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Another Triumph Recorded of the Superiority of American Machinery.

When, on the 10th of June last, the entire iron industry of the country, especially our machine builders, were assailed by the free traders in the senate debate on the appropriation for the purchase of machinery for government sugar-making experiments in the application of the diffusion process to American sugar cane, Senator Warner Miller took a leading part in the defense of the assailed industry.

It was claimed by the free trade advocate of the foreign machine builders that "it would be idle to suppose that American mechanics, although skillful and intelligent, could hope to produce cane sugar-making machinery of the same excellence as that made in the machine shops of Europe."

Senator Warner Miller, on the other hand, argued and proved beyond controversy that, to quote his own words: "American machinery for cane sugar-making is far better than any which has been produced in Europe or elsewhere," and reported from the committee on agriculture, of which he is chairman, an amendment requiring all machinery purchased under the provisions of the act then under consideration to be "built in the United States wholly of domestic material," or in other words to be built at our own machine shops, by American mechanics, and of American iron. His amendment was, after full discussion, adopted in the senate by a vote of thirty-two to twelve. With a full senate the majority would have been even more decisive.

A modification was, however, inserted in conference committee, by unanimous consent, permitting the purchase of ten thousand dollars' worth of foreign machinery, so that both kinds could be tried side by side.

The trial of the American and European cane sugar-making machinery took place at Fort Scott, Kan., during the season just closed, in the presence of a world's congress of sugar makers. Delegates representing

sugar interests in North and South America, West Indies, Europe, Asia, and Africa were present. Even little Chili sent a delegate, and so did far-away French Algeria. The Louisiana Sugar planters' Association sent a delegation.

The best American and European machinery was put in operation, and both had a fair trial. The Fort Scott correspondent of the New Orleans Picayune gives in his letter published on the 17th of September an account of the entire establishment, and a rescue in the following words: "Take it all and all, this sugar house, if not the largest, is surely the most convenient, and decidedly the most perfect yet erected or in existence within the United States."

The Fort Scott correspondent of the St. Louis Rural World gives the following account of the American machinery built by the Pusey & Jones Company, of Wilmington, Del. "The cutters and diffusers are meeting all expectations, the former furnishing a constant supply of chipped cane, while the diffusers leave scarcely a trace of sweet in exhausted chip or waste water."

In regard to the work done by the Pallesche Machimfabuck, German machinery, the same correspondent makes, in the same issue of the St. Louis Rural World, a statement in these words: "The carbonic acid pump, a huge affair of German manufacture, failed to give the necessary volume of gas for rapid carbonation, reducing the work of the factory one-half, or to the use of one cutter."

According to later accounts "this huge German pump," which cost several thousand dollars, was finally thrown aside and a little American pump, built in New York, and which cost less than the freight on the German pump across the Atlantic, was substituted, after which there was no trouble. All accounts agree that the triumph of American machinery was complete. The Fort Scott correspondent of the St. Louis Globe-Democrat, in his report

published Oct. 30, says: There is but one verdict, to wit: That it is perfect and gives forth results with the certainty of clock work. Of course, it is not claimed but that experience may suggest slight improvements, but that the applications of mechanical principles in its construction has been skillfully done no one denies."

The writers of these reports are skilled in everything pertaining to cane sugar-making, and it will be seen that they all agree that the triumph of our American mechanics has been complete.

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(o)

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