

totally ruined, both in pecuniary means, in health, and in character, and indeed in all that renders life of any value. A still greater number fail in ultimately obtaining the necessary comforts of life, and there are few indeed who succeed to the extent of their expectations; while of those who steadily pursue agriculture there are few who fail to secure a comfortable competence.

"T" at the pursuit of agriculture is the most conducive to health, both of body and mind, is too generally known and acknowledged to require any remarks on this occasion.

To conclude, the pursuit of agriculture may be considered as desirable to the higher classes, or the affluent, as a source of healthful recreation and rational enjoyment; profitable to the middle classes as the best means of acquiring and retaining a competency; and necessary to the lower classes, as affording the means of subsistence, and almost the only pursuit by which they can ever hope materially to improve their condition.

The Agriculturist.

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BET-ROOT SUGAR.

The present extraordinary depreciation of the value of wheat, naturally induces the farmer to inquire, whether some fresh production cannot be profitably adopted—as, in some measure, a substitute for that hitherto Canadian staple; and earnest attention is already being directed to the growth of flax and hemp. The cultivation of the sugar beet has also been suggested, and without expressing any decided opinion as to the profitability of manufacturing beet-root sugar in Canada, we have taken some pains in ascertaining and arranging a number of facts relative to the manufacture of this article in Europe, that will be interesting and, perhaps, useful to the readers of this Journal.

Within the last few years the growth of beet and its manufacture into sugar, have made very considerable progress in several countries of Europe, particularly France, Belgium, Germany, and some parts of Russia. In all these countries, a large amount of cane-sugar (in some instances as much as 50 per cent.,) has been displaced by that extracted from the beet; and the effects of the competition, are already visibly felt in the depreciated value of cane-sugar; a large portion of which, both of foreign as well

of colonial growth, it has been usual to send to the British market, from whence it is re-exported to the continent. Although the domestic consumption of cane-sugar has, within the last two or three years, very much increased in England, the price, mainly it would appear from a diminished continental demand, has been progressively declining, stocks have accumulated, and the trade has been devoid of all animation whatever. We now proceed to state some interesting facts, gleaned from authentic sources, relative to this new source of wealth to extra tropical countries.

The manufacture of beet-root sugar in Europe has acquired an importance, only within the last few years. In 1828, the whole production did not probably amount to 7000 tons, more than a moiety of which was yielded by France, in which country it had a high protection against cane-sugar of Colonial, as well as foreign growth. Such was the effect of the protective duty, that in 1840, the amount of beet-root sugar in France, reached the enormous quantity of 40,000 tons! A change of policy took place, and a gradual diminution of the protective duty determined on, till in 1848, an equalization of duties on cane and beet-root sugars obtained. The effect of this policy was for a time, to paralyze the protected producers of beet-root sugar; from 39,000 tons produced in 1839, the amount in 1841, was diminished to 26,000 tons. The exposure to competition, however, soon led to improvements in the manufacture of beet-sugar, and in 1848, the year when the duties were equalized, the production had risen to 56,000 tons; and it is now said to exceed 60,000 tons, or fully one-half of the entire consumption.

In Belgium there were twenty-two beet-root manufactories in 1850, furnishing one-half the domestic consumption, and last year the number had been nearly doubled. In Germany, beet-sugar had risen from 26,000 tons in 1848, to 40,000 tons in 1851, while cane-sugar had experienced a proportionate decline. Already one-half of the sugar consumed in Germany, is from the beet-root, with every prospect of a progressive increase. In Austria, the production of beet-root sugar has increased from 8,000 tons, in 1848, to 15,000 in 1851. Even in Russia, out of an entire consumption of 85,000 tons of sugar, 35,000 tons consist now of beet-root.

The London *Economist*, to which we are chiefly indebted for the above facts, states, in reference to the working of one of the best and largest manufactories in Belgium, that beet-root at the current price of 12s. sterling, per ton, the cost of a good refined loaf-sugar, is 20s. 9d. per cwt. The great reduction in the cost of beet-root sugar which has recently been effected in the best continental manufactories, seems principally attributable to mechanical improvements in