

AMERICAN SUGAR SENT TO FRANCE

American Price Rigidly Regulated by United States Food Administration.

CONSUMERS HERE PAY 9c.

Sugar Cost 35 Cents a Pound During Civil War—Refiners' Profits Now Curtailed.

Sugar is selling today throughout America at from 8½ to 9 cents a pound to the consumer, even though there is a world shortage which has reduced this nation's sugar allotment to 70 per cent. of normal.

Through the efforts of the United States food administration the sugar market has been regulated as far as the producer, refiner and wholesaler is concerned. The food administration has no power to regulate retail prices except by public opinion. Even though more than 85,000 tons of sugar have been shipped to France in the last four months the retail grocer's sugar price is around 8 to 8½ cents. He should sell this sugar at 8½ to 9 cents, the food administration believes, and asks the American housewife to pay no more than this amount.

Last August when the food administration was organized the price of sugar rose suddenly to 11 cents a pound. During the Civil War sugar cost the consumer 35 cents a pound. By regulation of the sugar market and reducing the price to 8½ and 9 cents and keeping it from advancing to 20 cents the food administration has saved the American public at least \$180,000,000 in four months, according to a statement made by Herbert Hoover the other day.

"It is our stern duty to feed the allies, to maintain their health and strength at any cost to ourselves," Mr. Hoover declared. "There has not been, nor will be as we see it, enough sugar for even their present meagre and depressing ration unless they send ships to remote markets for it. If we in our greed and gluttony force them either to further reduce their ration or to send these ships we will have done damage to our abilities to win this war."

"If we send the ships to Java for 250,000 tons of sugar next year we will have necessitated the employment of eleven extra ships for one year. These ships—if used in transporting troops—would take 150,000 to 200,000 men to France."

Reason for World Shortage.

As Mr. Hoover pointed out, the United States, Canada and England were sugar importing countries before the war, while France and Italy were very nearly self supporting. The main sources of the world's sugar supply was Germany and neighboring powers, the West Indies and the East Indies.

German sugar is no longer available, as it is used entirely in Germany, which also absorbs sugar of surrounding countries.

England can no longer buy 1,400,000 long tons of sugar each year from Germany. The French sugar production has dropped from 750,000 to 210,000 tons. The Italian production has fallen from 210,000 tons to 75,000 tons. Thus three countries were thrown upon East and West Indian sources for 1,925,000 tons annually to maintain their normal consumption.

Because of the world's shipping shortage the allied nations started drawing on the West Indies for sugar; East Indian sugar took three times the number of ships, since the distance was three times as great. Suddenly the west was called on to furnish and did furnish 1,420,000 tons of sugar to Europe when 300,000 tons a year was the pre-war demand. The allies had drawn from Java 400,000 tons before the shipping situation became acute.

"In spite of these shipments," Mr. Hoover stated the other day, "the English government in August reduced the household sugar ration to a basis of 24 pounds per annum per capita. And in September the French government reduced their household ration to 13 2-10 pounds a year, or a bit over 1 pound of sugar a month. Even this meagre ration could not be filled by the French government. It was found early in the fall, America was then asked for 100,000 tons of sugar and succeeded in sending 85,000 tons by December 1. The French request was granted because the American household consumption was then at least 55 pounds per person, and it was considered the duty of maintaining the French morale made our course clear."

Today the sugar situation may be summarized by stating that if America will reduce its sugar consumption 10 to 15 per cent. this nation will be able to send 200,000 more soldiers to France.

Sugar today sells at seaboard refineries at \$7.25 a hundred pounds. The wholesale grocer has agreed to limit his profit to 25 cents a hundred plus freight, and the retail grocer is supposed to take no more than 50 cents a hundred pounds profit. This regulation was made by the food administration, which now asks the housewife to reduce sugar consumption as much as possible, using other sweeteners, and also reminds her that she should pay no more than 9 cents a pound for sugar.

