

certainly am at a loss to know why the temperature of Barrie should be higher than that of Toronto. I have however taken the figures as I found them, and if they are correct the individual above referred to will not be the only one who is "surprised to learn."

## SUGAR CANE.

BY P. E. BUCKE, OTTAWA.

Perhaps it is right that some apology should be offered for writing on the above subject in a periodical devoted to fruit and flowers, but it must be admitted the article of sugar, like those mentioned, is one of the sweets of life, and therefore admissible. The importance of Canada being able to produce its own sugar, for which so many thousands of dollars are annually sent out of the country, may well lead both the government and private individuals to turn their attention to the subject of a home industry in this direction if such can be established. Everyone is aware who has given much attention to the manufacture of sugar from the beet root that it requires very expensive machinery and an exceedingly scientific treatment to produce an article suitable for commerce. These difficulties are overcome by the production of sugar from the new canes now cultivated on a large scale in the Western and other States.

Some time during the Eighteen Hundred and Fifties there was sent to the neighboring Republic by some of its foreign Consuls the seed of the Sargo, or Chinese sugar cane, and some of the Imphaes, or African sugar cane. These seeds were distributed by the Department of Agriculture, at Washington, all over the United States, and have apparently found a congenial home in the States of Minnesota, Illinois, Texas, Pennsylvania, Missouri, and Michigan. It will be noticed that it is not only adapted to the hotter Southern States, but comes to maturity in those whose climatic influences are similar to our own Province of Ontario. In point of fact, wherever Indian corn can be grown or grapes ripened these plants flourish, as it will arrive at maturity in a shorter season than the maize plant. The plant is a great deal similar to that of the Indian corn, with the exception that the corn bears its seed on the ear, whereas these canes have their seed on the tassel on the top of the plant.