

WHERE SUGAR IS RULER OF ALL

Cuba's Canefields and Their Product Are Her Great Facts—Sugar Rules Commerce and Politics—The Matchbox Factor.

There will be a fight in Cuba some day between the Yankee and the Cuban; between modernism and anciently, between the Saxon and the Latin; between sordid cleanliness, thrift and public honesty on the one side and halcyon filth, ornerness and public plunder on the other.

By FREDERIC J. HASKIN. (Copyright 1909 by Frederic J. Haskin.) Havana, Jan. 26.—The biggest thing in Cuba is the sugar industry. Sugar makes two thirds of the total exports of the island and is the controlling factor in the commerce of the republic.

COUGHING BURST BLOOD VESSEL

Says Danger Avoided and Cures Coughs in Five Hours. A writer for the medical press states that coughing is responsible for the bursting of blood vessels.

WAS DOWN AND OUT AFTER FOUR YEARS' STRUGGLE

E. A. Castle Gave Up Business Because Dyspepsia Was Too Much For Him.

L. T. Cooper's preparation, which is at present enjoying a tremendous sale in New York, was strongly endorsed by E. A. Castle, of 80 West Seventeenth street, Tuesday.

PURITY FULL MEASURE

"Bay State Pain"

"Manufactured on the Pacific Coast." "Saves 20c per gallon on freight." "Ask your dealer for color cards and prices."

FISHER, THORSEN & CO.

Paint Manufacturers and Jobbers. Portland, Oregon.

WORTH MORE THAN \$75,000,000. Practically all of it was exported to the United States.

For three centuries Cuba has been one of the leading sugar producing countries of the world. The increase in the consumption of sugar in the last century is one of the most striking evidences of the extension of the use of sugar to the masses of the people.

Almost 850,000 acres of Cuban land are devoted to the cultivation of sugar cane. Yet there are only 186 plantations in the island.

The greater plantations have private steam railway systems running through their lands to convey the cane to the sugar mill, but in many instances the mill teams and the two wheeled carts are depended upon for transportation.

The grinding season begins in December and continues until May or June. This is the period of greatest activity in Cuba. The people are busy and nobody expects any trouble.

The last sugar crop, with the by-products of molasses and rum, was worth more than \$75,000,000. Practically all of it was exported to the United States.

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BIDS ON HIGH SCHOOL OPENED

Tenders Come Well Under Estimate Fixed by the Board's Architects.

As soon as contracts can be signed with the successful bidders the new Albin high school will begin to rise from its foundations at Kirby and Commercial streets.

The board voted to make the increase in teachers' salaries begin from the month of December under the new plan. It would not eliminate ambition or initiative; but it would greatly reduce poverty, ignorance, and their familiar fruits.

VAUDEVILLE MAGNATE BECK IN PORTLAND

Martin Beck, head of the Orpheum circuit and one of the leading American theatrical trust, and Mark A. Leuschner, general press representative of the Orpheum, are in Portland on a tour of the various Pacific coast cities.

NO FREE AUTOS FOR PRESIDENTS

(United Press Special Wire.) Washington, Jan. 26.—The house has passed the urgent deficiency bill minus the item allowing \$12,000 for the purchase and maintenance of automobiles for the president.

changed in the slightest degree. The idea of the people here has not been changed. Cuban desire that when all else in the island has been thoroughly Anglo-Saxonized, and when all else that is peculiarly Latin remains.

Improved Yankee Methods. Yet American methods have extended the acreage devoted to sugar cane and have increased the output of the mills.

The Menace of the Match Box. The acreage now devoted to sugar cane is twice as large as when Spain left the island on the first of January, 1899.

Cuba's Coat of Arms. If the republic of Cuba does live and prosper, and after it has proved its vitality by some 50 years of uninterrupted peace, it ought to substitute as a device a representation of a sugar bowl rampant and a box of matches couchant.

It may be better bluster, but it contains more than a grain of truth. When the sugar grinding season is over the sugar planters can turn their erstwhile laborers into a patriotic army of revolution over night.

It is worth while for you, as policy-holders, to know something of the other things which you accomplished in the year 1908.

What happened during 1908? You directly reached and relieved the beneficiaries under 9,000 policies when their chief resource had been taken away by death; your relief went into the 46 states and 6 territories of the United States, and into 44 other countries.

As a policy-holder in the New-York Life Insurance Company, you were a part of such a plan in 1908, and indirectly you were busy producing just such results every month in that year.

