

The association issues a protected label to its members free, upon their agreement, filed with the Secretary, that they will use it only upon packages containing pure maple sugar and syrup of standard quality and of their own manufacture. Any improper or unauthorized use of this label or any adulteration of the products covered by the same, will be prosecuted by the association to the full extent of the law. The penalty is not less than \$50 or more than \$200 for each offence. One half of the fine goes to the complainant.

Has the passage of this Act, aided the Vermont farmer and the maple sugar industry or will like legislation better the prospects of the farmer and the maple industry of Canada? I will answer both questions alike. Yes. If something had not been done to prevent the decrease in our maple product, in a few years it would probably have passed out of existence.

I know you, as well as we of Vermont, have had discouraging circumstances to deal with. Why has not the production of pure maple sugar increased with the demand? First the increase has been met by the mixer; the farmer is discouraged, he can not make the pure maple sugar of No. 1 quality and compete with the spurious article of the mixer at the price the latter is placed on the market, when labeled as pure maple sugar, when in reality but a small per cent, if any of it, ever came from a maple tree. The securing of labor has been a severe problem with us in Vermont, but the most lamentable and inexcusable part of the whole industry is the production of a poor grade of sugar which is fit only for the mixer, tobacco factories and the distillers of liquor. The prices paid were so low that the farmer received poor remuneration for his labor, causing him to stop making and in many cases being short of ready money, he has cut down the old sugar place which was the pride of generations. The timber has been sold to the ever greedy mill but a wrong has been committed which succeeding generations cannot repair.

When we consider the fact that the little State of Vermont, with only 10,200 square miles, has a yearly income of \$1,086,933 from her maple products, we realize the industry is worth fighting for. I see, to see two classes of maple sugar makers, one class laboring as of old, with the same old notions, and following the same old methods, while the others comprehend that they are manufacturing an article which is used as a luxury and not as a commercial commodity. This latter class use their best endeavors to perfect their goods. The former are working under difficulties, while the latter are getting abundant returns for their labor.