

## IV.

## VALUE OF THE SUGAR BEETS PRODUCED IN CANADA, AND CONCLUSIONS.

Now we come to the point: What is the saccharine quality of our Province of Quebec sugar beets? The answer I am going to give you is official, and little known outside of the Department of Agriculture in Quebec. Some trials and analyses of beets have been made from year to year; but, unfortunately, from want of the proper experience, the beets cultivated previous to this year proved rather poor in sugar. This fact we now was due to want of care in the cultivation of the beet, on the part of the farmers, and also, to a degree, from inferior seed.

Last year the department imported what was guaranteed as excellent seed. It was distributed through the members of Parliament, in most cases, but, unfortunately, rather late in the season by most. This distribution was accompanied with printed instructions, insisting in the most pressing terms on the special mode of culture necessary to the production of the best sugar beets.

In the fall, circulars were again issued, from the Department, requesting that samples be sent of the beets cultivated, with answers to several questions therein contained, relating to the mode of culture, of manuring, the time of seeding, of cropping, &c., &c. Several hundreds of answers were sent in, accompanied by about 300 samples of beets. Out of these, 15 samples have been carefully analyzed by Mr. Octave Cuisset, a special chemist attached to the Department, who has had an experience of many years in the practical manufacturing of beet sugar, both in Belgium and France, and who actually manufactured some coarse unrefined sugar from Canadian beets, merely to show he understood the business.

In order to maintain the most convincing proof possible as to the value of the analysis made in our department, we sent over twelve samples each to France and to Belgium for analysis, to the best recommended special chemists in those countries gentlemen who have now been consulted for the last three years by the Department of Agriculture. These samples sent to Europe were selected out of similar lots produced on twelve different farms in various parts of the Province; they were all numbered carefully, and many weeks before the answers came over from France and Belgium, were caused to be published and printed, in the Department report of 1876, the analysis made here on the same lots as those sent to Europe. We subsequently received answers from France and from Belgium.

What are the results? I will say that they deserve our most careful consideration. They are:

Firstly. That the various analyses made in France, in Belgium and in Quebec, on the twelve identical lots above mentioned, hardly differ at all—more than could have been expected from different beets grown in the same field—proving that our analysis are entirely to be trusted.

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