Control of Cane Refiners' Profits. "Immediately upon the establishment of the food administration," Mr.

Hoover said, "an examination was made of the costs and profits of refining and it was finally determined that the spread between the cost of raw and the sale of refined cane sugar should be limited to \$1.30 per hundred pounds. The pre-war differential had averaged about 85 cents and increased costs were found to have been imposed by the war in increased cost of refining, losses, cost of bags, labor, insurance, interest and other things, rather more than cover the difference. After prolonged negotiations the refiners were placed under agreement establishing these limits on October 1, and anything over this amount to be agreed extortionate under the law."

"In the course of these investigations it was found by canvass of the Cuban producers that their sugar had, during the first nine months of the past year, sold for an average of about \$4.24 per hundred f. o. b. Cuba, to which duty and freight added to the refiners' cost amount to about \$5.66 per hundred. The average sale price of granulated by various refineries, according to our investigation, was about \$7.50 per hundred, or a differential of \$1.84."

"In reducing the differential to \$1.30 there was a saving to the public of 54 cents per hundred. Had such a differential been in use from the 1st of January, 1917, the public would have saved in the first nine months of the year about \$24,800,000."

Next Year. With a view to more efficient organization of the trade in imported sugars next year two committees have been formed by the food administration:

1. A committee comprising representatives of all the elements of American cane refining groups. The principal duty of this committee is to divide the sugar imports pro rata to their various capacities and see that absolute justice is done to every refiner.

2. A committee comprising three representatives of the English, French and Italian governments; two representatives of the American refiners, with a member of the food administration. Only two of the committee have arrived from Europe, but they represent the allied governments. The duties of this committee are to determine the most economical sources from a transport point of view of all the allies to arrange transport at uniform rates, to distribute the foreign sugar between the United States and allies, subject to the approval of the American, English, French and Italian governments.

This committee, while holding strong views as to the price to be paid for Cuban sugar, has not had the final voice. This voice has rested in the governments concerned, together with the Cuban government, and I wish to state emphatically that all of the gentlemen concerned as good commercial men have endeavored with the utmost patience and skill to secure a lower price, and their persistence has reduced Cuban demands by 15 cents per hundred. The price agreed upon is about \$4.60 per hundred pounds, f. o. b. Cuba, or equal to about \$6 duty paid New York.

"This price should eventuate," Mr. Hoover said, "to about \$7.30 per hundred for refined sugar from the refiners at seaboard points or should place sugar in the hands of the consumer at from 8½ to 9 cents per pound, depending upon locality and conditions of trade, or at from 1 to 2 cents below the prices of August last and from one-half to a cent per pound cheaper than today."

"There is now an elimination of speculation, extortionate profits, and in the refining alone the American people will save over \$25,000,000 of the refining charges last year. A part of these savings goes to the Cuban, Hawaiian, Porto Rican and Louisiana producer and part to the consumer."

"Appeals to prejudice against the food administration have been made because the Cuban price is 34 cents above that of 1917. It is said in effect that the Cubans are at our mercy; that we could get sugar a cent lower. We made exhaustive study of the cost of producing sugar in Cuba last year through our own agents in Cuba, and we find it averages \$3.39, while many producers are at a higher level. We found that an average profit of at least a cent per pound was necessary in order to maintain and stimulate production or that a minimum price of \$4.37 was necessary, and even this would stifle some producers."

"The price ultimately agreed was 23 cents above these figures, or about one-fifth of a cent per pound to the American consumer, and more than this amount has been saved by our reduction in refiners' profits. If we wish to stifle production in Cuba we could take that course just at the time of all times in our history when we want production for ourselves and the allies. Further than that, the state department will assure you that such a course would produce disturbances in Cuba and destroy even our present supplies, but beyond all these material reasons is one of human justice. This great country has no right by the might of its position to strangle Cuba."

