

The history of the rise of beet-sugar in California is instructive in the present circumstances. For many years a very small ill-built factory at Alvarado near St. Francisco struggled successfully with the greatest sugar refiner in the world, Mr. Claus Spreckles and undersold him on the St. Francisco market, although he was supplied with free cane-sugar from the Haway Islands. The little factory lost heavily until the supply of beets was sufficient and then became all powerful. The result is that Mr. Speckles has built one of the finest beet sugar factory in the world, at Watsonville, near Santa-Cruz, and the U.-S. Government recognizing the claims of the industry has lately voted a bonus of one cent per pound to home made sugar. More new factories are going up in California and a great future is predicted for them. Now California is in no way so well adapted for the culture of the beet or the manufacture of beet-sugar as Canada. Our cold winters are an immense advantage, enabling us to keep the beets till May without loss, while in California as in Europe, they begin to germinate and to lose their sugar in January. Labor is but half the price in Canada. Coal costs about one fifth as much and richer beets can be grown with greater ease.

The question is often asked whether beet-sugar can compete with cane-sugar. An instance of this has already been cited in St. Francisco; but also on the London market to-day they meet on equal terms. The German beet-sugar has now no bounty to back it up, and yet can easily undersell cane-sugar of the same test. Coming nearer home, great quantities of beet-sugar are sold in New-York and Philadelphia markets and large amounts are frequently imported by Canadian refiners.

Of the effect on the country at large of the introduction of the sugar beet as a crop few are aware. The deplorable state of agriculture in this Province is greatly due to the absence of root-crops. There is nothing known of deep ploughing or thorough cultivation of the soil, except by those in immediate vicinity of large cities where vegetables are cultivated. Now it is a household word in Europe that the sugar-beet is the improver of the land. It requires a care which no other crop needs, and the farmer finds that intelligent manipulation and manuring greatly repays him. Very many Canadian farmers who were victimized by the first beet-sugar companies in the Province of Quebec engaged last year to grow beets again because the crops of grain following the beets have been astonishingly fine. And it is not to be supposed that the interest of the farmer in the undertaking ends with the raising of the beet. The question of the refuse is a matter of vital importance to him. It may be roughly stated that all the cattle in North of Europe get to-day nothing to eat but beet pulp and a little straw. It is a food whose value is greater than that of turnips or mangel wurzel, containing as it does a higher amount of nutritive matter. It has also the additional advantage of being cooked, having been subjected to a nearly boiling temperature in the extraction process. There was some trouble experienced in the disposing of it at the beginning of the season, but soon the demand on the Montreal market increased far more rapidly than the supply, and from 50 cts a ton the price went up to \$2.50 with any number of buyers. Being produced in the winter-time, it meets a serious want now felt by farmers and milkmen. It takes three tons of beets to make one ton of pressed pulp.

It is interesting to calculate what the production of enough beet-sugar to cover the home consumption would involve. The quantity of sugar entered for consumption in 1887 was about one hundred thousand tons. This would mean one million two hundred thousand tons of beets at the very least, and represents, at \$1.50 a ton, five million four hundred thousand dollars paid to farmers. It would necessitate the

cultivation of eighty to one hundred thousand acres of land, and an expenditure on the part of the farmers of two millions of dollars. It would necessitate the building of fifty factories representing about two hundred and fifty thousand dollars a piece or an aggregate of twelve millions and a half, all the machinery for which could be manufactured in this country. These factories would employ five thousand men in the winter-time, would burn yearly fully three hundred thousand tons of coal and use annually seventy-five thousand tons of limestone. Finally, the pulp would fatten one hundred thousand head of cattle. The above figures are not mere speculations but the result of forty year's experience in Europe.

In Canada beet-sugar is just being born. The difficulties described in preceding pages as having been undergone by the Company are considerably understated, and while future gains may be great, present losses are severe. Surely those who have undertaken so much are worthy of any legitimate encouragement directly or indirectly. We invite the attention of all who have the good of the country and specially of the agricultural population at heart to the struggle now going on and look for support from those who can give it and sympathy from all.

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