

POOR DOCUMENT M C 2 0 3 5

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., THURSDAY, JULY 22, 1920

YEARS BEFORE SUGAR RETURNS TO THE NORMAL

With Decrease in Supply and
Increase in Consumption
Shortage Will Continue —
The Remedy Is to Encour-
age Planting.

(By P. A. Bonet, Commercial Attache
Cuban Legation Washington.)

The low price at which sugar was selling for years before the war and the fixing of an entirely artificial price on the article during the war seemed to have fostered to some extent the strange belief that no matter what unheard of prices might have to be paid for other things, sugar should remain at virtually the same cheap level, due to the intervention of paternal Governments and the unselfishness and patriotism of altruistic planters.

The day when the wholesale price for sugar on the New York market ranged from \$3.25 to \$3.50 in 1913—that is to say, when the world cane and beet sugar supply had reached the peak at \$1,546,922 tons—is past, and probably will not return in many years.

The supply has dwindled, in fact, to 16,409,600 tons, representing a net deficit of some 4,849,222 tons, and, according to very reliable calculations it appears that it will take Europe at least ten years to reach her pre-war production and that only by a process of normal increase taking place under the most favorable circumstances.

In the meantime consumption of sugar is going at an equal pace with population and civilization. The outstanding facts of the present question are that the world is facing a great decrease in the sugar supply; that the deficit will probably continue for a number of years; that consumption of sugar for many purposes is becoming more generalized every day.

Under the circumstances the best remedy would seem to be to encourage production on a constantly increasing scale as was recently recommended by the Cuban Minister at Washington in order to fill in, as far as possible, what otherwise may well become an everwidening gap.

Must Produce More Sugar.
This brings us face to face with the producer, and in speaking in plain language the world is facing the necessity of inducing him to go ahead, take all the risks and plant as much as he can if more sugar is desired. It seems useless to add that sugar must be paid for accordingly.

Now a few facts about the Cuban situation.

Laboring under very unfavorable conditions, Cuba managed to produce in 1918, 2,428,287 tons but the low prices brought many planters to the brink of ruin. Among the factors that brought about such a bad situation were principally the following: Deficient financial backing for sugar enterprises, exorbitant interest on money needed to plant sugar cane and run sugar mills; the autocratic control of prices by the buyers.

When the world war broke out this desperate situation began to change.

The previous sources of sugar supply

"CHICKEN COME HOME TO ROOST"



—Brewster in Atlanta Journal.

of the Allied nations were cut off. The large supplies on hand began to dwindle. Then came the rising price, but almost immediately afterwards Cuba was called upon to do her part by doubling the production; and she went further than that; she agreed to sell her sugar at a low fixed price, thus contributing millions of dollars to the Allied cause.

As an inevitable consequence of peace, freedom of commerce was reestablished. The shortage being evident, the rise in prices was to be expected, but a large majority of Cuban planters and others thought that the scarcity of money in Europe, curtailing its purchasing power, would bring down the price of sugar to the price of 1913. In fact, Herbert Hoover had been quoted by the Evening Post on June 4, 1919, as saying to the Economic Council in Paris the buying power of the people affected in such a large manner the consumption of sugar that no calculations could be made about what would be the probable demand for importation. The result was that the planters, with the Cuban Government, offered to sell the present crop at 6 1/2 cents per pound, a price that later developments have shown, as the Cuban Minister at Washington has rightly expressed, would have been ruinous to Cuba, due to the daily increase in prices of articles that Cuba must buy, principally in the United States, to feed and clothe her people.

The offer was not accepted, and after a long period of waiting, was withdrawn by the planters.

Under prevailing conditions it would seem that the first thing to do is to encourage the sugar cane planter that he may develop his productive ability in a free, open and world-wide market. This policy seems all the more necessary since the shortage in the Cuban crop of this year, due to the drought, has been

RAINS HELP THE GROWING CROPS IN THE WEST

Winnipeg, Man., July 21—Local showers have fallen at many points in the west during the last twenty-four hours, and with unsettled weather continuing there are strong hopes that the present critical week will see a great improvement in the condition of the grain crop, which is suffering more or less from lack of rain.

The rain was worth millions of dollars to the growing crops.

The weather man predicts showers and thunderstorms in many places in the last twenty-four hours; showers have occurred over the greater part of the west.

Main was reported from every district along the lines of the C. P. R. through the prairies, although not from every point, it was announced from the local offices of the company. Scattered showers were most common, but there were prospects of steady rain at several places. The fall was lightest in Saskatchewan and heaviest around Winnipeg, according to these reports.

The Maritimes Face A Grave Problem!

WHAT will happen to the shipping industry in the Maritime Provinces? The situation is acute. Orders from abroad are at a standstill owing to the high rate of exchange. It bears heavily on the people of the Maritimes. Prominent Canadians are groping for a solution of the problem and the Canadian Government is asked to help; prompt action is necessary to protect this great industry.

It is a situation that calls for close study. Read the timely and intensely interesting contribution to the subject appearing in the July 15th issue of MacLean's Magazine—

"A Great Industry in Peril"

By Joseph Lister

is an article containing vital, inside information regarding shipbuilding in the Maritime Provinces. Don't miss it!

