

custody, and that his friends will take care to submit it for examination, along with the particulars of its discovery, to those persons who are competent to pass an opinion upon its scientific value.—*Athenæum.*

THE NEW INDUSTRY—ONE WORD MORE.

We chronicled some time ago the successful starting of the works of the Maine Beet Sugar Company at Portland. Beets enough have been received by the Company this season to occupy the factory ten or fifteen days, working from seventy to one hundred tons a day. Had sufficient beets been grown to have kept the factory at work one hundred days instead of fifteen—it would have been a positive success. It is a success even now up to this one point; the machinery necessary for making beet sugar has been fitted up by the Company at a cost of some \$15,000; they have demonstrated that sugar can be made from beets grown in Maine.

The enterprise started last spring under many disadvantages. Late planting of the beets was one of the chief of these, and late planting, too, on land prepared in the spring, or imperfectly prepared the fall previous. The soil on which sugar beets are to be planted should be thoroughly prepared in the fall, so that the only thing to be done to it in the spring is a light surface cultivation. Then plant the seed very early—it may be planted, indeed, before thorough culture of the soil could be possible on account of frost. Some recent figures which relate to the proportions of this industry in Germany, derived from the last issued report of the Government Sugar Inspectors, are interesting. These show that in Europe in 1877, there were 1618 beet sugar houses, making raw sugar, 265 sugar refineries—of which France had 552 of the former and 49 of the latter; Austria 245 sugar houses and 5 refineries; Germany 339 houses and 78 refineries; Belgium 151 houses and 37 refineries; Holland 32 houses and 15 refineries, and Prussia 267 houses and 10 refineries. In 1840, when the beet sugar industry was inaugurated in Germany there were 145 sugar houses in operation, which consumed 482,973,400 lbs. of beets, or an average per factory of 3,330,000 lbs.; the yield of sugar was 28,410,200 lbs., or an average per factory of 195,900 lbs., and it required 17 lbs. of beets to produce one of sugar. In 1876-7 there were in the same territory, 332 sugar houses, consuming 8,322,568,300 lbs. of beets, an average per factory of 25,068,000 lbs.; yielding a total of 715,096,400 lbs. of sugar, or an average of 2,156,900 each, and it required but 11½ lbs. of beets to

make one of sugar. So far as the beet sugar industry is concerned in this State, its success, as we have before said, depends only on the growing of the beets. This is all. The results of the present year, under the most unfavorable circumstances, show that farmers can realize from \$80 to \$120 per acre, cash, for the crop, or more than the average obtained from corn grown for canning purposes. One matter that has not yet come into our discussion of this subject is that of the disposition of the pulp. This is a most valuable feeding stuff for cows, horses, hogs or sheep—more valuable, in fact, than the beets themselves, because cut, ready to be fed with hay or straw in the form of chopped feed, it has parted with most of its water, and the same weight is four times richer in nitrogenous matter than the beets themselves. What our farmers need is this pulp for feeding to their farm animals. Should farmers in our State be willing to grow beets another season sufficient to warrant the expenditure, the Company will at once proceed to build six or eight sugar houses for producing raw sugar from the beets, in various parts of Maine, so that farmers can be within easy reach of transportation to a factory, and can also haul back to their farms the pulp made from the evaporation of the beets into crude sugar. The raw sugar can then be transported to the refinery of the Company in Portland to be manufactured into the standard article—*Maine Farmer.*

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