

The Cuban planters demand 7c. for the coming crop, which, if they get, will make the raw cost about 8 1-2c. per lb. at New York, duty paid, plus cost of refining, etc. How much of this extreme price is due to U. S. influence can be told when we learn what U. S. concerns control sugar in Cuba.

Last month Standard Granulated wholesaled in New York at 9c. If the above high price, 7c., is paid at Cuba, it means that Standard Granulated would have to wholesale about 10 1-2 in New York. Every month ahead, with sugar as with wheat, will see wider areas for Cane and Beet. This with the certain gradual decline of freight ought to allay the scare of 20c sugar. It is quite improbable that it will go above the present price, 11 1-2 to 12c per lb. retail.

Our Export Policy. Britain did not hesitate to place embargoes on both imports and exports when needed for her people. Beginning September 1st, almost all import restrictions ceased in Great Britain, as it was against their interests to continue them. If a disaster should happen to Canada's crop of wheat, vegetables or hay, Government might, in order to prevent outrageous prices, limit the export of wheat, or potatoes, or hay. This would be only a crisis measure to meet some extreme condition, such a measure would be quite warranted if Canadian millers combined to put Flour at \$20.00 per bbl., or if Western Grain Growers demanded \$2.50 for wheat, or the Canneries Limited agreed on an unconscionable price for Tomatoes, Corn, etc., or if the Refineries held out for 15c per lb on sugar. The Board of Commerce would

then limit export and make food cheaper for the people. On August 4th the Canadian Government saw the threat of high-priced footwear. They at once prohibited export of Canadian hides. Within a week hides declined 10c and calfekins 20c on the Montreal market. This prevented the advance in boots and shoes that was heralded last July. We must remember that two can play at this game of embargo policy. We raise many ordinary hides and skins, but we import from the U. S. many fine quality hides and leather. What would be the position here if the U. S. prohibited the export of fine leathers? That is the possibility before the Board of Commerce in all these questions of embargoes. The Board has complete control over all companies and combines. These last are legal if they receive fair profits. If the Board declares their profits unfair, then they are liable to heavy fines and must cease the unfair prices. It remains now to be seen how this Board will deal with the canned goods combine, &c.

One suggestion, that of Co-operative companies might be considered by the Board. Would it not be a wise policy to accept Section 8 of the Liberal Party Platform "Federal Incorporation of Co-operative Associations," and make it a crime for wholesalers or factories to refuse to sell to the same? If combines are legal, why not Co-operative Associations also legal, with power to buy and sell? If there be any wise method by which the middleman can be eliminated, and these heavy overhead costs cut down, is it not the plain duty of the government to evolve that method?