

APPENDIX No. 1

By Mr. Clancy :

Q. This is an important question, the two sides are presented, one side contends that sugar beets do not exhaust the land, and the other side contends that they do ; what is your opinion ?

A. I gave this committee the figures last year on which my opinion was based. These were the results of a number of analyses of the roots of the sugar beet. These figures proved that the sugar beet was a very exhaustive crop.

By Mr. McGowan :

Q. Does it exhaust the land more than turnips ?

A. Yes, sir, considerably more. I may be wrong in my opinion—I am always willing to be corrected—but my impression is that this is an industry that we had better go slowly in extending at present. There is said to be a large surplus of sugar in the world, more than is required at present—experts place that at about 1,250,000 tons. The Cubans, who have been prevented from producing much sugar by the war, formerly made about 900,000 tons per annum. During the war this is said to have been reduced to about 200,000 tons. The sugar industry is rapidly reviving there and the use vegetable food mainly, which the islands produce in great abundance. In Germany the rate of wages is about 50 cents for men and 37½ cents for women, a large number of whom work in the fields and factories in that country. One wouldn't expect women in this country to go to work in the fields, but in going through France I saw about as many women working in the fields as men. We could perhaps get over this difficulty partly by using improved machinery, but such improved implements would soon find their way into the hands of our competitors when their advantages were known.

The CHAIRMAN.—I think it will be better perhaps to adjourn now and defer further information for another meeting.

A. If you will permit me, I would like to finish my remarks with reference to the yields of the different varieties of farm crops, as I had nearly completed this part of my evidence.

By Mr. Cochrane :

Q. Before you go on to that, will you tell me whether you have taken any action to find out whether those roots that produced such a large crop by sowing early are fully equal in quality to roots sown later ?

A. We have not submitted these to a chemical analysis, but from a casual examination they appear to be a little more stringy or woody, but practically in our feeding experiments we have not found any material difference.

By Mr. Richardson :

Q. What is likely to be the effect on the beet sugar industry in this country of the prospective reduction of the sugar bounties in Europe ?

A. That might be beneficial. Great Britain, as I understand it, from the very brief notice we have received by cable, contemplates taking such action as will be equivalent to a bounty of one-halfpenny per pound on West Indian sugar, which will, if carried out, no doubt give a great stimulus to the production of sugar in the West Indian islands, where the industry has been almost ruined by the competition of the bounty-fed sugar produced from the beet in Europe. If that is correct, work on the sugar plantations is likely to be resumed. Should this bring about any protective movement in Canada in favour of West Indian sugar, that might also favour home grown sugar and thus assist the beet sugar industry here.

Q. So that the whole tendency of this action might be to advance the industry here ?

A. I think that is probable as far as one can judge from the limited information available.