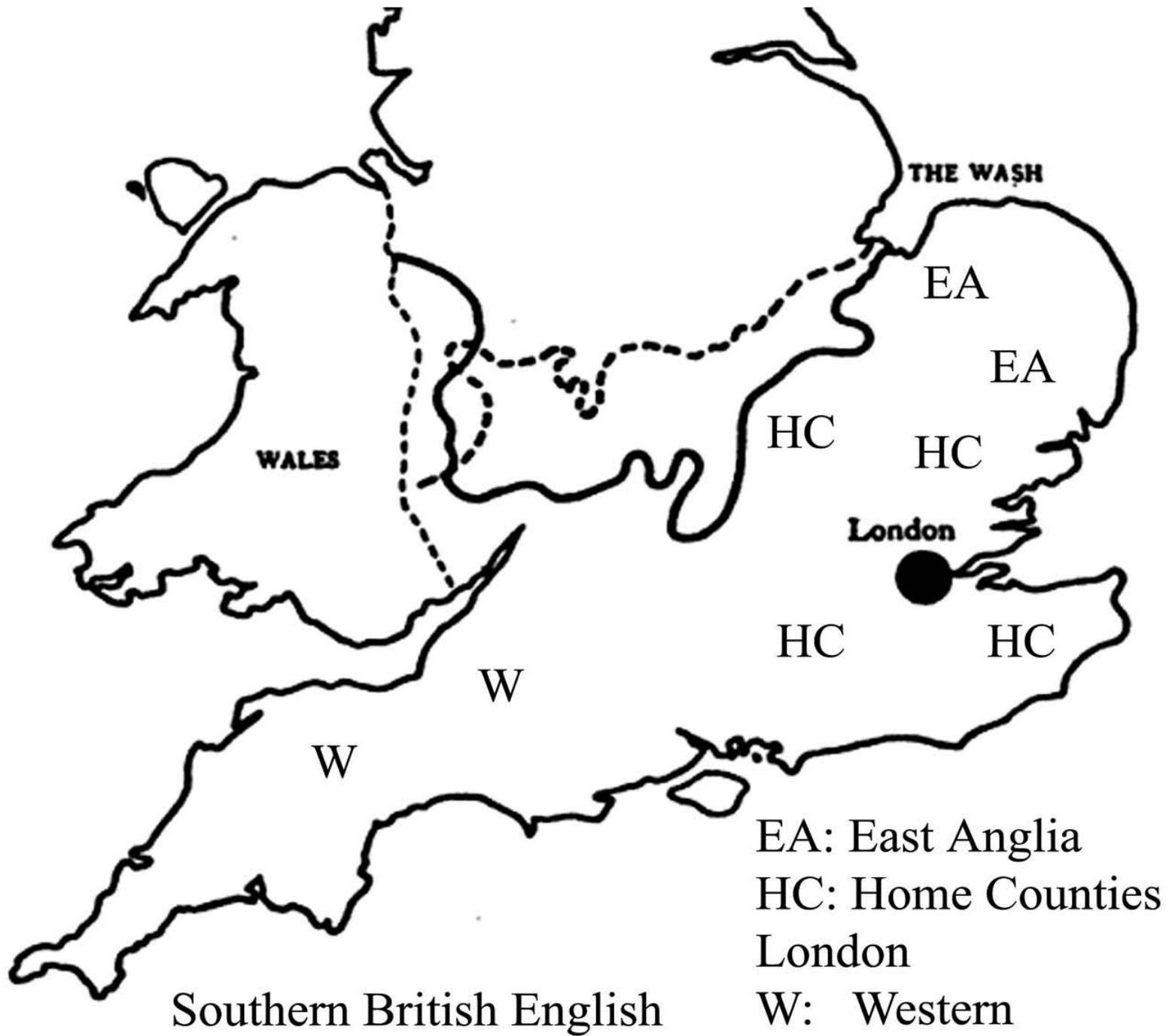


# **Halfway to Estuary English with H. G. Wells (1866-1946)**

**Sidney Wood**



FOOT-STRUT split: - - - - -

TRAP-BATH split: \_\_\_\_\_

FOOT STRUT TRAP BATH PRICE .....