What you did in 1908. Consider for a moment this Company—and by this Company, I mean, primarily, its membership—as it was at the beginning of 1908, and consider what it has accomplished within twelve months.

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A PLAIN TALK WITH THE POLICY-HOLDERS OF THE New-York Life Insurance Co. SIXTY-FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT

346 Broadway, New York. To the Policy-holders: The work of your Company during 1908 and its condition at the close of that year deserve more than ordinary consideration and study.

If a considerable portion of the wealth created yearly by society could be gathered on a pro rata basis, invested so as to earn a reasonable rate of interest, and then under an exact and scientific program be turned into cash instantly at any point and applied to the relief of human distress, a long step would be taken toward the social betterment of men.

Life insurance is what society would be and it does what society would do if society were organized as suggested above. If society, instead of life insurance, accomplished these results, we might begin to hope for a speedy realization of some of our social ideals.

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eral funds of the Company (book values) by about \$42,000,000. This increased the security behind each average ultimate policy obligation by about \$46.

All this represents mutual help of the first order. Compare it with your other investments and your other activities in 1908. Did you do any better work during the year? Was it not worth while? Would you not like to see more of it done by your company in 1909? Would not an almost unlimited amount of such work carefully and effectively done be a public benefit?

HOW YOUR WORK IS LIMITED.

But here a curious condition confronts you. In the extent of your work, and in that alone, you are not advancing. For example, in 1908, you issued about 63,000 new policies, and from various causes you lost 69,000. It is a startling fact, that if you had taken into your ranks in 1908 enough new members to make good the number that dropped out, making no growth whatever, you or your representatives would have violated the criminal law of New York State.

This particular law—Section 96 of the Insurance Laws of New York—has been in full force for two years. It places an arbitrary limitation on the legitimate activities of life insurance men. Its direct effect on your Company has been the reduction of a plant capable of insuring 150,000 people a year to a plant insuring less than 65,000 people a year. It has reduced our outstanding business about \$68,000,000 and reduced the number of families protected by our guild by about 20,000.

Aside from all questions of its constitutionality and the repugnance with which every healthy-minded American views such legislation, the law is a curious one for New York State to enact. New York is the "Empire" State and boasts of it. It has a city which, with reason, aspires to the commercial and financial supremacy of the world. The story of the city and the State is filled with the names of great men and is the record of great achievements. The State and the city are what they are, not alone because of their location, but chiefly because the men of the State and of the city have strongly utilized great opportunities.

It was strange logic which impelled the Legislature of such a State to conclude that admitted evils in a great business could be cured by limiting its volume. The Legislature of the State has never before applied this doctrine to any business, and in my judgment the people do not approve such legislation.

THE PRESENT STATUS AND FUTURE POSSIBILITIES.

I call your attention to the general facts contained in the Balance Sheet and statement of Income and Disbursements attached hereto. I think you will there read the answer to the query that uninformed people so often make, "Why do life insurance companies need such great accumulations of money?"

Your ultimate obligations at their face value approach two thousand million dollars; our assets for all purposes (market values) are about five hundred and fifty-seven millions. Every dollar of those assets is absolutely necessary under a clearly defined program in order to liquidate our liabilities, both actual and contingent. Our assets are large because our liabilities are large. Our liabilities are large because we are doing a large work of the kind I have described.

You understand, of course, that the time has passed when life insurance companies will attempt to defeat or repeal legislation by any indirection or by any process which will not meet the approval of the most scrupulous mind. Bad legislation you can readily defeat, unfair taxation you can easily abate. You can do this by the creation of public opinion and by direct appeal to the men who represent you in legislation.

Legislation follows what it believes public opinion to be. You are numerous enough to influence public opinion materially. To do this you must have that reliable information which will convince your judgment, and such information we propose to make easily accessible. You can have it for the asking. We hope to place it before you during the coming year in a series of "Plain Talks to Policy-holders" through the public prints. If we convince you, then act as you would on any kindred question which involves both your personal interest and the public well-being.

In any case, study the figures attached. Study them as you would the balance sheet of your own business. Commend or criticize them if they deserve either. But, above all, observe what a far-reaching, equitable and enduring program of self-help you are a part of in the daily work of the New-York Life.

James P. Thompson, President. New York, Jan. 14, 1909.

Balance Sheet January 1, 1909.

Table with columns for ASSETS, LIABILITIES, INCOME, 1908, and DISBURSEMENTS, 1908. Includes items like Real Estate, Loans on Mortgages, Policy Reserve, and Payments to Policy-holders.