"Therefore there is no imposition upon the American public. Charges have been made before this committee that Mr. Rolph endeavored to benefit the California refinery of which he was manager by this 34 cent increase in Cuban price. Mr. Rolph did not fix the price. It does raise the price to the Hawaiian farmer about that amount. It does not raise the profit of the California refinery, because their charge for refining is, like all other refiners, limited to \$1.30 per hundred pounds, plus the freight differential on the established custom of the trade."

"Mr. Rolph has not one penny of interest in that refinery."

AN EPISODE OF THE SOUTH

By JAMES BRAINARD

In antebellum days Edgar Forsythe, a young man from the north, and his sister, Edith, orphans, settled in Louisiana.

Edgar Forsythe had recently been graduated from a law school, so he hung out his shingle as an attorney. His sister, who was an accomplished musician, taught music. Between the two they made a modest living.

One day Arnold La Fite, a man of the older Louisiana type, called upon Edgar Forsythe and employed him to collect a debt from Antoine De Four. The amount was \$25 and was of very long standing.

Now, De Four had taken a fancy to Edith Forsythe and was beginning to show his liking when her brother called upon him, stated that a note of his had been placed in his hands for collection and asked him when it would be convenient to pay it. De Four colored, looked hard at the note which Forsythe handed him and said that he would pay it the next day.

In those days dueling was a protection for all kinds of knavery. De Four was a fire eater, and La Fite had hesitated to press him for payment for fear of offending him. De Four went to La Fite and asked him why he had insulted him by placing the note in the hands of a lawyer. La Fite apologized for doing so and said that he would withdraw the order for collection. Instead of doing so he took a steamboat that passed early the next day for New Orleans, thus getting out of the fire eater's way and leaving the lawyer to bear the brunt of De Four's displeasure.

The day after the first demand Edgar made a second one. This time De Four was very wrothy. He told Edgar that he had seen La Fite and the matter was between creditor and debtor and there was no occasion for a lawyer to meddle with it. Edgar told him that he had been employed to collect the money due on the note and if it was not paid by a certain date he would sue for it. De Four was very angry and replied that if Edgar sued or bothered him again about the matter he would consider it a personal insult.

One reason for De Four's displeasure was that this second demand was made in presence of several of De Four's friends. This was unfortunate, for it compelled him to make good his threat.

The day after the suit had been entered De Four called on Edith Forsythe and stated to her the position in which he was placed and begged her to persuade her brother to withdraw the suit before it should be known, promising to settle the matter out of court as soon as this had been done.

When Edgar came home his sister said nothing about the visit of De Four, but urged him to attend to some law business that had been put into his hands requiring a visit to the county seat. He consented and left early the next morning. Soon after his departure Edith sent word to De Four that her brother would not withdraw the suit.

De Four, hoping to accomplish by threat what he had failed to effect by persuasion, inclosed a challenge to Edgar in a note to his sister, stating that his action gave him inconceivable pain, but that his word had passed before witnesses and if he did not make good he would be considered henceforth as a poltroon.

De Four was surprised and annoyed to receive an acceptance of his challenge. It was purported to have been written by Edgar, but had been forged by his sister. There was nothing for it now but to fight. De Four sent a friend to the Forsythe home to make arrangements for the meeting, and he was instructed to protest on the part of the challenger against it, stating that he had no other means of saving himself from being condemned by his friends and acquaintances as a coward.

The emissary was received by Edith, who, her brother being absent, said that as soon as she could communicate with him she would send a reply. Later in the day she wrote that she had heard from Edgar. He had chosen pistols at thirty paces, the time to be 3 o'clock the next morning, the place a certain open space near the bank of the Mississippi river.

De Four was surprised at the early hour, for at 3 o'clock it was barely dawn. He was very much disgruntled at the course the affair had taken, because he had been on the eve of proposing marriage to Edith Forsythe and now he was called upon to meet her brother in mortal combat.

