

The Maple Syrup and Sugar Industry of Canada

Value of the Industry

TO THE FARMERS OF EASTERN CANADA:—

According to the Census of 1901 the average annual output of Maple Sugar in Canada approximates 17,804,825 pounds, valued at \$1,780,482. The Dominion supplies over three-sevenths of the world's output of maple syrup and sugar, *and the crop could easily be made five or six times as great.*

It has long been the policy of the Quebec Government to develop the maple sugar industry which it rightly regards as one of the most characteristic industries of this Province.

In the Settlers' Guide issued by the Crown Lands Department in 1894 it is stated:

"Maple sugar-making, an important industry in this Province, has for some years past been making rapid advances.

"In effect, wherever there is a *Sugary*, and the country is amply "provided with them—the abundant sap of the maple tree is made into "excellent sugar, sweeter than cane or beet-root sugar.

"We may add that the maple sugar tree, which is everywhere "collected at a season when the settler cannot otherwise engage in other "work, provides for the hardy Canadian settler and farmer a new "source of revenue not to be despised."

It would appear strange at first sight that the sugar tree which is not worked for all it is worth. What other use is there than a farmer can turn into hard cash within a few days with so little labour or investment of capital?

Nature has made the maple sugar industry a monopoly of Quebec, Ontario, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Vermont, New York, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania and Ohio. In 1901 Quebec produces 13,564,819 pounds, Ontario 3,912,040, New Brunswick 207,450, Nova Scotia 112,496 and the other provinces 20.

All this syrup and sugar represents so much money for the 45,000 Canadian farmers, who take the trouble to tap the tree for a few days once a year. It would represent five times as much if the farmers' interests in the matter were properly protected if the farmers appreciated the possibilities of the industry conducted upon *modern methods.*