

as rich in saccharine matter as it is further south. In fact, it is quite as rich as the ribbon cane, which is the true sorghum cane of the South. The difference between this cane and the ribbon cane is that the ribbon cane is planted once every five years, whereas, the other is planted just like corn. It will ripen in from 100 to 120 days. In seed it will produce twenty or thirty bushels to the acre, and the seed is quite as good for feeding purposes as corn.

Q. Is the seed sufficiently matured to be useful?—Yes; fully matured, so that it grows afterwards, even here.

Q. And you get both the seeds and the saccharine matter?—Yes; the seed makes very fine food for hogs or chickens, for cattle or for horses.

By Mr. Landry :

Q. Boiled?—You can give it to them boiled or raw, just about the same as corn. In some places it is ground up and flour is made out of it. In that case it is just as well if the hulls are removed, because there is a large amount of tannin in the hulls. I may say, as to Canada, that a great deal of attention has not been devoted to it. Farmers are afraid to take hold of it; they are afraid that it will not prove successful. It is a new thing here, and they are afraid to take hold of it. They have no machinery, and they hardly know anything about it.

By Mr. Bain :

Q. How many acres would it be necessary to plant in order to make it worth while to buy moderate machinery? What is the smallest amount you can work it on at a profit?—You would have to give me that question more fully. A farmer may have as low as two, three, or four acres, and have plant to suit it.

Q. So, the machinery can be adapted to be used on a small quantity?—As small as you like. The most successful and profitable way to carry on this business is by the erection of central factories, just as you start your cheese factories or creameries. They are working on that plan in Demarara and some of the regular sugar States. Men are starting factories and the farmers are bringing in the cane.

Q. And you get better plant that way?—Yes; you can get better plant. You know you can spend from \$150 to \$100,000 in plant.

By the Chairman :

Q. Do you believe the sorghum cane would be destroyed by frosts very often here?—Occasionally it would, just the same as corn is. It is subject to the same climatic conditions as corn. Early frosts would take it the same year that they take corn. But there is a large portion of Canada—the southern portion—where it can be very profitably grown; in fact, more profitably than almost any other field crops.

By Mr. Benoit :

Q. Does the frost take away the saccharine matter?—No; but unless it is worked up immediately after it is frozen it is spoiled.

Q. I suppose it is like corn—the juice sours?—The juice sours immediately after the heat gets it; after it has been frozen it ferments.

Q. In that case it should be manufactured immediately after the cutting of the plant?—Yes.

Q. And suppose it is sent to a factory?—They are supposed to manufacture it immediately after it is brought in.

Q. Suppose it is allowed to stand for a month?—They cannot let it stand that long.

By Mr. Bain :

Q. I suppose there is no process by which it can be allowed to dry and get the moisture through it again?—That has been done. Instead of grinding it they have adopted the infusion process; they get a better sugar, but that has only been done in the regular sugar cane plantations.

Q. If it could be introduced it would lengthen the season of the plantation very much?—Yes; it would.

By Mr. Benoit :

Q. Is it not possible to store the material in a shed for some time?—No; they cannot do that on the plantations south, the heat would spoil it. That can be done