Received pronunciation: R.P.

Jones (1908-60), Gimson (1962), Wells (1982)

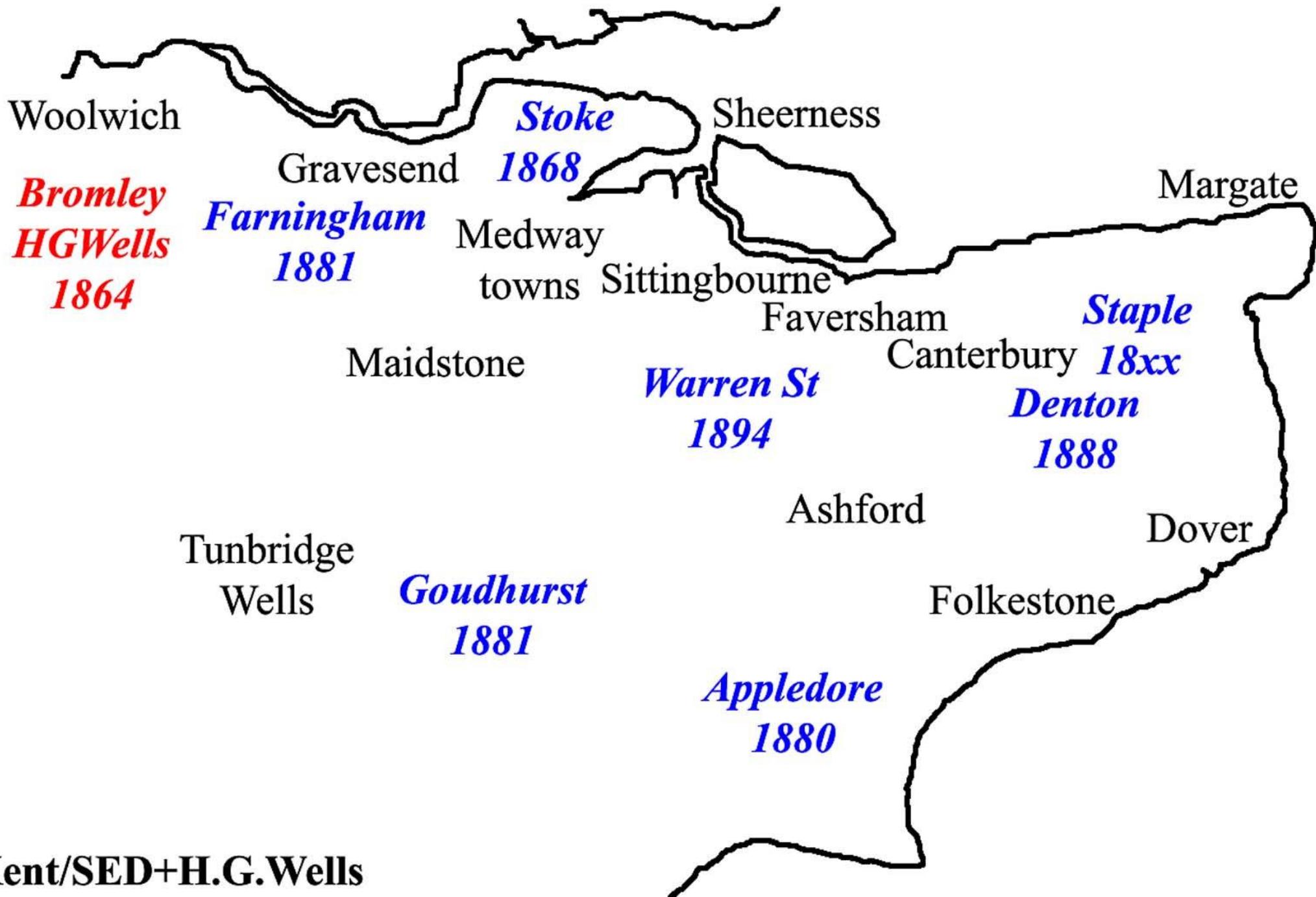
RP about 3-5% of the population

Rosewarne, David. 1984. Estuary English.  
*Times Educational Supplement* (19 Oct)

