THE quirk of phylogenetic fate that resulted in the emergence of *homo sapiens* is the most significant single event in the history of the earth. All the stages of biologic evolution which occurred before man became relatively insignificant when compared with the violent changes that he has brought about during his short span of existence. Although physically man is no match for many other forms of life, his powers of reason have enabled him gradually to improve his competitive position among biologic species. Today he is the master of every form of life but his own, has at times wantonly destroyed other types that were here before him, and has converted still others to forms best suited to his personal convenience.

The invention of agriculture signaled the end of a biologic system based primarily upon physical competition and the survival of the fittest. When man learned to cultivate plants and to domesticate animals he also made possible the organization of society with division of labor and the opportunity to plan for the future. This doomed other forms of life to secondary roles and to restrictions imposed by man. Simultaneously the stage was set for man to multiply himself and his communities until today he is to be found essentially everywhere. For many years there has been an understandable tendency to think of increasing populations as symbols of prosperity, in the philosophy that the results would be a greater labor force and more people to participate in education, the sciences, and the arts for public benefit. Now, however, we are forced to realize that the population of the earth is at least doubling each half century, and at this rate the point of saturation will one day be reached. In the past we thought that there were new worlds to conquer and were comfortable in this knowledge. Today there are few geographical frontiers on the earth. Tomorrow there will be none, and the 2.6 billion people that now occupy the globe will apparently be more than 7 billion in less than 100 years. After that, what?

In the long run the decisions affecting social organizations and development are made by society in general. Although he can help, no scientific, educational, political, nor other leader is individually competent to make the major decisions that affect all of society. Though there are whether its future lies with unrestricted increases of population members or whether logic and the laws of biologic evolution have stabilized populations before people became so numerous as to compete seriously for space.

The decision as to the need for increased food production has already been made by society in certain countries, our own among them, can be reached in their technological accomplishments. Published standards of living, this situation is not uniform among the nations of the world. More than half of the present world population lives under conditions.

It has been estimated that under appropriate circumstances it would be possible to double the yields of crops and domestic animals within a few years. This is a theoretical conclusion and there are many conditions which standards are still much too low. In the place, the so-called underdeveloped countries, improve their positions will themselves have to make tremendous improvements and contribute to those basic foods required for an adequate and extensive basis.

In view of the current situation and the future, two conclusions appear to be clear. The more highly developed nations of the world will have to make tremendous improvements in several generations to be able to maintain or improve their standards of living and contribute to which standards are still much too low. As a place, the so-called underdeveloped countries will improve their positions will themselves have to make tremendous improvements and contribute to those basic foods required for an adequate and extensive basis.

RESOURCES

It is clear that future agricultural scientists will have to unite to provide the enormous quantities of agricultural commodities desired by society. Whether is the ability to do so will depend on a great extent on a number of problems. The decision as to the need for increased food production has already been made by society in certain countries, our own among them, can be reached in their technological accomplishments. Published standards of living, this situation is not uniform among the nations of the world. More than half of the present world population lives under conditions.

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