

### Some Lies About Beet Sugar Are Nailed by the American Economist

There is Enough Produced to Make the Prices Lower to the Consumers—Most of the Beet Sugar Concerns Are Independent—the Manufacturers Do Not Rob the Growers

(The following is from the American Economist of September 4th.)

#### Concerning Beet Sugar

Free-Traders and those interested in the production, importation, refining and sale of foreign sugar have so persistently misrepresented the facts about sugar that the average person does not know what to believe. They have been told so many things about the matter similar to that told to the correspondent whose letter appears below, that they, like him, are anxious to learn the truth. His letter follows:

Columbus, Ohio,  
August 15, 1925.

To the American Economist:  
A commission merchant opposed to the sugar tariff makes these statements:

"1. The amount of beet sugar produced in America is so small that its effect on sugar prices is negligible.

"2. The same people who own and control the cane sugar industry also own and control the beet sugar and use it to benefit themselves, not consumers.

"3. The refiners rob the beet growers and refuse to pay them just prices for their product."

How much of this is true? What are the figures on total production? Is there really no bona fide competition?

I should be glad to read an article in the American Economist on this subject from one who knows and will state the facts without coloring.

D. A. Jennings.

In order to "be sure of our facts," we wrote to a man who is himself a grower of sugar beets and is also well posted on the subject from other points of view. What we shall write will be the facts obtained from him and from published statistics, official and otherwise.

With regard to statement No. 1, made by the commission merchant we have to say that the percentage of consumption of beet sugar of domestic production in the United States for the year 1922 was 16.98 and for 1923 was 17.89 per cent. That is, over one-sixth of the sugar used in the United States in those years was domestic beet sugar. Does any sensible person believe that this is not enough to have an effect on prices? But our farmer friend furnishes us with proof that it does affect prices, "while it is on the market." We quote:

"Here is an instance: Ohio and Michigan begin extracting sugar about the 10th of October every year. Sugar was quoted on the sugar exchange in New York the 10th of October, 1923, at \$9.50 a hundred. On October 17th the N. Y. Journal of Commerce had the following:

"It was reported that Western Beet (sugar) are offered freely in at \$8.70 a hundred pounds."

"On Oct. 18th, the very next day, the same paper said:

"The beet situation seems to be the cause of general uneasiness. It was rumored that Michigan-Ohio producers were offering beet sugar in territory as far east as Albany and Harrisburgh and south to Lynchburg, Va."

"Who were uneasy? It was not the consumers, surely."

"On November 2nd, a month after beet sugar began to be produced, the Detroit Free Press published a wire from its market reporter in New York City:

"A price cutting movement was started today by the big sugar refiners. Fine granulated sugar was reduced to \$8.60 a hundred pounds. It is agreed that refiners are determined to adjust their prices to levels that will meet the competition of western beets

which have been offered as far east as the Albany district."

We think that answers Mr. Jennings' question: "Is there really no bona fide competition?" There certainly is. Had it not been for the lies of those interested in foreign sugar, rather than American sugar, and their campaign for lower rates of duty, the competition would have been still greater, for more sugar beets would have been grown. As our farmer friend puts it: "If we grew enough to supply the people for only three months it would mean a saving of \$30,000,000 to the American consumer."

As to the second statement, that the same people who own the cane sugar factories "also own and control beet sugar," we have to say that the facts above set forth tend to show its falsity. There is, however, some truth in that part which says that some of the same people are interested in both cane and beet sugar. In fact there is one large beet sugar company which is controlled by the cane sugar interests, but such control does not extend to the beet sugar industry in general. As was to be expected, when an adequate tariff duty was imposed upon imported sugar for the express purpose of developing the beet sugar industry in this country, an effort was made by some of the seaboard refinery interests to gain a controlling interest in some of the large sugar beet factories, and to some extent they were successful. But the purchasers were later forced to sell most of their stock and we now know of only one company in which the cane sugar people have a controlling interest. But one factory can not control the beet sugar industry any more than one swallow can make a summer.

The third statement, namely that "the refiners rob the beet growers and refuse to pay them just prices for their product," is answered by our farmer friend:

"Nonsense, ridiculous! and a little common sense will prove it. I have been a grower of sugar beets off and on for 12 years. I believe that I have a little common sense, and do you think I would grow beets the second time if such statements were true? Last year in this territory so many farmers wanted to grow beets that the factories could not handle them all and the factories declined contracts for thousands of acres. Would this have been the case if the farmers were being robbed? Farmers are paid for their beets on a sliding scale according to the price of sugar—how could they be robbed?"

