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SUGAR INDUSTRY IN EUROPE.

United States Consul Dowzelmaun, at Prague:—

In the beginning of the year 1900, there was a general fear on the part of the sugar dealers in Austria-Hungary of an over-production, but this proved unfounded on account of an unexpected failure of the crop in nearly all the colonies. The sugar trade is generally able to estimate very closely the amount of raw sugar produced in Europe, but the colonies are an uncertain quantity, and nearly every year furnish a surprise. The general calculations of the trade have been that the sugar crop in the colonies would increase from year to year; but in the place of this increase, there has been yearly a decrease. It is said that the United States imported in 1900 only 1,558,266 tons of sugar, against 2,219,847 tons in 1899, although the consumption of sugar in the United States rose from 2,078,068 tons in 1899 to 2,219,847 tons in 1900; and the whole stock at the end of last year amounted to only 69,000 tons as against 208,472 tons in the previous year. This shows that our production of sugar is increasing gradually, and indeed the syndicates who manipulate the market in Europe believe that the time is not very far off when the United States will produce all the sugar it needs, and they are seeking other markets and considering the possibility of a greater consumption of sugar by the different nations. Statistics for the year 1900 show that Russia consumed about 20,000 tons more than in 1899; Germany, 91,243 tons more; France, 29,250 tons more; and England, 46,100 tons more; while Austria-Hungary, it is claimed, on account of the increase in the consumption tax, consumed 27,692 tons less in 1900 than in 1899.

The statistics further show that Spain, Italy, and the Balkan States have not only produced all the sugar needed for their home markets, but that they have also begun to export to a small extent; that Egypt, which up to a few years ago used to import annually 50,000 tons from Austria, is now exporting large quantities to the United States and India, so that the best outlets for sugar are those in the Far East.

The export of sugar from Austria-Hungary to East India and Japan in 1900 showed an increase over the previous years; but Japan passed a law, which went into effect on April 1, of this year, providing for a consumption tax, which will reduce the demand for sugar and eventually lead to the establishment of sugar refineries there.

The only consolation, it appears, that Austrian dealers in sugar have is that there is no prospect of abolishing the export premiums paid by Germany, Austria and France. Austria is opposed to the abolition of this tax, because France is its main competitor, especially in refined sugar in England.

It is surprising that the United States, with its millions of acres of virgin soil and with its improved machinery, has as yet such a comparatively small acreage planted in sugar beets and so few sugar factories.

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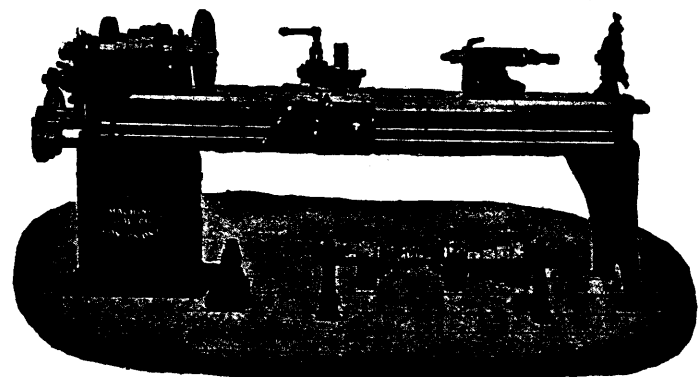
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