

Sugar Beet Tests.

DURING the past 12 to 15 years, requests to have Sugar Beets analyzed at the Ontario Agricultural College have been made either directly or indirectly, through the Ontario Department of Agriculture. These requests have arisen through the distribution of sugar beet seed at various times and by different parties interested in the sugar-beet industry. In response, the Ontario Agricultural College has on several different occasions made numerous analysis of the beets which farmers and others have grown for this purpose.

From time to time results have been published in the annual report of our College, but these results have been varied and are therefore more or less confusing, because no correct method of cultivation has been observed. The varying conditions in soil, cultivation, manuring, planting, harvesting, etc., have been almost as numerous as the samples analyzed.

In November, 1899, Mr. Wm. James Stewart, of Glasgow, Scotland, representing a sugar syndicate, arriving in Ontario in the autumn, expressed to the Department of Agriculture a desire to have the opinion of some neutral agricultural expert regarding the suitability of the soil in the neighborhood of Dunnville for the cultivation of the sugar beet. Responding to Mr. Stewart's requests, the Hon. John Dryden, Minister of Agriculture, after corresponding with Dr. Mills, President of the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, instructed me to join Mr. Stewart in Dunnville for the purpose of consulting with him in reference to the suitability of the soil of that neighborhood for the establishment of a Beet Sugar factory.

Reaching Dunnville on the 27th of that month, we spent several days among the farmers in the townships surrounding the town of Dunnville and Welland, attended several meetings called by the farmers to discuss the beet sugar industry, and made an inspection of the adaptability of the soil to that industry. As requested by Mr. Stewart, I mailed that gentleman a report in manuscript form of this inspection. In this report I suggested the advisability of a more thorough test than had heretofore been made of the sugar beet producing capabilities of the soil and climate of Ontario.