That is of course true of the territory in which our friend is lo-

### TAKE YOUR CHOICE—EQUATOR OR POLE—6000 MILES TO EITHER PLACE



"POLEQUATORIAL" SPOT ON PACIFIC HIGHWAY GETS JAZZY MARKER.

Dilettante McMullins should have no trouble in this district deciding where they want to go, for the state capital, search of geographical data has revealed, is just half way between the north pole and equator. All you have to do to decide which you want to visit is flip a coin—it's 6000 miles either way.

Marking the "polequatorial spot," the Salem Kiwanis club has erected a marker on the Pacific highway, three and one-half miles north of Salem. The south side bears the legend, "Salem, Half Way to North Pole," and the explanation, "Latitude 45 degrees N., longitude 123 degrees W." The other side bears the legend, "Three Miles to Salem, Half Way to Equator." Courtesy Portland Oregonian.

cated, but there are some localities in which the factories contract to take the beets at so much per ton, taking their chances on the price of sugar. These contracts are made before the planting and the farmers know in advance just what they will get for a given quantity of beets. But it has sometimes happened that such worked to the benefit of the refiners and the farmers were dissatisfied and complained. That is the sole ground for the statement made by the commission merchant.

Sugar beets are among the best products the farmers can grow. Their production does not wear out the soil, but, instead, adds to its fertility, which is more than can be said of wheat and most other crops. The yield is large and the price is good. What we need is a large production of sugar beets and an increase in the refineries to turn them into sugar. A larger production would be not only of immense benefit to the farmers but of untold benefit to the consumers, for the production of beet sugar brings lower prices for both cane and beet sugar, whether of domestic or foreign production.

(The beet sugar factories are not usually called refineries. The factories called refineries are the plants that take the raw cane sugar and refine it—make it into the various commercial grades of sugar. Nearly all the beet sugar factories work with the growers on a fifty-fifty basis now. That is, the growers receive an advance of some \$6 a ton for their beets, but the final settlement is on the sucrose (sugar) content of the beets and what the sugar brings in the markets when sold. Of this amount, the factory gets half, and the grower gets half. In round numbers, the United States consumed five million tons of sugar last year, and of this

### Proposed for Head of Ohio State U.



Dean Roscoe Pound (above) of Harvard Law School is being mentioned for the presidency of Ohio State University, in succession to Dr. W. O. Thompson, resigned. Dean Pound recently declined to become president of the University of Wisconsin.

amount a million tons was beet sugar, producer in continental United States. It will be more this year; but so will be the consumption, most likely. The four million tons comes mostly from Cuba. Of the sugar beets grown in the United States, 95 per cent

are grown by independent farmers, and their number is now approaching 300,000. Oregon must join this procession of prosperity and progress, and Salem must take the lead with the first factory; and it should be done this fall and winter—ready for the 1926 crop of beets.—Ed.)

#### CAUTION'S REWARD

An Atchison, Kansas, motorist chauts this complaint: "We stopped, looked and listened, and a bloomin' idiot bumped into our rear."—Motor Mention.

#### Not Far

Tourist: How far is it to Pleasant View?

Native: "One thousand three hundred and forty-six signboards."—Life.

Rainier — State highway commission approves proposed Long-Bell toll bridge across Columbia.

#### Germs Mined in Montana Increase Fame of State

HELENA, Mont. — Widely known for its mineral resources, its immense grain fields, its wool and oil, Montana is acquiring additional fame for its gem deposits.

Charles B. Hubbschmidt, of Lynbrook, N. Y., a recent visitor, said that in his travels he had found Montana famous for its sapphires among New York jewelers, Antwerp lapidaries and European aristocracy.

Records of the state board of equalization show that two cap-

pire mines in the state produced gems valued at nearly \$100,000 during the last seven months of 1924. One of these produces the Yogo stones and, according to the state department of agriculture, is said to be the most valuable of its kind in the world. It is worked in

the manner of a quartz mine. The other deposit produces industrial stones. There are two other known sapphire beds in the state, which are not being worked. The output is shipped to London and most of the cutting is done in Switzerland.

Other gems and stones listed by the department of agriculture as native to Montana are octahedral diamonds, moss agates, and mocha stones of fine quality, black tourmaline, yellow and smoky topaz, rhodonite, azurmalachite, jasper and garnets.

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above its price-class, with that distance chalked up against it? ... An experienced used-car owner will buy a Willys-Knight, registering 75,000 miles and more, with absolute confidence. The used-car trader will tell you he can scarcely give away other cars after they have been run but 25,000 or 30,000 miles!

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six-cylinder	TOURING	now \$1750
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