He walked the floor till after 2 o'clock in the morning, when his second called for him and they proceeded to the ground. Shortly after reaching it a carriage drove up, and a young man alighted and handed out Edith Forsythe. Approaching De Four and his second, the young man said:

"Mr. De Four, you will be obliged to accept me for an antagonist this morning instead of Edgar Forsythe, who is away and knows nothing of your challenge. His sister, my fiancée, concealed it from him, intending to meet you in his place. She called on me to act as her second, but I insisted in taking the part of a principal. Is everything ready?"

De Four stood stock still for a moment, then turned without a word and walked away. Edith and her betrothed returned to her home and to breakfast. Later a messenger came from De Four with the money for the face of the note, interest and costs.

THE GOOD AND THE BAD.

A Banker's Advice About Bills That Applies to Life at Large.

The president of a bank when asked by a young clerk how he could distinguish the counterfeit bills from the good said, "Get familiar with the good bills and you will recognize the bad bills at sight."

Here is a vast volume of general wisdom summed up in a single sentence. This homely advice applies not only to the detection of counterfeit money, but with equal force to the detection of counterfeit in all departments of life.

The man accustomed to handling only good corn, good potatoes, good diamonds, has no difficulty in detecting the faulty. He does it intuitively. Even without recognized thought he fixes upon the fault. The skilled egg candler passes good eggs before the light with a rhythmic rapidity that is amazing, but an imperfect egg instantly breaks his routine and interrupts his process. To the trained musician, accustomed to high grade work, a false note comes like a stab of pain.

In any occupation or line of endeavor any man fully engaged in doing the right thing will have no difficulty in recognizing the wrong. Right and wrong are as far apart, as unlike, as day and night, and he that is most accustomed to the light is quickest to note the shadows.

There is only one way to know the bad, the imperfect, the false, and that is by knowing the good, the perfect, the true.—Christian Herald.

OUR FIRST WAR SONG.

It Was Written by Billings, a Tanner, In Revolutionary Days.

We have many patriotic songs in this great country of ours, but no great national war song. Who will be the one to write it? The first war song written in America was really a hymn and was sung by the colonial troops during the Revolutionary war. It was composed and written by a tanner named William Billings, who lived in Boston. This hymn, the first evidence of distinctly American music, has a ring which not a little sets out the spirit of 1917. The first verse of the war song will indicate its general character:

Let tyrants shake their iron rod
And slavers clank their galling chains.
We fear them not, we trust in God.
New England's God forevermore.

When Billings wrote his war song he evidently thought that the most important part of the country was New England; otherwise he might have included the whole land among those who trust in God. This war song has been brought to public attention by Dr. M. L. Bartlett of Des Moines, Ia., who informs us that Billings worked out his harmonic problems on a piece of leather. Just in the same way that Lincoln ciphered on the back of a shovel.—New York World.

Blackbuck's Extra Nostril.

Two visitors to the menagerie were discussing the why and wherefore of an opening on the face of an Indian antelope or blackbuck halfway between the eye and nose. One visitor said it was due to an injury; the other opined it led to the tear duct.

"You are both wrong," said the keeper. "That is an extra nostril for the fastest running member of the antelope or deer family. He runs so fast that his ordinary nostrils cannot supply enough air to his lungs, and nature gave him this extra air channel. No other animal that I know of is so well provided. The blackbuck is the fastest thing on hoofs. On favorable ground and spurred by fear the blackbuck could make sixty miles an hour."—New York Sun.

Cedar Log 1,380 Years Old.

The durability of cedar is well known. A large cedar tree, probably thrown over by the wind, was found by woodchoppers in Washington state without any marks of decay in it, although a tree which was standing astride the log had 1,380 annual rings. The woodsmen found the log so sound that they determined to cut it up into shingles for the market. What a story that log could tell if it could speak—of the long procession of people that came upon the stage and departed during its life of between 1,000 and 2,000 years!—Los Angeles Times.

Sound Logic.

"Mamma," said a five-year-old boy the other day, "aren't there any other senses 'cept hearing, seeing, feeling, tasting and smelling?"

