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BEET SUGAR INDUSTRY.

SOME of our late exchanges contain some interesting items with respect to this industry. *Sugar*, London, February 6th, furnishes the following:

"Germany. The weight of beets worked in the German factories during the last ten years was, in tons: 1881, 6,271,947; 1882, 8,747,153; 1883, 8,918,130; 1884, 10,402,688; 1885, 7,070,316; 1886, 8,306,671; 1887, 6,963,960; 1888, 7,896,183; 1889, 9,825,039; 1890 (estimated), 10,200,000. The most important feature in these figures is the fact that although the export rebates granted in Germany were reduced more than one-half on and since October 1, 1888, the production of sugar in that country during the two succeeding years showed a very large increase over the two preceding years of the higher counties, which shows that the prosperity of their industry is not so dependent upon the bounty system as is so generally maintained. The present export rebate is about 30 cents per 100 pounds. *Sugar* reports: 'The Alkien sugar factory at Kothen, Germany, the capital of which is 630,000 marks (a little over \$150,000), is stated to have declared a dividend of 64½ per cent., and to possess a reserve fund of 430,000 marks (a little over \$100,000).'"

Some time ago the London *Economist* showed that all of the stocks of trading companies in Germany, which are quoted in Berlin, suffered great depreciation in value during 1890, but those of beet sugar companies suffered less than any other. On the 1st of January, the average value of the stocks of all the beet sugar companies on the Berlin list was about 3 per cent. premium.

"Austro-Hungary. *Sugar* shows that the quantity of masse quite worked in Austro-Hungary during the last thirty years was 9,300,000 tons; the exports of sugar, 4,156,000 tons. The total amount expended by the Austro-Hungary sugar industry during 1889-90 was, in round numbers, \$35,000,000 for beets; \$12,000,000 for lime, coal oil, etc.; \$4,500,000 for repairs and working of machinery; \$8,000,000 for labor; \$14,000,000 for various taxes; \$8,000,000 for insurance sinking fund; or a total of \$81,500,000 during one campaign.

"France, during last campaign, worked about 8,000,000 tons of beet roots.

"Spain. *Sugar* says: "About the year 1888 the first beet sugar factory was started at Granada. The success of this enterprise was so great that there are now working in the neighborhood of Granada ten factories, seven of which were built in the single year of 1890."

"Bohemia. *Sugar* reports: 'A large factory, which is expected to deal in no less than 300,000 cwt. of raw sugar, is shortly to be established by a syndicate of English capitalists, at Aussig, in North Bohemia.'

"United States. The New York *Shipping and Commercial List*, 25th March, reports increase in beet root sugar manufactured in that country, from 200 tons in 1887 to 1,800 tons in 1888, 3,000 tons in 1889, 12,000 tons estimated for 1889-91."

The United States Government imported last year fifty tons of sugar beet seeds for free distribution, for which they had applications from over 2,000 farmers. They have established several experimental stations for testing the different kinds of seed and various methods of cultivation. Congress has granted a bonus of \$2.00 per 100 lbs. on all raw sugar made from native cane, beet or sorghum, for 14 years. Several States have voted bonuses in addition to the Federal bonus; Kansas has legislated \$2.00 per 100 lbs. The capacity of the Oxnard beet sugar factory at Grand Island, Neb., when fully supplied with beets, will be about 4,000 tons of refined sugar in each season. For this they will receive a federal bonus of \$160,000, and State bonus of \$80,000 in each year. Senator Sherman has stated that he estimates that before many years the United States Government will pay \$30,000,000 per annum for sugar bounties.

Canada. It has been conclusively established by experiments made during the seasons of 1889 and 1890 that a very large proportion of the soil of Ontario is eminently adapted for the production of large crops of sugar beets, and of fine quality. An experiment made this season at the Provincial farm at Guelph as to the preserving of the roots in pits was very satisfactory. Roots pitted there last October were opened up on March 13th and found in fine condition, with the sugar purity almost unimpaired. This gives good reason for expecting that the season during which beet roots can be profitably worked in Ontario will be fully a month longer than in France or Germany. This is an important advantage, as it reduces the cost per pound of sugar manufactured by the proportion saved in management and office expenses, interest on capital, wear and tear, and fire insurance on buildings and machinery, etc.

It is claimed by the promoters of this industry in Ontario, that, owing to the relative cheapness of rents of land here, as compared with Europe, this difference fully balances the cheaper rates of manual labor there, so that beets can be produced as cheaply here as there. Also, that on account of the greater skill and experience of Canadian farmers in root culture, the prospects for successful cultivation of sugar beets are much more promising here than in the United States. The prices and terms of agreement for purchase of beets as proposed here have received the general approval of all the farmers to whom they have been submitted, and at several points farmers are now prepared to contract for all the supply required for a large factory.

Owing to superior facilities for water supply and for drainage from the factory for refuse, and to cheaper fuel and lime