

Under to-day's conditions the capital investment involved in the construction of such a plant would of course be much greater than it was in 1913. On the other hand I have endeavoured to show that a much larger yield can be obtained in any new plant if full advantage of the experience and knowledge so far gained is properly applied. Thus if a yield of 30 gallons or more per dry ton is obtained which involves nothing beyond the duplication on the large scale of experimental results which have been thoroughly established, any such increase in investment, as well as increases in labour rates, and raw materials, which have since occurred, should be more than balanced. On the other hand the cost of producing alcohol from either grain or molasses has at least doubled since 1913, and with alcohol in its present demand it would seem that a more favourable opportunity in which to proceed with some further development along the lines which I have discussed is not likely to occur again.

In addition to the possibility of realizing unusual profit the saving of food materials which can thus be made is an item not to be ignored and should ensure the proposition receiving the attention which it apparently deserves.

While the sugars thus made have so far been exclusively used in the manufacture of ethyl alcohol there seems no question but that, like cane molasses, they can also be used for feeding purposes. I am strongly of the opinion that there are great possibilities in this direction. So far this is something, however, which has apparently not been given the investigation and study which it demands and beyond the fact that a product can thus be made, which is acceptable to animals, there is little I can say from my own experience regarding its practical application.

There is no question, however, regarding the food value of the carbohydrates which can thus be obtained, nor regarding the low cost at which they can be produced. A cost of from 4 to 6 cents per gallon of such wood molasses I figure should be easily realized and this should be fully equivalent to a gallon of cane molasses for feeding purposes. As a means, therefore, of quickly adding to our food resources this is something which should not be overlooked and offers, as I believe, unusual and practically unlimited possibilities for investigation and development.

In the brief time at my disposal it has been impossible to more than touch upon the essential factors in the development of this business with the early stages of which I was so intimately associated. I trust, however, that as a result I have been able to stimulate some wider interest in this particular field which so far has been only scratched and which offers such wide opportunities for further progress.

N.B.—Gallons refer to U.S. wine gallons and when referring to alcohol 95 per cent alcohol is always inferred if not specified.