"No, my child," answered the mother. "It is usually considered that these five are enough."

"Well," said the little one, with an air of deep conviction, "I s'pose talking would be called a sense if there wasn't so much nonsense about it."—Pearson's.

Aunt's Criticism.

First Painter—I've just been showing my aunt around. Most amusing. Invariably picks out the wrong pictures to admire and denounces the good ones. Second Painter—Did she say anything about mine? First Painter—Oh, she likes yours.—London Tit-Bits.

The Diagnosis.

Doctor—Your daughter, madam, is suffering from constitutional inertia. Fond Mother—There! Poor thing! And her pa declared she was simply lazy.—Baltimore American.

A Matter of Policy.

"There's only one thing I ever do for policy's sake."

"What's that?"

"Pay my premiums."

Love and a Canalboat.

Why is love like a canalboat? Because it is an internal transport.—London Mail.

Save

1-wheat

use more corn

2-meat

use more fish & beans

3-fats

use just enough

4-sugar

use syrups

and serve the cause of freedom

U. S. FOOD ADMINISTRATION

PERIL OF COAST EROSION.

The Ceaseless Warfare Waged by the Sea Against the Land.

All over the world, in America as well as in the eastern hemisphere, is the sea waging a ceaseless warfare against the land. So serious is the danger of coast erosions round the British Isles that people are asking whether England is not slowly but surely disappearing.

Lowestoft has been sorely hit by the merciless waves which are steadily advancing. Within the last few years the east coast town has spent considerably more than £60,000 in combating the sea, which means a new promenade, groynes, breakwaters, piles and huge cement structures. Only a few years since tremendous damage was caused to these then new structures by a series of gales which wrecked part of the promenade, tore down the piles and breakwaters and made a scrap heap of the cemented parts.

Cromer, too, has suffered terribly from the sea's advance. Not so long ago it cost this delightful east coast town more than £45,000 to make good the damage.

During less than fifty years it is roughly computed that England must have lost more than 50,000 acres of land by sea incursions. The battle against nature still goes on. But it must be remembered that, while in some places the waters are advancing, in other spots the sea is retreating. But the balance is said to be not altogether in favor of the latter, and new methods may have to be devised to meet and fight the peril.—London Mail.

PIKEMEN IN BATTLE.

The Old Greek Phalanx Was Like a Mass of Live Barbed Wire.

It is a long reach back from modern war methods and big guns to the days of the pike and the battalions. But in its time the pike did deadly work and used in the phalanx was a terrible weapon.

A phalanx in the military affairs of Greece was a square battalion or body of soldiers formed in ranks and files compact and deep, with their shields joined and pikes crossing each other so as to render it almost impossible to break it. At first the phalanx consisted of 4,000 men, but this number was afterward doubled by Philip of Macedon, and the double phalanx is hence often called the Macedonian phalanx. Polybius describes it thus:

"It was a square of pikemen, consisting of sixteen in flank and 500 in front. The soldiers stood so close together that the pikes of the fifth rank extended three feet beyond the front. The rest, whose pikes were not serviceable owing to their distance from the front, couched them upon the shoulders of those who stood before them and, so locking them together in file, pressed forward to support and push on the former rank, by which means the assault was rendered more violent and irresistible." The spears of those behind also stopped the missiles of the enemy. Each man's pike was twenty-three feet long. A grand phalanx consisted of 16,384 men.

An Equally Extensive View.

A literal interpretation of a commonplace remark is sometimes amusing. In "Midsummer Motoring in Europe" De Courcy W. Thom tells of an old traveler who said to a very small boy then making his first voyage, who had climbed upon the bulwark and was gazing across the ocean to the far horizon. "My boy, did you ever before see such a glorious stretch of ocean—as far as you can see, only ocean?"

"Yes," answered the boy. "Hardly," said the man. "Where do you think you saw it?"

"On the other side of the ship," replied the youngster.

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Aurora Observer.



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