Sound change is mediated by children  
acquiring new forms

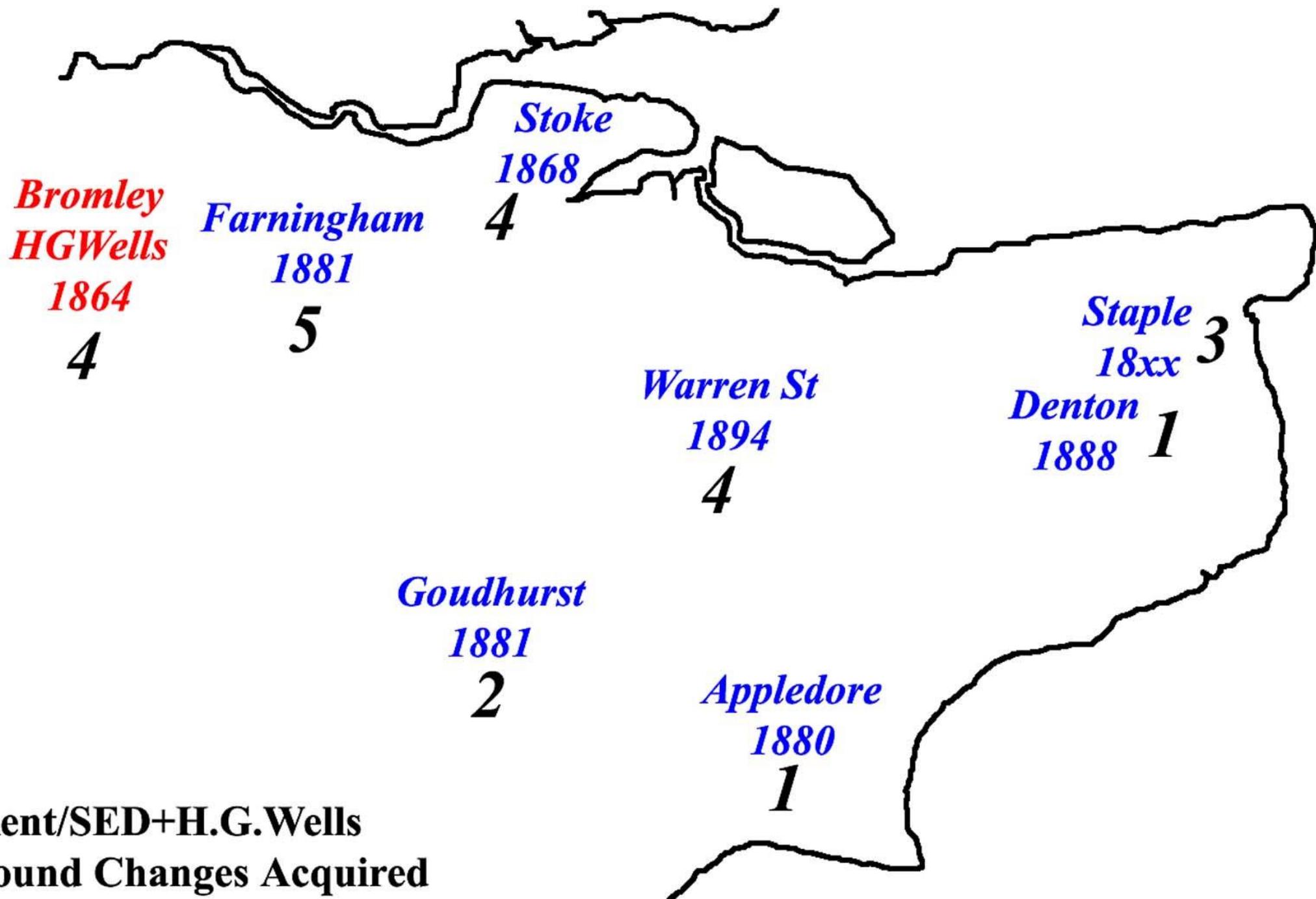
H. G. Wells (1864-1946). Author, biologist,  
journalist, political commentator

