

peace sector of the economy. The producers' goods industries were, so far as possible, adapted to war production and the output of these industries was reduced. Agriculture was seriously affected by labour shortage due to mobilization, which was only in part made up by urban workers and spare-time labour. Excess purchasing power seems to have been skimmed chiefly by increased subscription to State loans. To offset the heavy losses in production resulting from Nazi occupation of European Russia, great efforts, apart from the evacuation of industrial plant and rolling stock, have been made to increase the absolute absorptive capacity of the Ural and Asiatic regions. New sources of raw materials are being exploited, new power stations established, new coal pits sunk and new oil wells drilled. New plantations of rubber-bearing plants, of sugar beet, etc., have been developed, and new substitutes and methods are being employed for the manufacture of sugar and soap. In all this, scientific workers have played a great part, as well as in the simplification and rationalization of many technical processes.

The Solway Tides

A GREAT tidal wave occurred on the Solway estuary on the night of December 9-10, when 3,000 acres between the Rivers Sark and Esk were under water and Sark Toll Bar marriage house was isolated, while 7-ft. fences on Sark Foot farms were submerged. The tide was 25 ft. and was made abnormal and destructive by the wind that came in the wake of a great tidal wave. On the Scottish side the floods reached the highest recorded level since 1900, cattle and sheep were drowned, farmhouses isolated. A 9-ft. embankment was broken in two places along the River Annan and houses were flooded in the Scottish town of Annan. It might have proved more costly but for the fact that because of the mild weather few farmers had brought their sheep down from the mountains to the estuary marshes. The Solway Firth has a history of great tides serious to local farming. Some years ago a tide with less water than that of December 9 killed nearly 1,000 sheep, owing to all the winter flocks being on the marshes. In 1942 the Solway had its usual two high tides of the year, in August and November, and the December one was unexpected.

English Lakeland Fauna

THERE has been a considerable extension of our knowledge of the fauna of the English Lakeland by the activities of the Carlisle Natural History Society. A list of 292 species and sub-species has been drawn up in a manuscript book on "The Birds of Lakeland" to be published after the War, a considerable number of nesting species being added to the Rev. MacPherson's old "Fauna of Lakeland". At a recent meeting of the Society in Carlisle Museum, F. H. Day recorded six new species of Coleoptera added to the Cumberland list in 1942, bringing the total list to 1,849. The new additions are *Triplax aenea*, Schall.; *Gabrius velox*, Shp.; *Aphodius constans*, Duft.; *Liodes glabra*, King.; *Hylastes opacus*, Er.; and *Scolytes intricatus*, Ratz., from an oak log. It was also reported that in 1942 there had been an increase in the range of wall brown and peacock butterflies, also the cinnabar moth in coastal regions, while the rare greasy fritillary butterfly still maintained certain local haunts. A cream-coloured curlew nested at Hosketh Hill and the quail in a clover

field at Durdar. The blackcock is still numerous in many haunts. There is a regular pied wagtail roost on the glass roof of Carlisle railway station and another roost in willows by the Caldew. The willow-tit has been recorded in a number of Lakeland localities and a grey shrike was reported from near Brampton at the end of November. Whooper swans remained on a local water until the second week of May.

Earthquakes Registered in Spain

DURING September 1942, thirteen strong earthquakes were registered by the seismographs at the observatory at Toledo. On September 1 there were three shocks, the first beginning with *iPz* at 9h. 47m. 34s. U.T., attaining an amplitude of 13μ on the N.S. component at 9h. 52m. 01s. U.T. and finishing at 10h. 50m. U.T. The shock apparently came from an epicentre distant 2,980 km., the focus being some 250 km. deep. The other two shocks were much smaller. The earthquake on September 6, which registered at 16h. 06m. 34s. U.T., came from an epicentral distance of 9,470 km. and that on September 9, which registered at 1h. 37m. 59s. U.T., from an epicentral distance of 9,245 km. On September 24 an earthquake which began registering at 3h. 56m. 34s. U.T. attained an amplitude of 11μ at Toledo at 4h. 42m. 46s. U.T. and finished recording at 5h. 10m. 00s. U.T. It came from an epicentre distant probably 11,710 km. The last earthquake registered in the month was on September 26 at 4h. 12m. 09s. U.T., probably from an epicentral distance of 8,465 km., and finished recording at 4h. 50m. U.T. The readings during the month were to a small extent confused by microseisms, and all readings are tentative.

Comet Whipple

DR. W. H. STEAVENSON observed this comet on December 19, 22 and 29. On the last occasion he described it as large, at least 10' in diameter, with a well-marked nucleus and a tail about 20' long. Its magnitude was about 6 on December 29. As Dr. Steavenson is at present absent from his observatory, he was able to give only approximate positions of the comet by using a 3-in. refractor on an altazimuth mounting and estimating the positions from stars in the field. From his data Dr. M. Davidson has computed the following orbit and ephemeris, but they are only approximate owing to the nature of the observations. Those who observe the comet in the early part of the month, for which the ephemeris will probably suffice, should make the necessary corrections for later observations. The comet is approaching the earth and will be about 30 million miles away on January 28. It will almost certainly become a conspicuous naked-eye object during the month.

		Orbit			
		T 1943	Feb. 21.20 U.T.		
ω	57.3°	}	1943.0		
Ω	100.2				
i	20.4				
q	1.182				
		Ephemeris			
		R.A.			
Date 1943		h. m.	Dec.	ρ	r
Jan. 8		9 06.0	+33.3	0.418	1.369
	12	9 23.7	37.0	.388	.340
	16	9 43.2	41.0	.368	.312
	20	10 08.0	45.5	.352	.286
	24	10 35.9	49.6	.340	.264
	28	11 02.6	53.3	.334	.242