

THE BEET SUGAR INDUSTRY.

The principal objections entertained with respect to any attempt to extend the beet sugar industry in Canada at the present time, are based on the expectation that the present unprecedentedly low prices of sugar are likely to continue, and on the impression that the conditions here are so unfavorable as compared with the beet manufacturing countries of Europe, that it will be impossible to conduct the business profitably in this country, except by the maintenance of such an excessive rate of bonus as would largely outweigh all the advantage which the country would derive from the enterprise. This paper is intended to discuss these two objections.

First, as to present price of sugar, the following quotations are taken from "Sugar," published in London, January 15, 1895 :—

AVERAGE PRICES OF 88° BEET-SUGAR FOR 11 YEARS

			Highest.	Lowest.
1884	13/11	}	18/4½	9/9
1885	14/		16/9	10/
1886	12/		15/9	10/1½
1887	12/2		16/	10/6
1888	14/3		16/3	12/6
5 years' average 13/3½				
1889	16/11	}	28/4½	11/1½
1890	12/7		14/3	11/4½
1891	13/3		14/9	12/4½
1892	13/7		15/	12/6
1893	15/3		19/3	12/3
1894	11/6		13/1½	8/6
6 years' average 13/10				

The above statement shows that the present low prices of sugar are not the result of a natural or gradual reduction produced by decreasing cost of production, but are wholly attributable to the over-production of beet-sugar in Europe from beet crop of 1894, the increase over preceding year being about one million tons. This was caused by the immense profits realized by manufacturers of beet sugar in cam-