Stanley Baldwin (1867-1947). Politician,  
Prime Minister, (RP for comparison)



# 19<sup>th</sup> century sound changes in Kent

Vowel	Old	New	Completed 1860-95
PRICE	[ʌi]	[ai]	85%
THOUGHT	[ɔ:]	[o:]	65%
MOUTH	[ɛʊ]	[æʊ]	50%
Rhoticity loss	Vr cart <sup>r</sup> t	V ca(r)t	50%
TRAP away from DRESS	[æ] near [ɛ]	[æ] F1 100Hz higher	35%
LOT	[ɑ]	[ɔ]	25%



**Kent/SED+H.G. Wells**  
**Sound Changes Acquired**

# H G Wells: Sound changes

Vowel	Acquired
PRICE	New [ai]
MOUTH	New [æp]
Rhoticity loss	New ca(r)t, wate(r)
TRAP	Partially shifted away from DRESS
THOUGHT	Old [ɔ:]
LOT	Old [ɑ]

## Old PRICE and Old MOUTH:



[aɪ] nine mile, price

[ɔʊ] down

## New PRICE and Old MOUTH:



[aɪ] time lively spiteful

[ɔʊ] mouth out down

## New PRICE and New Mouth: (HGW)



[aɪ] advisers lives five

[æʊ] power found doubt bound

## Old THOUGHT and Old LOT: (HGW)



[ɔ:] more before broadcasting

[ɑ] not job possibly

## New THOUGHT and Old LOT:



[o:] course stall water

[ɑ] not clogs

## New THOUGHT and New LOT:



[o:] fourteen fours dogs

[ɒ] lot job



H G Wells:

On that my summing up culminates.

Because this I think is a thing that concerns us most.

The five year plan is obviously staggering.

The five year plan may very possibly fail.

That does not mean that Russia will collapse.

Russia collapsed in nineteen seventeen.

