

D.—Respecting the price offered for beets, by beet-sugar makers in Canada, and the price paid for the same in Europe, it is an undoubted fact that farmers, at least in this province, are quite willing to produce beets in large quantities for the price offered. As to European prices, and particularly so in Germany, it is well known that the enormous profits made by such concerns are shared with most of the farmers interested, who are, in fact, either sole owners, or at least the largest share holders in the beet sugar factories.

These farming share owners agree in advance to grow at least 60 per cent of all the beets to be worked. These same wealthy farmers again grow a large part of the surplus annually needed. For such share owners, who are generally paid according to the richness of their beets in sugar, the set price of beets is really immaterial, for what they lose on the true value of beets, they more than make up in their share of the net profits of the factory. This principle, of interesting the beet producing farmers in the success of this industry, is everywhere recognized as the true factor of increased production and wealth. Where it is not followed, the beet producers become the antagonists of the manufacturer; their disagreements are constant, and the industry greatly suffers thereby. As to the net profits of well managed beet-sugar factories say in Germany and Austria, it is an open secret that they very often reach the enormous amount of 60 and 70 per cent, and sometimes even more, per annum, when all is told.

As to the numerous failures of similar industries in America, it can be easily proved that, in every case, want of experience in this art has been the principal cause, and also want of the necessary capital to secure final success.

A good deal more might usefully be said on the subject of beet sugar production in Canada. However, the undersigned respectfully submits the above as his conclusions, after a long and careful study of the subject. He trusts that his arguments may be read with care by our Canadian statesmen before dealing decisively with a subject which he again begs leave to call of the highest national import, and which must necessarily bring on a very great improvement in our agricultural pursuits generally.

Respectfully submitted,

ED. A. BARNARD,

Secretary to the Council of Agriculture and
Director of the *Journal of Agriculture*.

Quebec, April 18th, 1892.

The Beet-Sugar Industry.

MR. ED. A. BARNARD,

Director of the *Journals of Agriculture*.

Dear Sir,

You ask me to give you the opinions of some of the competent authorities on the subject of the sugar-industry, as to the advantages offered by the manufacture of beet-sugar, both from the agricultural point of view, and from that of the general prosperity of the country.

You also ask me to draw a comparison between the industries of the refining and of the manufacture of sugar, in order to enable you to judge of the real profits that the Canadian population may be in a position to derive from the one or the other of these industries.

In reply to your second request, I offer here some figures, as nearly exact as possible, which I am fortunate enough to be able to communicate to you :

WORKING OF THE REFINERY IN CANADA :

- a.—Common raw-sugar, at 96° of polarisation (that usually employed), imported from Germany, Austria, Cuba, the Philippine islands, &c., price landed at Montreal 3 cts. to 3½ the lb. 3 to 3½ cts. the lb.
- b.—Refined white Canadian sugar, wholesale—average price of the year. 4½ “
(100 lbs. raw sugar yields 90 lb. of refined.)
- c.—Cost of refining 100 lbs. \$0.50

This is the maximum cost. It represents :

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| Labour | 17 to 18 cts. |
| Fuel, animal black, &c., about | 13 “ |
| Barrels | 12 “ |
| Expenses | 7 to 8 “ |
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| Total | 50 cts. |

MANUFACTURE OF BEET-SUGAR IN CANADA :

- a.—Beets, per ton, at the received yield of 10 % of sugar, or 200 lbs. per ton of beets :
Value of a ton of beets \$4.50
Average of freight, expenses &c.50

- Total \$5.00
- b.—Cost of manufacture, at the usual rate (*marche normale*) on a large scale, about \$3.00 per ton of beets.

It may be admitted that the sugar and the bounty given by the Dominion government represent 5 cents a pound for ordinary sugar at 96° to 98° of polarisation. This would give the manufacturers \$2.00 profit per ton of beets, without reckoning the molasses and the pulp, but for all these figures a pre-supposed *marche normale* must be taken.

In order to facilitate the comparison between the two industries, let us apply these figures to a ton of refined sugar and a ton of sugar made in Canada :

BY THE REFINER, there is expended in Canada in the production of a ton of refined sugar \$0.50 × 20—\$10.00

Observe that the refiner is protected by 80 cts per 100 lbs., the duty on all imported refined sugar. His profit (at a yield of 90 %) is at present about \$10 to \$11 a ton.

BY THE BEET-SUGAR FACTORY, there is expended in Canada in the production of a ton of sugar :

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|---|---------|
| Purchase of ten tons of Canadian beets, paid to the grower, at \$4.50 the ton | 45.00 |
| Cost of manufacture, comprising the freight, labour, fuel, &c., equal to \$3.50 per ton of beets, or for 10 tons, yielding a ton of sugar | 35.00 |
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| Total | \$80.00 |

Thus, in brief, while the refiner only expends \$10.00 on each ton of sugar, the manufacturer who turns out a ton of beet-sugar expends in the country the considerable sum of \$80.00.

As to the importance to which the beet-sugar industry may aspire, and the need which consequently exists of helping the establishment of this manufacture as well its full development: wherever it is possible, what can we adduce more convincing than the following words addressed, in 1884, in the Chamber of Deputies at Paris, by M. Méline, the Minister of Agriculture :