The July 15th issue of MacLean's will contain other features that will be especially interesting to readers in the Maritime Provinces. Here are a few of them:

"A Galaxy of Maritime Portraits"

A remarkable series of sketches of prominent men in the Maritimes—visualizing and emphasizing the true importance of the Eastern Provinces.

"A Newspaper from the Discard"

A story of the unique experience of two Maritime women—a story of their pluck, endurance and resourcefulness, and how they made a big thing out of a run-down newspaper.

Other Big Features of the Number

"Pegging the Dollar at Par"

By Agnes C. Leat

This is a striking and spectacular article regarding the exchange situation by a famous international authority. It is an article that every Canadian should read.

"The Parts Men Play"

By Arthur Bowley Baxter

A generous instalment of the great Anglo-American-Canadian serial that is creating a great deal of favorable comment.

"The Little Warrior"

By Fildham Grenville Woodhouse

A most humorous and absorbing story that is making friends everywhere.

"The Taming of Pickles"

By C. W. Stephens

A thoroughly enjoyable golf story with a love interest that you will want to read and pass on to friends.

"Jeff Comes Home"

By Allen Shaw

An air-man story that bristles with action.

Review of Reviews

Here are a few of the gripping, informative articles to be found in this department:

"Royalty Has Gone to Work"

"Germany and Her Debt"

"The Truth About Coal Shortage"

"Uncle Sam's Huge Pay Roll"

"Native of a Strange Island"

"70,000 Criminals in England"

"Duluth to Liverpool in One Bottom"

"The Pope An Unusual Figure"

Every Family in the Maritime Provinces should read July 15th issue of MacLean's Magazine.

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On Friday I will give a sensational super-saving opportunity on Semi-ready Suits—200 of them, representing all sizes.

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Worth \$45, \$48 and \$50

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Splendidly tailored suits—fitted and finished free of extra charge—at less than pre-war prices—at less than replacement cost. Don't miss seeing them.

It will be my fault if the values, the style and the material do not appeal to you strongly.

Sale Days—Friday, Saturday and Monday

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87 Charlotte Street

A WIDE OPEN TARIFF ENQUIRY IS PROPOSED

Sir Henry Drayton Will
Probably Tour Canada in
Order to Collect Informa-
tion and Hear Suggestions.

Ottawa, July 21—The tariff inquiry to be instituted this fall will be as wide open as could be desired and the parties who wish to have a hearing will be accorded all the time they want, according to the plans of Sir Henry Drayton. The government has not yet decided when the inquiry will begin but it will not be before the end of the summer. Another point undecided is whether the inquiry will be made by a committee of the cabinet or by the finance minister alone with a number of technical advisers but in any event, it will be no brief affair. The minister plans to tour the whole country from east to west and at public sittings give ear to every interest or individual who has views to present.

The coming one will be the first systematic revision of the tariff since 1906 when a committee of the cabinet headed by Hon. W. S. Fielding went over Canada and collected information.

The tariff, from present indications, will be the outstanding if not the almost exclusive feature of big importance at the next session of parliament. It will be based on certain promises established on the platform of the party now in power. The underlying principle to be followed will be the perpetuation of protection but, while there is every probability of duties being cut down or removed on various commodities, or a re-arrangement of the preferential tariff, there is little likelihood of any increase in the present schedule. Incidental to the revision of the tariff will be a decision by the government as to what form of assistance if any will be

LIBERAL LEADER AND MATTER OF BY-ELECTIONS

Hon. Mr. King Has Arranged
to Speak in Eight Points
in Ontario During August.

(Canadian Press Despatch.)

Montreal, July 21—A special despatch to the Montreal Star from Ottawa says: No acclamation will be accorded to cabinet ministers or other supporters of the government if Hon. Mackenzie King, leader of the opposition, has his way.

In a statement bearing on the situation Mr. King declared that the government has usurped all the rights of a free people. A new government has been formed and a new leader appointed. The common right demands a statement from the new premier, not that he is preparing for by-elections, but for a general election. I trust that in the various provinces the people will take action to see that their rights in securing responsible government and a representative parliament are not further usurped and that opposition candidates are put in the field wherever the government brings on a by-election.

Mr. King has arranged to speak at eight points in Ontario in August, making his headquarters in his own constituency of North York. In September he will go to the west, speaking in British Columbia and afterwards coming east.

CONVENTION ENDS.

Moncton, July 21—The New Brunswick Medical Society closed its convention here this afternoon to meet next year in St. John.

given to the development of natural resources.

ADVERTISING THE PORT.

Under the title "Canada's Great Winter Port," a most interesting and comprehensive account of the activities of the port of St. John, fully illustrated with recent photographs, has been prepared by Commissioner T. H. Bullock.

for the Monthly Journal of the American Port Authorities. Other publications, in Canada and the United States have requested similar information from the commissioner of harbors, ferries and public lands, who is disposed to advertise the port as much as lies in his power.

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