Preglottalized stops

STRUT

GOAT



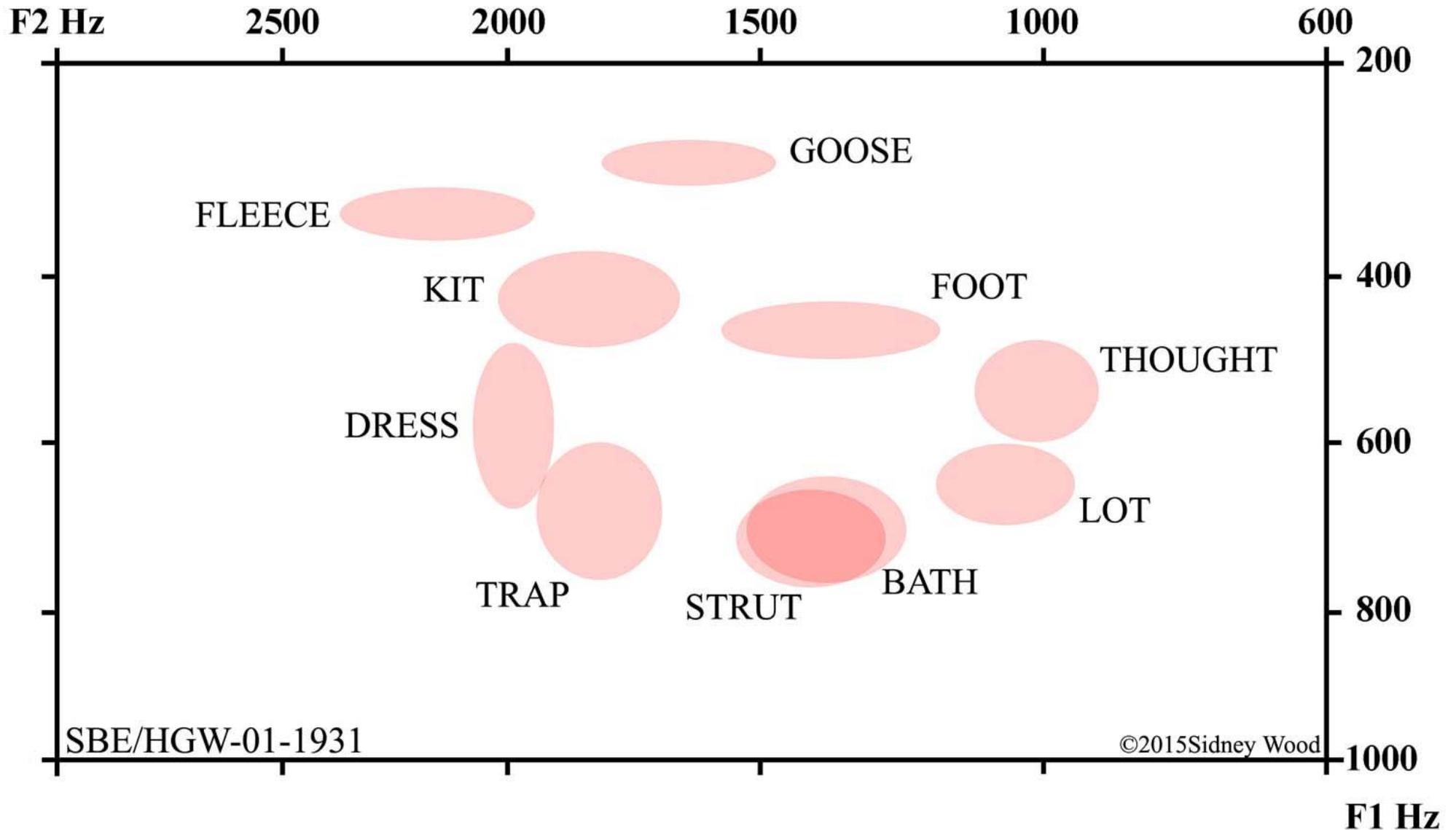
RP: Stanley Baldwin

The national government  
asked for a free hand  
to carry out  
the steps that are necessary  
to restore our trade  
and to establish our credit  
on a firm and permanent footing

