

When Messrs. Lefebvre undertook to revive the business, they felt that the all-important point was to secure a sufficient supply of beets and the best quality possible under the then circumstances. In order to accomplish this, special inducements were offered to farmers. The very best seed procurable in France was imported, and sold to farmers at a little under cost. The Messrs. Lefebvre agreed to accept all sugar beets grown from their seed at \$5 per ton, which is a much higher price than will be necessary to be paid when the cultivation of this crop is thoroughly understood. They also agreed to pay this price irrespective of quality. Even with these inducements the quality of beets delivered at the factory from the crop of 1893 was insufficient to keep the factory in operation for one-half of the working season, and a large proportion of the beets was of very inferior quality. As might be expected under such circumstances, the operations of the campaign of 1893-94 resulted in very considerable loss. One favorable result of the season's business was a largely increased inclination on the part of the farmers to undertake the cultivation of sugar beets on a much more extensive scale. Together with this, there was good evidence obtained from the very fine quality of some of the beets furnished that a great improvement in the general quality of the roots might be confidently expected in the near future.

In the spring of 1894 the same arrangements were made with farmers as to seed and price to be paid for beets. Under a liberal arrangement made with the railway company, beets are transported from outlying stations within a distance of 55 miles of the factory at a uniform rate of 50 cents per ton. Quite a large proportion of the beets is received by barges from different points on the river. As a result of the liberal inducements offered to farmers, the Messrs. Lefebvre have been able to obtain an ample supply of roots for the whole of this season's work at the factory. There has been some improvement in the quality of the beets, but much remains to be yet accomplished in this respect. When it is considered that the Messrs. Oxnard, who had about eight years' experience with their two factories in Nebraska, have not yet been able to secure a sufficient supply for their factories, the Messrs. Lefebvre may be congratulated in having demonstrated through two years' operations that in Canada this preeminently important question of the sufficient supply of beets has been definitely settled. They feel sanguine that even under the present unprecedentedly low price of sugar this season's operations will result in a small profit.

I had an opportunity of obtaining some information with respect to the feelings of the farmers regarding this industry. No future trouble need now be apprehended with respect to the sufficiency of a supply of beets. Farmers feel that a sugar beet crop not only gives them an immensely greater return per acre than any other, but that the cultivation required greatly improves the land for future crops of every kind. The fattening of cattle, and the factory manufacturing of cheese and butter, within quite a long distance of Berthelville, have been greatly stimulated by the supply of the pulp from the factory, for which there is an active demand for all that can be supplied. In a few cases as much as 20 tons of beets per acre were

obtained. Hon. Mr. Beaubien, Minister of Agriculture, obtained 22 tons from an experiment on one acre. One farmer who works 150 acres cultivated 20 acres of beets last year, from which he derived a profit of about \$60 per acre, much more than he realized out of the whole of the other 130 acres. Another farmer, who raised nine acres, obtained 13 tons per acre, for which he received \$585. This farmer worked his farm with the aid of his son, and with one hired man for three weeks, from which it may be seen that the cost and labor in cultivating sugar beets is not such a heavy matter as is generally supposed.

If the present or a sufficient bonus shall be granted by Parliament, on home-grown sugar, the Messrs. Lefebvre have their arrangements completed for erecting a new factory of at least 400 tons daily capacity, and they believe that foreign capital can be obtained towards erecting two or three factories in Ontario.

In Europe the beet-sugar industry has been liberally fostered and aided in two ways. First, by a very high tariff on imports of foreign sugar. Second, by liberal bounties on the surplus sugar exported. The bounty system in Germany has been reduced from time to time, until now it amounts to a very insignificant sum, and it is said that the German sugar manufacturers would willingly see it abolished altogether, if France, Austria-Hungary and other European countries would adopt the same policy. This industry has never been established, nor can it be successfully established in any country, except under heavy import duties on foreign sugars, or liberal assistance from Government during its early years of operation. Many free traders object to the bounty system, by referring to the large amount which it has cost Germany. On the other hand, it may be safely contended that the success achieved has amply justified the expenditure incurred. The capital invested in the factories alone is fully \$80,000,000 and the value of the out-turn of the sugar for consumption in, and export from Germany during the last season and estimated for the present season is about \$80,000,000 each year. In view of the stimulus which this industry has imparted to every branch of the agricultural, manufacturing, commercial, transportation and financial interests of that empire, any large decrease in the operation or prosperity of the beet-sugar industry would prove a national calamity.

Canada has a soil and climate admirably adapted for the cultivation of sugar beet. It has a farming population as industrious and intelligent as any country in the world; it has as well educated and skilful mechanics as are to be found anywhere; it has an immense amount of idle capital looking for safe and profitable investments. There is every reason to believe that this industry will succeed as fully and as rapidly in Canada as it has done in any country, if afforded the like liberal Government encouragement and assistance which it has received elsewhere.

#### CANADA'S SPLENDID CANAL SYSTEM.

Remarkably strong testimony as to the superiority of the Canadian water route to the ocean was that published in the New York Times a few days ago. It was an interview on canal enlargement with Mr. Edward C. O'Brien, who was Commissioner of Navigation under President