

* Open Letters. *

The Best Sugar Industry.

SIR,—The time is not far distant when the consumption of sugar in the United States and Canada will reach 5,000,000 net tons. The per capita consumption in the United States in 1897 was 85 pounds. By 1925 the population of these two great English speaking communities will be not less than 130,000,000. If the per capita consumption is 85 pounds the total amount consumed will be 5,575,000 tons, at an average price of 3 cents per pound or \$60 per ton the value will be \$334,500,000. At the present time we do not produce in the two countries 10 per cent. of the sugar consumed. We can produce all of it from beets alone. The market already exists. It is but to be developed, the demand ever increasing, is as permanent as human existence upon this earth.

Shall we continue to import 90 per cent of our supply. Is it wise for any intelligent community to be dependent upon foreigners for a prime necessary of human life, when ordinary skill can produce it at home at a large profit. A sane child will answer this question in the negative with a big no. Sugar (refined granulated) has been made at Rome very successfully from beets and will be made this coming fall. The soil and climate of Ontario, south of Toronto, Guelph and Goderich is far better adapted for the production of the Sugar beet than in the vicinity of Rome. Frosts continue later in the spring and come earlier in the fall at Rome, than in the section of Canada named above. Twelve and one-half tons of beets per acre is an average crop on a large scale. They are worth net at factory in cash \$4 per ton or \$50 per acre. An acre of beets should produce 3,000 pounds of sugar. The product at that price gives the beet grower and the sugar refiner a good profit, and the consumer, cheap, pure, refined sugar. If the raw sugar is produced in Germany, Java, Cuba or Brazil, the consumer in America must pay freight, and charge upon it to the point of consumption in addition to cost of production. If it is produced in the State or country in which he resides, cost of transportation is small. Ontario has the land, the capital and the skill to produce sugar from beets, and a home market at present for not less than 350,000,000 pounds which now costs the consumer not less than \$20,000,000 annually.

Our fruit canning and preserving industry is in its *infancy*. Cheap sugar will promote development.

In your climate sugar is a good fuel for the production of heat in the human animal. It can be produced at a fair profit at 3 cents per pound in Ontario.

Land upon which beets have been grown is

in prime condition for other farm crops. The Government of Ontario should promote this great and valuable industry.

The average value of one acre of beets well cultivated, is as much as the average value of four acres of wheat or barley.

I have given the question much study the past six years, and may, if your readers desire it, write further upon the subject.

FRANCIS WAYLAND GLEN.

Brooklyn, May 14, 1898.

New Fruits Wanted.

SIR,—For the past thirty years those who undertake to originate new varieties of fruits have been trying to produce a first-class strawberry that would ripen very early because very early fruit commanded a high price. The refrigerator car has made it impossible for growers of strawberries in this vicinity to secure an extra price for very early berries. We begin to receive them from Florida and Louisiana March 1st, and then later from Georgia and Tennessee, and later still from Virginia and Maryland, and by June 1st when they come in from New Jersey and Long Island the price is low. It is surprising how many strawberries can be sold in this market at 25 cents a quart retail. We have in greater New York, Jersey City and Newark, say, 8,000 grocery-men who sell green fruits. If they sell only 12½ quarts each per day this total sale is 100,000 quarts at \$25,000. In addition is the retail fruit dealers, hotels and eating houses who buy direct from the wholesale dealers and beside there are thousands of men who hawk them through the residential streets from house to house. From five to ten such dealers call at our house every day with all kinds of vegetables. After the local growers sent in the greater part of their crop the prices go up from day to day until prime berries command large prices. The weather is very hot and the appetite for acid fruits is very strong. At 15 cents per quart this sale of prime strawberries in July in this market would be enormous. A good late strawberry, the later the better, would be a money-getter. They can be sent here in refrigerator cars from Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia cheaper and in less time than from Georgia or Virginia. Twenty car-loads per day containing 10,000 quarts each would not glut this market in July.

The man who first originates a prime late strawberry that will bear transportation will reap a liberal reward.

FRANCIS WAYLAND GLEN.