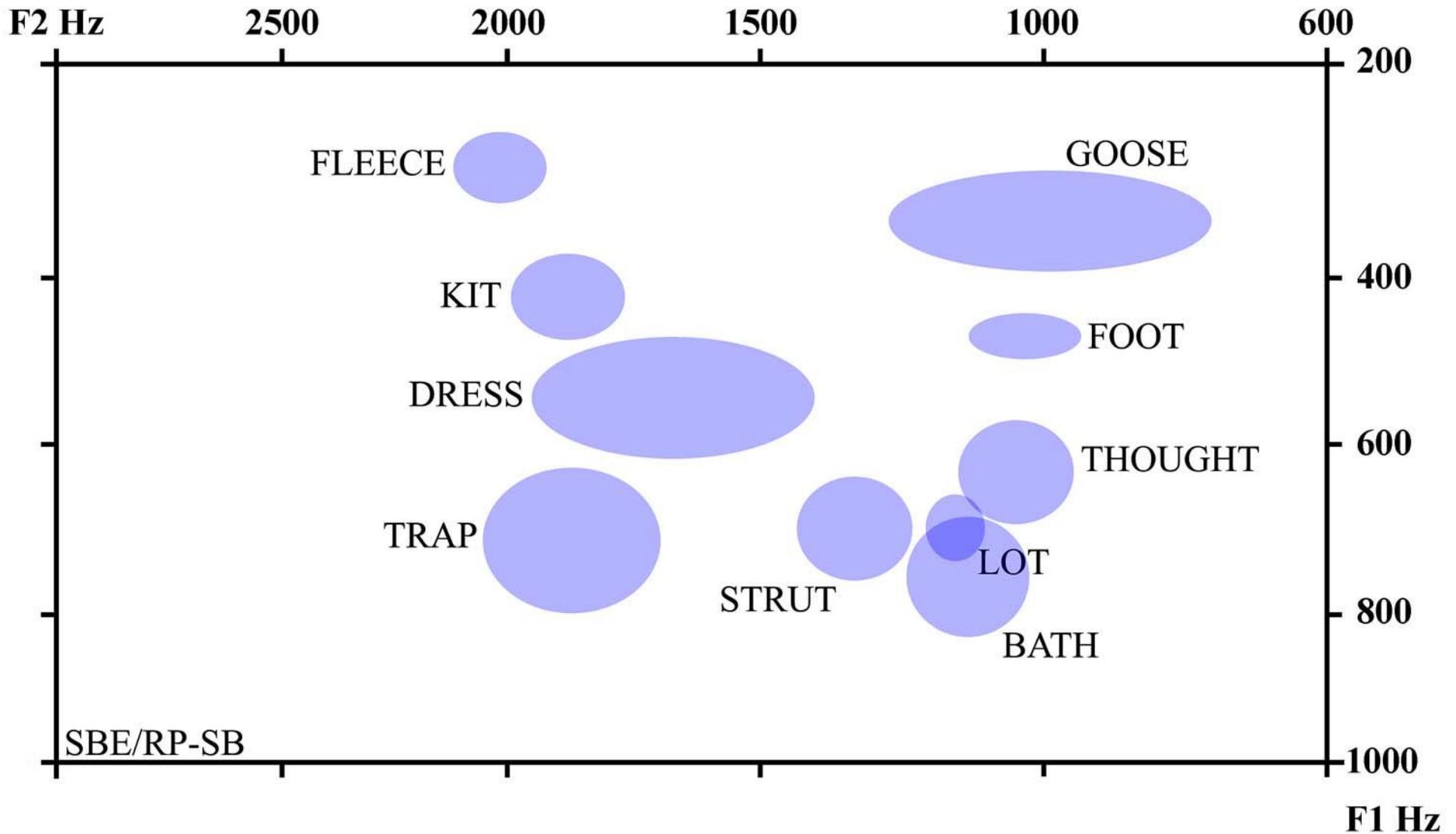
Apical /r/

Dark GOOSE and FOOT

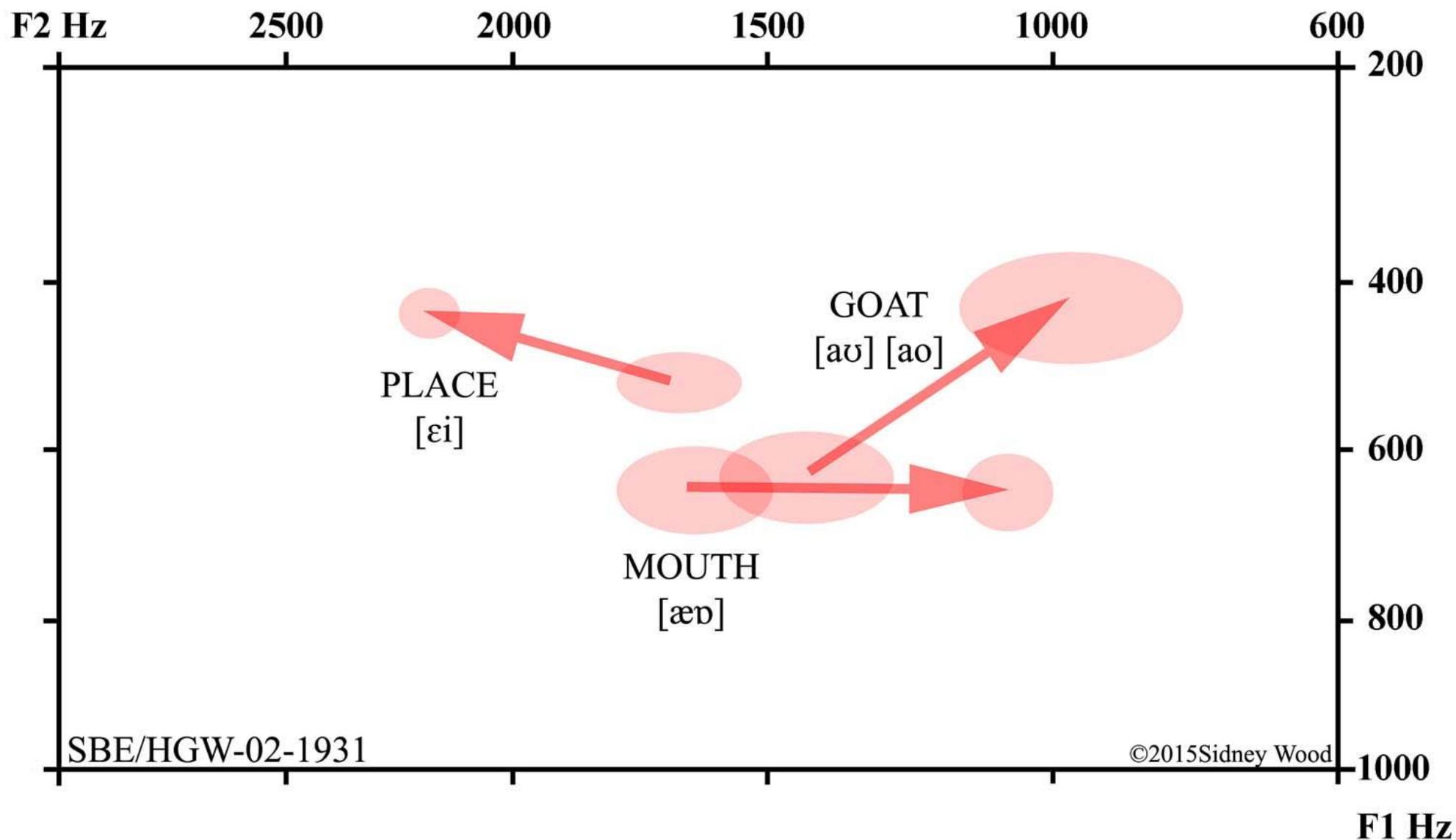
# H G Wells: monophthongs F1/F2



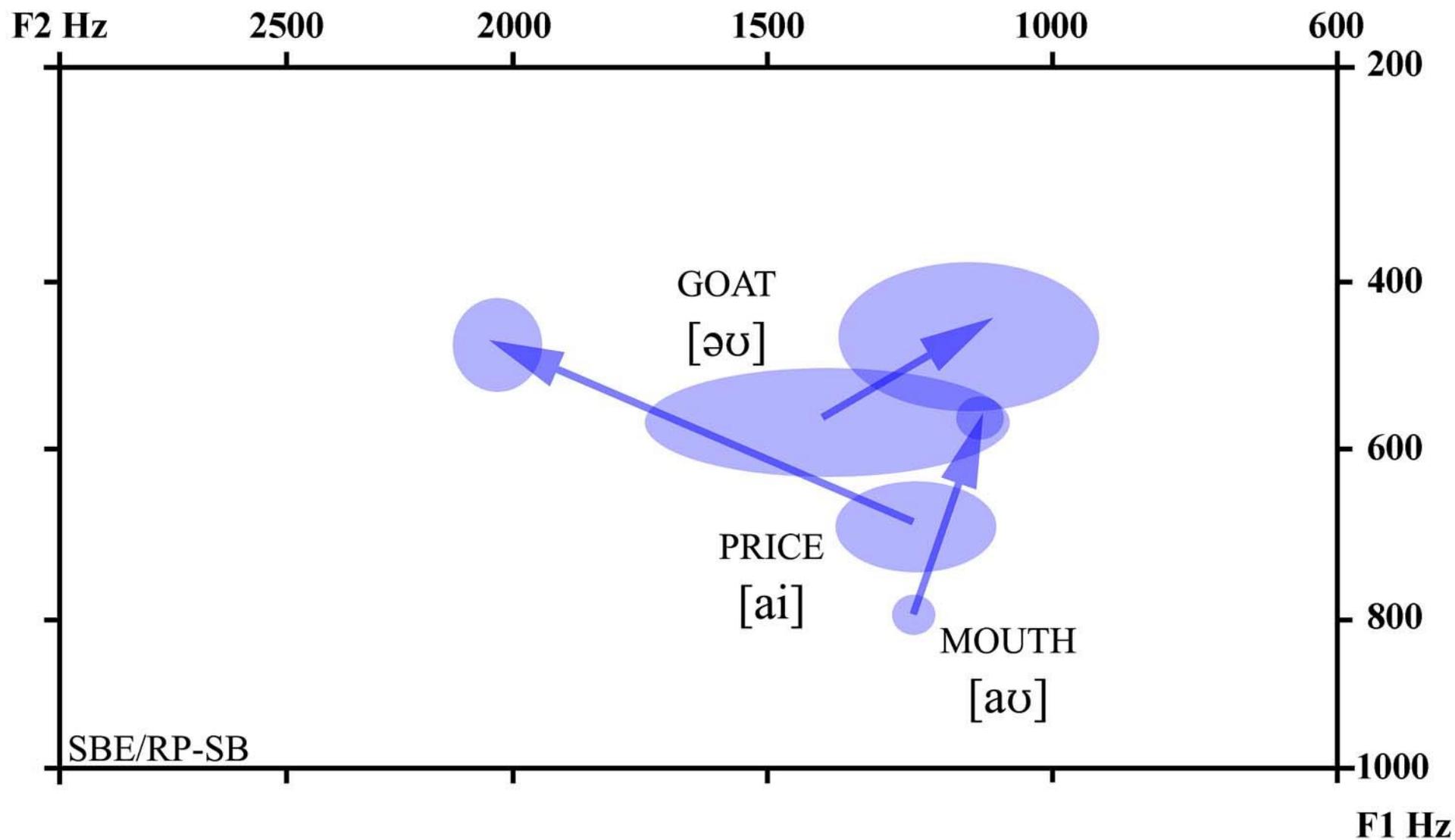
# Baldwyn: monophthongs F1/F2 (RP)



# H G Wells: Three diphthongs F1/F2



# Baldwyn: Three diphthongs F1/F2 (RP)



GOAT:

HGW: [aʊ]

promotion Jones broken



SB: [əʊ]

voter going road post those



MOUTH:

HGW: [æɒ]

power found doubt bound



SB: [aʊ]

pound power doubt down



Lord William Penney (1909-91, grew up at Sheerness)  
Physicist, retiring Rector of the  
Imperial College of Science, London (1971)   
Estuary English (complete 43 years after H G Wells)

Yes I did, that's right

[Interviewer: What happened during the war years,  
were you still at the college?]

Nominally I was, but, in fact I wasn't because almost at  
once I got caught up in the war, and I was sent to the  
Ministry of Home Security, and one of the most urgent  
problems at that time was bombing and explosions,  
and all that horrible stuff, and I was asked to study  
explosions and effects of explosions.

PRICE THOUGHT GOAT Preglottalized stops