

Ontario Department of Agriculture

ONTARIO AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

SUGAR BEETS

By C. A. Zavitz and A. W. Mason

SUGAR PRODUCTION.

The sugar production of the world, under normal conditions, amounts to about twenty million tons annually. Approximately one-half of the total supply is made from beets and one-half from cane. About three-quarters of the cane sugar is produced in Cuba, India, and Java and one-quarter of the beet sugar in Germany.

In the average for the nine years from 1905 to 1913 inclusive, five countries which are now at war, namely, Russia, France, Belgium, Germany and Austria-Hungary, produced 40 per cent. of the world's total supply of sugar and 87 per cent. of the sugar made from beets. Of the amount of sugar produced in the five countries here referred to, Germany and Austria-Hungary produced 60 and Russia, France and Belgium produced 40 per cent. Practically all of the sugar of Russia, coming about 9 per cent. of the sugar of the world, was produced in the south-western portion known as Little Russia or Ukraine.

Before the outbreak of the war, England imported about 1,400,000 tons of sugar from Germany and other neighboring countries. France produced 750,000 and Italy 210,000 tons before the war, and in 1917 the production had fallen to 207,000 tons for France and 75,000 tons for Italy.

It has been recently stated that Great Britain, France and Italy require for use during 1918 approximately two million tons of sugar to be secured from countries outside of Europe. To obtain this supply from India or Java would take three times as long for transportation as to secure it from Cuba. As Cuba furnishes 48 per cent. of the sugar used in the United States, the supply for export to Europe is, therefore, greatly reduced. The domestic production of sugar is 23 per cent. in the United States and only about 5 per cent. in Canada, the rest of the supplies being imported.

The estimated consumption of sugar per capita per annum in the United States for the five years from 1912 to 1916 inclusive, was 84.7 pounds, and for the year from August 31st, 1916, to August 31st, 1917, 88.3 pounds. The consumption of sugar in Canada per unit of population is estimated to be fully as great as that of the United States. In August, 1917, the British Government reduced the household sugar ration to a basis of 24 pounds per annum per person, and in the following month the French Government reduced the annual ration per capita to 13.2 pounds.

THE SUGAR BEET INDUSTRY IN ONTARIO.

Not only have sugar beet experiments been conducted at the Ontario Agricultural College, but co-operative experiments have been conducted by the Depart-