

Sugar Production is Profitable

While the recent scare over the prediction of 20-cent sugar would appear to have been somewhat exaggerated there is no doubt that there exists an acute situation all over the world in regard to supplies of raw sugar, and a stiffening of prices of the refined are almost inevitable. The present difficulties are due not only to a serious lessening of the production of beet sugar, but to what has been termed most aptly, the "sugar spree" that has been indulged in by the people of the United States and to almost as great an extent the Canadians, for in four years Canada's consumption rose from 590,000,000 to 734,000,000 lbs. When the per capita consumption in the States, which, by the way, calls for one-fourth of the world production, rises from 33 lbs. per annum in 1870 to 83 lbs. at the present time, and when the total consumption doubles since 1900, while the population went up less than one-third, the partial cause for present shortage is evident.

So far, however, as production is concerned cane sugar responded to the increased demand, but beet sugar dropped sadly behind. Germany, Austria and Russia are the three great producers of beet sugar, the three in 1913-14 producing over 6,000,000 tons, about the same quantity as the cane sugar crop. But the past year this total was cut nearly in two, and although cane sugar increased to 8,370,000 tons, there was a falling off of over 1,000,000 tons in the total.

Where, then, can Canada hope to secure the raw sugar for her 90 lbs. per capita of consumption; where will the United States get its 9,000,000,000 lbs.; and how can the rest of the world receive a fair quota? With Cuba, alone, it seems, rests the answer. India and Java between them last year produced about 5,000,000 tons, but India

will need not only all her own supply, but will have to call upon Java for anywhere from half a million to one million tons. Cuba, it is estimated will produce about 4,300,000 tons next year, valued at \$685,000,000 and in the ability of Sugar Island to increase steadily its production rests the hope of a sugar-hungry world. Naturally, under these conditions the price of raws is advancing. The average pre-war price was \$2.25 in Canada; in 1917 it was \$5.25 per cwt.; to-day it is over \$8.12 per cwt., and in view of the huge demand and relative shortage, higher, rather than lower prices, may be expected in the next year or two.

For the heavy Canadian investments in Cuba this situation will be most encouraging, for by far the largest portion of Cuba's exports consist of its national crop, raw sugar cane. For this the Island is peculiarly well situated both from the point of view of geography and climate. In "freight-time" it is nearer its great receiving market, New York, than Winnipeg is from Montreal. In contrast to many other sugar districts the land requires little fertilization or replanting this applying particularly to Oriente, one of its chief sugar provinces for instance. American capitalists have recognized the large possibilities in the Cuban sugar industry, and the five companies controlled in the United States will produce this year more than one-fourth of the total cane sugar. To those interested in stock market movements as an index of values it may be mentioned that one of these, Punta Alegre, rose from 51 in April to about 80 to-day, and another, Cuban-American, made a still more significant record, advancing from 150 at the beginning of the year to over 400 at the present time.

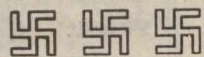
With such natural prospects and with the suc-

cessful results that have accrued to Canadian Interests already in operation in Cuba, such as the Royal Bank, the Sun Life Assurance Company, and the Cuban Railroad Company, started by Sir William Van Horne,—it would appear probable that further Canadian investments will be made towards the development of the resources of the Island.

The Canadian Poultry Situation.

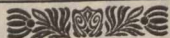
No branch of food production has suffered during the war to a greater extent than that of poultry and eggs. In many countries of Europe it has almost disappeared, while in others scarcity of feed and high prices and the closing of markets have compelled serious reductions of poultry flocks. The need thus created is regarded by Mr. W. A. Brown, chief of the Poultry Division of the federal Live Stock Branch, as Canada's opportunity to pave the way for a permanent place in the export trade to Great Britain. Mr. Brown expressed this opinion at the first Canadian National Poultry Conference, held in Ottawa this year, the report of which has been published and is available at the Publications Branch of the Department of Agriculture at Ottawa. It was strongly urged at that conference that this is the time of co-operation. The provinces were recommended to co-operate with the Dominion as the great clearing house of operations calculated to promote the industry. The poultry industry was recommended as a means of soldiers' re-establishment by Mr. W. J. Black, Chairman of the Land Settlement Board. He expressed the hope that he would see a small flock of poultry about the homes of every returned soldier who becomes settled on the land.

Monday, December 1—A holiday (Flag Day) in Azores, Maderia Islands, Portugal, Portuguese East Africa, Portuguese West Africa. Also in Liberia (Newport Day.)



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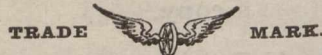
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