savants."[28] On the contrary those periods in which political radicalism has been most marked have been those in which science received most liberal governmental aid and encouragement.

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SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

BIOMETRIC AND EUGENIC LABORATORIES AT UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, LONDON

The *British Medical Journal* states that the new building given by Sir Herbert Bartlett, Bt., to the Department of Applied Statistics formed by the Drapers' Company and Galton Laboratories at University College, London, was opened on June 4 by the Minister of Health. The Drapers' Company Biometric Laboratory was instituted under the direction of Professor Karl Pearson in 1904; it is a research laboratory and training school in the modern mathematical theory of statistics. The Galton Laboratory for National Eugenics was instituted in 1905, and was, by Sir Francis Galton's wish, associated with the other. When Sir Francis Galton died in 1911 he bequeathed a large part of his estate to found the Galton professorship, and Professor Karl Pearson was appointed to the chair. At the same time the senate of the university appealed for funds for building and equipment, and Sir Herbert Bartlett came forward with an offer to provide the building on a site at the northwest front of the college. During the war the new building was used as a military hospital, and only now has the department been able to take full possession. On the ground floor of the building is a large museum for the illustration of heredity, statistical processes, and social problems, a lecture theater, a room for the exhibition of Galton relics and apparatus, and an anthropometric laboratory. On the first floor there are laboratories, a library, and a common room, and on the second a photographic studio, a large room for biometric workers in craniometry, and rooms for archives and instruments. The apartments in all number over twenty, and it was announced that a site has been reserved for extension, which will include animal breeding accommodation.

The vice-chancellor of the university, Dr. Russell Wells, who presided over the opening ceremony, said that statistics, properly understood, was one of the most difficult and advanced mathematical studies, but it was a dangerous weapon in the hands of the partially educated. Medicine in particular had suffered greatly from its misuse. The method introduced by Professor Karl Pearson would make it possible to arrive at the proof of many complicated medical problems. In sketching the history of the department, he reminded the audience of Florence Nightingale's well-known interest in statistics, and of her desire to found a professorship of applied statistics at University College, for which, however, her means were not sufficient. It was not until the generous provision of the Drapers' Company was made that a start became possible.

Dr. Addison gave an appreciation of the value of statistics which he had discovered when minister of munitions. There were few branches of public service with greater scope for the trained statistician than that of communal health, but here and in social science many statistics had been of a thoroughly incomplete and unsatisfactory nature. He commended to the support of the public the further appeal which University College was making to maintain and complete the equipment of the new building.

The provost, Sir Gregory Foster, expressed the thanks of those present to Dr. Addison. The thanks of the university to Sir Herbert Bartlett for his gift were expressed by the vice-chairman of the college committee, Dr. J. Bourne Benson. Professor Karl Pearson said

[28] When during the "Reign of Terror" Lavoisier was condemned to death, a petition was presented to the rulers that his life might be spared for a few weeks in order that he might complete some important experiments, but the reply was "The Republic has no need of savants." (Goode, George Brown, "The Origin of the National Scientific and Educational Institutions of the United States," Rpt. U. S. Nat. Mus., 1896–97, p. 324, 1901.)

that one English monarch for whom he had a reverential regard was Henry VI. He saluted his statue whenever he crossed the lawn at King's College, Cambridge. In the fifteenth century it was possible to spend money on wars in France or on the founding of monasteries, but Henry chose to found King's College. And to encourage learning was still the surest way to secure that one's name was held in honor through grateful generations.

FISHERIES OF THE GULF STATES, 1918

DURING the past year the Bureau made a statistical canvass of the fisheries of the South Atlantic and Gulf States for the year 1918, and the returns for the latter section have recently been compiled and sent to press as Statistical Bulletin No. 470. The last previous canvass of these states by the Bureau was for the year 1902, and a later canvass was made by the Bureau of the Census for the year 1908. The statistics for the Gulf States cover the fisheries of the west coast of Florida and Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas. In 1918 there were 14,888 persons employed in the fisheries of these states; the investment amounted to $6,537,859; and the products aggregated 130,923,583 pounds, having a value of $6,510,310. Of this total, the west coast of Florida produced 54,753,639 pounds, valued at $3,420,363; Alabama, 5,609,219 pounds, valued at $230,567; Mississippi, 20,592,089 pounds, valued at $762,770; Louisiana, 24,953,876 pounds, valued at $1,419,367; and Texas, 25,014,760 pounds, valued at $677,243. Some of the more important species taken in these states were black drum, 2,011,288 pounds, valued at $49,140; catfish, 851,265 pounds, valued at $40,072; croaker, 714,692 pounds, valued at $43,446; groupers, 5,935,825 pounds, valued at $235,406; menhaden, taken mostly in Texas, 14,392,920 pounds, valued at $109,939; mullet, including roe, 28,641,364 pounds, valued at $1,318,379; redfish or red drum, 2,986,180 pounds, valued at $175,109; red snapper, 9,429,802 pounds, valued at $609,312; Spanish mackerel, 3,494,845 pounds, valued at $215,197; squeteagues or "sea trouts," 4,960,738 pounds, valued at $414,593; shrimp, green and dried, 27,142,999 pounds, valued at $1,098,427; and oysters, 23,754,465 pounds, or 3,393,495 bushels, valued at $1,106,725. The output of sponges amounted to 452,188 pounds, valued at $725,155.

Compared with the Bureau's returns for 1902, there has been an increase in the products of the fisheries of the Gulf States of 17,226,613 pounds, or 15.15 per cent., in the quantity and of $3,016,114 or 86,31 per cent., in the value. Compared with the returns for 1908, the increase amounts to 12,649,583 pounds, or 10.69 per cent., in quantity and $1,650,310, or 33.95 per cent., in value.

ROAD-BUILDING PROJECTS WITH FEDERAL AID

THE rate at which the number of Federal-aid road-building projects has increased since the war is shown in a summary relating to all such work from September 30, 1916, to April 30, 1920, which has been prepared by the Bureau of Public Roads, United States Department of Agriculture. On the latter date the states had filed with the bureau 2,885 project statements, of which 2,790 had been approved, representing 27,796 miles of highway. The totals on April 30, 1919, were little more than one third these amounts. Up to May 1 of this year 1,974 projects had proceeded to the stage at which plans, specifications, and estimates had been delivered to the Bureau of Public Roards. The plans, specifications and estimates of 1,827 of these had been recommended for approval, representing 13,845 miles.

Project agreements had actually been executed and construction work was in progress on 1,569 projects, totaling 11,987 miles. In addition, work had been begun on about 100 projects for which agreements had not actually been signed, thus expediting the progress of the work and bringing the total mileage under construction up to 13,540. The summary shows that a great reduction has been made in the time required for preliminary work before the actual construction is begun.

On the average the states have submitted