

We in this country have been considerably worried about our railroads. If they are to have a chance to make adequate earnings, we must build up such conditions as will enable them to do so. Surely a healthy beet sugar industry is one that will aid the railroads by helping them to help themselves.

Some people ask whether the beet sugar industry is economically sound. They ask, is it a going concern or does it have to be subsidized? Let me give a few items to indicate to what extent the beet sugar industry is a sound and going concern. Mr. T. George Wood, president of the Canadian Sugar Factories Limited, which owns the two factories in my riding, reported in March, 1938, that in 1937 there were 19,829 acres in use raising sugar beets; that on that area an average of 11.88 tons per acre of beets was raised, that there were 75,603,700 pounds of sugar produced, or 3,813 pounds per acre. There is not in Canada any place where an acre of land can raise as much human food as in the beet sugar area of my constituency. and I fancy in any other constituency where the beet sugar industry flourishes. Altogether there was \$3,040,000 worth of sugar produced. I have not any comparative figures, but I would say that this would probably be one of the major items of income in my constituency. The gross return to the farmers was \$155 per acre. Of that, \$77.50 went to the manufacturer and \$77.50 to the farmer, out of which he had to pay \$25 for hand labour and \$35 for other expenses, leaving him net \$17.50 per acre, which I believe will be recognized as a pretty good return. And if the farmer were in a position to use his own children to do the work, it is estimated that he would gain about \$42.50 per acre. It is interesting to find that under the existing set-up the government of Canada took for every acre of beets in my riding \$38.13. If anyone can tell me any place in Canada where the government income from an acre of ground is more than that, I shall be interested. They get that from the levy of one cent a pound excise tax which to the raisers of beets is an abomination.

While on this question of whether the beet sugar industry in Canada is economically sound, may I put a few more figures before the committee? The yield per acre in Alberta was as follows:

Year	Alberta	United States
1938.....	12.89	11.8
1937.....	11.88	11.77
1936.....	11.29	11.6

This indicates that Alberta can produce more tons per acre than the United States. [Mr. Blackmore.]

Yet the United States looks upon the beet sugar industry as a going concern, economically sound. They were slightly ahead of us in 1936. In 1929 Great Britain had a yield of 8.7 tons per acre and in 1930 a yield of 8.8 tons. For some reason or another Great Britain is able to subsidize the beet sugar industry while Canada never thinks of doing so. Canada looks upon it as an object of prey, which is an astonishing situation.

Now what about the sugar content of Alberta's beets? In 1929 it was 18.19, which is very good; in 1930 it was 15.95; in 1931 it was 18.34 and in 1932 it was 17. I have only two figures for Great Britain; one of these is 17.67 and the other 17.74. Alberta beets have had a sugar content superior to that of beets grown anywhere on the north American continent with the exception of California.

When we have such conditions given us by providence, surely we are neglecting our duty if we do not take advantage of those conditions for our own benefit. Some people may ask whether the beet sugar is as good as cane sugar. Just a moment ago I was told that in some parts of Ontario cane sugar is being sold at 15 cents a hundred pounds more than beet sugar. This indicates that there is a sales resistance against beet sugar which is founded upon lack of information. Some may be inclined to doubt what I have said. I do not ask them to accept my words, but I will read some statements they will have a hard time doubting. I have here a statement by Doctor Ralph C. Huston, dean of applied science, Michigan state college, to this effect:

Beet sugar and cane sugar are identical chemically, and when thoroughly purified, they may be used interchangeably.

Then Faith R. Lanman, director of the school of home economics, Ohio state university says:

We believe that pure beet sugar gives the same results as pure cane sugar when used in the making of preserves, jellies and jams.

Ordinarily the propaganda against beet sugar takes some such form as this: Well, your jelly will not jell so readily, and your preserves will not keep so well, or some other such fallacy. Circular No. 33 of the university of California college of agriculture states:

The utter folly of this idea that beet sugar cannot be used for canning purposes is emphasized by the fact that practically all the sugar used in Germany and France for the purpose of canning and preserving is from the beet, and for many years, American refined beet sugar was used without complaint in this country, because the mass of the people were not aware that it was derived from the beet.