

States alone after deducting the home consumption of the countries in which it was produced. The total cane sugar crop of the world, as estimated by Willett & Gray, of New York, is given as 2,862,000 tons, and with a few exceptions "includes local production for home consumption wherever known," while the figures of the Bureau of Statistics show that the total sugar importations of the United States in the calendar year 1899 were 1,964,170 tons; so that, if all the cane sugar product of the world in 1899 were massed together and the local consumption of the countries of its production deducted, the remainder would little more than equal the importations of the United States alone in that year.

It is not to be understood from this, however, that the United States does in fact import all of the world's surplus of this sugar. On the contrary, the consumption of beet sugar in that country is steadily increasing, and was, in the fiscal year 1899 greater than that of any preceding year, with the single exception of 1897, when the imports were abnormal by reason of expected changes in the tariff law. The total imports of beet sugar in the fiscal year 1899 were 723,336,352 pounds out of a grand total of 3,517,950,689 pounds; so that beet sugar, having captured the markets of Europe, is now supplying one-fifth of the imports into the United States.

If it were not that the soil and climate of Canada were quite as well adapted to the growth of the sugar beet, and if it were not that plenty of capital is available with which to establish factories for the manufacture of beet sugar, it would make but little difference to Canada what country produced our sugar, or whether it were the product of cane or beets. We know, however, that the soil and climate and natural conditions of southern Ontario and Michigan are substantially the same, and that many millions of pounds of beet sugar are produced in that state annually, giving employment to millions of dollars capital and to thousands of farmers in the production of the beets, and other thousands of workmen in converting them into sugar and placing it upon the market. For a number of years this journal has shown the advantages that would accrue to Canada by the establishment of the beet sugar industry, but, strange to say, no Conservative Government ever did anything to encourage it except in a most desultory and half-hearted manner, entirely inadequate to accomplish the object; and the most that the present Government has yet done (or proposes to do) is to place in the non-dutiable list of imports machinery not of a class made in Canada, to be used in the manufacture of beet sugar. The recent efforts put forth by the Toronto Board of Trade to create some enthusiasm in the matter and to induce both the Dominion and the Ontario Governments to offer some substantial inducements towards the establishment of the industry, seem to have miscarried.

An analysis of the sugar question as applied to Canada is interesting. During the fiscal year ending June 30, 1899, our imports of unrefined sugar not above No. 16 Dutch standard, amounted to 233,013,977 pounds valued at \$4,963,808, upon which duty was collected amounting to \$1,554,991. Of this the quantity imported under the preferential tariff was 26,623,401 pounds, valued at \$514,720, upon which \$116,525 duty was paid, the countries of origin being Great Britain, Australasia, British Guiana and British West Indies.

The balance of our imports and sources of origin were as follows:—

	Pounds.
Belgium	67,513,242
China	8,862
Danish West Indies	100,893
Dutch East Indies	6,776,751
Dutch West Indies	1,702,930
Germany	117,602,660
Peru	3,766,405
Philippines	5,150,540
Spanish West Indies	1,010,092
United States	2,758,181
Total pounds	205,390,576

The sugar imported from Belgium and Germany—185,115,902 pounds—was undoubtedly beet sugar, against only 20,274,674 pounds for all other countries, which was, presumably, cane sugar; and the fact that the sugar requirements of Canada were met by such large quantities of beet sugar from countries no better adapted for the production of the article than Canada, indicates the immense amount of capital that should be employed in the industry in this country, but is not, and the large amount of labor that should be performed by Canadian farmers and workmen, but which is now performed by Belgians and Germans.

DEPARTMENT STORES AND TRUSTS.

The attempt of the government of the city of Chicago to check the growth of the so-called department stores, has been defeated by the Supreme Court of the State, which has declared void the city ordinances bearing upon the subject. The effort to handicap enterprise by the imposition of restraining laws is exciting much interest wherever agitators endeavor to bring about the infliction of such laws. The Textile Record discusses the matter in this way:—

In the United States no legislation is possible which shall forbid a man who has ten things to sell, to enlarge his operations so that he shall sell twenty things. Nor would such legislation be desirable if it were possible. It is to the interest of the nation, as a whole, that the freest possible scope should be given to the energy and ability of individuals within the boundaries of good morals. No doubt there is hardship for some small dealers of narrow talents by the absorption of so large a portion of the retail trade of a great city by the merchants who conduct business upon a vast scale. So also was there hardship for the multitudes of men who, all through this century, have had their labor displaced by labor-saving machinery. But that the whole human race has gained by the introduction of labor-saving devices, will not be denied; and it is a further fact that in the long run individual laborers have found steadier and more profitable employment through the enlargement of productive operations caused by the improved machinery. The department store not only contributes to the convenience of millions of purchasers, but it performs the more attractive service of reducing the cost of the distribution of fabrics to the masses of the people. The whole tendency of modern commerce is in this direction. The middleman is being squeezed out everywhere; and the producer and consumer are being brought closer and closer together. The natural result of such a process ought to be, and probably it is, that the producer obtains more while the consumer pays less. Thus, if legislation could indeed impose a check upon this movement, we should have to obtain the consent of both producers and consumers that the middleman should be permitted to live at their expense after his existence in that particular manner has been demonstrated to be unnecessary. Surely such consent could not be secured.

The fate that has befallen the Chicago ordinances against department stores, will also be encountered by state and