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Sugar Making.

The season for manufacturing sugar is at hand, and a few practical directions may be found useful to those who intend to devote attention to the business. In consequence of the severe frosts that have prevailed this season, it will, doubtless, be favourable for the manufacture of sugar from the maple. Some suppose, that, on the score of economy, the time expended in making maple sugar might be more profitably employed in prosecuting other branches of labour on the farm. We can confidently advise those who have a good sugar bush to pay every proper attention to it, as it will be found, upon a strict investigation of the matter, to afford as profitable a return as almost any other branch of farm labour.

In a season, tolerably favourable for the business, three pounds of sugar may be extracted from the sap produced from each tree, besides a considerable quantity of molasses and vinegar. The saccharine matter produced, suited only for the manufacture of the latter, will, in an average of years, be equal to one-sixth of the whole quantity yielded by the bush.

Two men will attend to five hundred trees, without any inconvenience, provided that proper appliances and fixtures be provided. The season, in an average of cases, does not exceed four weeks, and by using ordinary economy, in that time, two men may make 1500 lbs. of sugar and upwards, besides molasses and vinegar sufficient for a common-sized family, for a twelvemonth. A good quality of maple sugar is worth £2 per 100 lbs., which, on the above amount, without including the molasses and vinegar, would give a cost return of £30. The writer is acquainted with Canadian farmers who make a practice of tapping from one to two thousand trees annually, and from which they derive an annual income of from £50 to £100; but the usual practice is to manufacture only what would be required for domestic use, being the product from two to three hundred trees.

The most northern portions of Canada settlements will produce the greatest quantities of sugar from the maple. The forests on the south shore of Lake Huron, as well as those on numerous islands, on that extensive sheet of water, contain a very large quantity of the largest sized sugar maple; and in that region of country, the sugar season lasts one-third longer than it does on the borders of Lakes Ontario and Erie. A merchant, who trades extensively in the article of maple sugar, manufactured by the Indians, has repeatedly assured us, that if proper encouragement was given to the business, the sugar manufactured in that region, by the Indians and white population, might be made to yield an annual return of upwards of £100,000. On the great Manitoulin Island, even as unfavourable as was last year for the business, the aborigines made and sold upwards of 100,000 lbs. of sugar: a considerable proportion of which was bought by Michigan merchants, in exchange for woolen and cotton goods.

This province contains an abundance of sugar maple to supply its population with sugar for a hundred years to come; but it does not follow, from this fact, that sugar will be made in a sufficient quantity to meet that demand. To argue on such a basis as this, would accomplish no good, and besides, it would result in disappointment to those who might favour the opinion. Because the soil of Canada contains the natural elements for the production of a hundred or more times the quantity of grains and vegetables that are annually produced, it would be wrong to argue that any approach towards such an abundant yield, could be harvested from our soil. But, nevertheless, it would be fair to infer, that the average yield might be greatly increased. So it is with the production of sugar from our extensive forests of maples, with the difference in favour of the latter, arising from the fact, that, in the business of making sugar, no cultivation whatever is required, the trees being the natural