdoes the role. No really insane man ever indulged in the entertaining and extravagant performance of this scribe. He was picked up while creating some excitement at one of the Philadelphia street corners. He asserted that he was 1,000,000 years old, that he had had nothing to eat for 90 years, that he was the last of the actors, that they were all killed by the song-and-dance men—killed wit canon—and the leaves of the trees had turned red with their blood."

"My home," he said, "is in a cave in a mountain on the planet Mars. It was an elephant's nest, but I made friends with him and he brings me food every day. At night I sleep under the sea in a coral grotto, while mermaids sing me soft lullabies that woo the drowsy god." He kept up this farfetched or something like it for a day or two; then his identity was disclosed and he was discharged from the hospital.

School boys are great malingers, but since they are not generally "on to" the art of tampering with

## THE MALLINGERER IS SHEWD.

Remarkable Things People do to Sham Illness for a Purpose.

The malingering is one who shams illness for a purpose. The purpose may be any one of the following: To get food and shelter in a hospital, to escape military duty, to break a contract, to stay at home from school, to escape punishment for a crime, to get out of work, to collect insurance, to collect damage or to escape unpleasant social duties.

There was once a hospital parasite who had all the doctors guessing for a while. This fellow, a professional deadbeat, had a mysterious complaint, the only symptom of which was high temperature. The height to which his fever would rise, whenever the doctors came around, was astonishing; yet the patient, had an extraordinary appetite, and slept well. The high fever was what alarmed the physicians. Finally it was discovered that the rascal had a trick of rubbing his tongue against the thermometer, generating by the friction enough heat to run the mercury up to whatever degree he desired. The doctors had noticed that he didn't "feel" very hot; and he gave himself away by overdoing his specialty.

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the thermometer, this instrument is usually a pretty safe guide in most instances. If a boy has no objective symptom, the case is suspicious. The following case of malingering is too good to have been reported by any other than Mark Twain:

"A boy awoke one morning very ill. His groans alarmed the household. The doctor was sent for and came posthaste. 'Well said the doctor, as he entered the sickroom, 'what is the trouble?'"

"'A pain in my side,' said the boy. 'Any pain in the head?'"

"'Yes, sir.' 'Is the right hand stiff?'"

"'A little.' 'How about the right foot?'"

"'That's stiff too.' 'The doctor winked at the boy's mother. 'Well,' he said, 'you're pretty sick. But you'll be able to go to school on Monday. Let me see, today is Saturday, and—'"

"'Is today Saturday?' said the boy in a vexed tone. 'I thought it was Friday.' 'Half an hour later the boy declared himself healed, and he got up. Then they packed him off to school, for it was Friday, after all.'"

One thing that operates against the progress of a town, is for people who have property that may be desired to further an enterprise, especially if it be of a public or corporate nature, to ask a great deal more for it than it is worth. People who have property to sell naturally want as much as they can get for it, but they should not want more than a fair price. Enterprises are often blocked, or stopped altogether, because a spirit like this is met when property is wanted on which to locate them. As soon as the owner of the property finds out it is wanted, he puts up the price of it to an unreasonably high figure. Right now we have in mind incidents where property wanted for public or corporate use was held at such a price that the prospective purchasers refused to be held up in any such way, and the property would afterward be sold to private individuals at less than half of what had previously been demanded for it. This kind of spirit is wrong and hinders progress wherever it is practiced. A fair and reasonable price is all that should be charged for property.

Worked to death Shipping Eggs. "I wish every hen in Union county would take the cholera and die," said an employe of one of the mercantile establishments here one day last week. When inquiry was made as to the grounds for his wish, he replied: "Why it just keeps a fellow run to death to ship the eggs that to this firm handles." He then went on to state that the said company shipped on an average of about ten crates of eggs a day. The poultry business is growing in Union county and those who have tried it say it pays well when proper attention is given the industry. But we started out to say that it's great pity that so many eggs must be sent from Marshville to other towns for consumption. There ought to be manufacturing enterprises enough right here to employ a sufficient number of people to use the large amount of chickens, eggs, butter etc., that are shipped to places that have gotten ahead of us in the way of making things.

The time has come when it is the duty of all good citizens to stand behind the home team. Even the courts have held that a little "cussin'" is justifiable when the home team loses.

The progressive politician believes in advertising.

John J. Myatt