

SUGAR IS KING.

ALL ABOUT THE BIG PLANTATIONS OF CUBA, WORTH MANY MILLIONS OF DOLLARS.

(Special Correspondence of the Deseret News by Frank G. Carpenter.)

MATANZAS.—Come with me and take a peep into Uncle Sam's sugar bowl. About half of all our sugar comes from this island. We paid Cuba \$42,000,000 for short sweetening last year, and we shall pay more in 1905, as the price is higher. Cuba produces about half of all the cane sugar made upon earth, and she has some of the biggest sugar plantations. For the past two weeks I have been traveling through the interior and have had a chance to get an idea of this great industry.

CUBA'S SUGAR PLANTATIONS.
Cuba has several hundred million dollars invested in sugar plantations. She has in the neighborhood of 200 which are now in active operation, and along the line of the Cuba railroad the forests are being cleared and cane set out. About Nipe bay, the new harbor at the northeastern end of the island, a syndicate of Boston capitalists has purchased more than a hundred thousand acres of land and is about to build what I am told will be the biggest sugar factory ever constructed. It will cost in the neighborhood of \$2,000,000 and it will have a capacity of about 5,000 bags of sugar per day. A bag of sugar weighs little more than 30 pounds. It will just about fill a barrel, so that 3,000 barrels will give you some idea of this mill's capacity. There are at present a number of mills here that are turning out a thousand bags per day, and there are many plantations worth \$1,000,000 and upward. Indeed, a big sugar estate, including its mill, lands and houses, is a \$500,000 proposition, and the modern sugar mill alone as it is in Cuba costs from \$500,000 to \$1,000,000. The machinery of a mill that will make 1,000 bags a day will cost half a million dollars, and the buildings, yards and other things two or three hundred thousand dollars more.

WHERE THE SUGAR CANE GROWS.
Sugar is now being grown in nearly every province of Cuba. About half the land cultivated is devoted to that crop, and there are vast areas, which will yield cane, yet to be set out. I have before me a list of the working plantations. Beginning at the west is the province of Pinar del Rio, which is noted as having the best tobacco in the world upon earth and which produces the famous Havana cigars. It has only seven sugar plantations, and it will make about 15,000 bags of sugar this year. One of its plantations belongs to Americans, four are Cuban, one French and one Spanish. In Havana there are 20 plantations, chiefly owned by Cubans and Spaniards, and in Matanzas, from where this letter is dated, just east of Havana, there are 52 plantations, of which six belong to Americans. One of the American companies annually produces 25,000 bags, another 30,000, and another 125,000 bags. Matanzas has some of the best sugar territory, but its lands have been worked for generations and may be surpassed by the new estates now being set out in the woods. The total output of these provinces will be in the neighborhood of 5,000,000 bags, or in round numbers, something like 600,000,000 pounds of sugar.

Santa Clara province, which lies east of Matanzas, has seventy plantations, of which seventeen are American, three British, eighteen Spanish and thirty-two Cuban. Most of these plantations are very large, and some of the largest belong to Americans. The Emilio Terrazas plantation, which is Cuban-American, will produce 215,000 bags this year. The Colonial Sugar company will produce 15,000 bags, and there are several other American estates which will yield from 50,000 to 150,000 bags each. In the eastern end of the island there are other American plantations, and along the northern coast are the Boston Central estate, belonging to the United Fruit company, which will have an output of 170,000 bags, and the Charral estate, which will turn out 250,000 bags. In the central province of Puerto Principe there are only four sugar plantations now opened, but one of these belongs to an American, and it will produce all told about 2,000,000 pounds of sugar this year. There are altogether more than \$25,000,000 of American money invested in sugar mills and working cane lands in Cuba, and this is today probably yielding a bigger profit than any American money abroad.

CUBA'S NEW LANDS.

The sugar which we now get from Cuba comes from old plantations, and the greater part of it is from Santa Clara, Matanzas and Havana. The increase in the crop of the future will come from the eastern part of the island, which has been opened up by the Cuba railroad, built from Santa Clara to Santiago, by Sir William Van Horne, and running along Cuba's backbone. This country is now covered with forest. One rider for miles through nothing but woods, woods, woods, but the woods cover land as rich if not richer than any now devoted to sugar and land which has the virtue of never having been farmed.

In going over the road I saw a number of places where new sugar plantations were being cut out of the woods. The largest is at Jatechico, where something like 3,000 acres have been cleared and planted in cane and where a sugar mill is now building. A few months ago this was nothing but forest. The Cuba company put in its men, and cut down the trees. A couple of months later the ground was burned over and the cane is now growing among the stumps and logs left from the fire. By the time it is ready for cutting the mill will have been completed, and the cane will be carried on little plantation railroads direct from the fields. It is the intention to put in about 4,000 acres of cane for this mill alone.

Similar mills will be built at other places along the road, and one especially is soon to be constructed to supply the sugar estates of a Michigan syndicate which has bought a large tract of land a short distance from Camaguey along the line of the railroad.

WHAT IT COSTS TO RAISE SUGAR.

Cuba can produce sugar cheaper than any other country. The plantation at Jatechico, which I referred to, will continue to produce cane for fifteen or twenty years without replanting. There are plantations here which have produced for twenty-five years from one setting out, and it is said that cane has grown forty and even more years on the same ground, being cut off year after year and sprouting up again from the old stalks. No one thinks of replanting cane here for five, ten or fifteen years after the plantation has been first set out, and on this new ground all that is needed is to plant and keep out the weeds, and the crop goes on for years without other cultivation.

In many other countries the cane has to be planted every third year, and I know of no place where it will last as long as in this. I have made some inquiries as to what it costs to produce sugar in Cuba, and the estimates are about a cent a pound and a quarter a pound. Best sugar costs in most places two or three cents a pound, and such sugar will have to be sold at three and a half cents a pound to make a fair profit. Now, inasmuch as there is more best sugar in the world than cane sugar, this means that the price must be fixed by the foreign market, and that it cannot be less than the amount above mentioned. At that rate Cuba can make sugar and pay dividends on its plantations. At the present prices it is receiving more than ever before. The crop for 1905 will be worth \$30,000,000 or \$40,000,000 more than ordinary, and as a consequence the sugar industry is booming and there is likely to be an overproduction. The chief trouble here



THE KIND OF OX-CARTS USED FOR CARRYING SUGAR CANE.
(From a Photograph Made Especially for the "News" by Frank G. Carpenter.)

is the lack of labor. This year they have not had enough men to harvest the crop, and in some places it has rotted on the ground.

LABOR ON THE PLANTATIONS.

The most of the labor on the sugar estates is done by Cubans and Spaniards. The Spaniards make excellent workmen, and a considerable immigration is now coming in from the Canary Islands and the northern part of the Spanish peninsula. These men are thrifty and industrious, and Cuba is doing all she can to encourage their coming.

Wages are good. About Havana they are a dollar a day, or \$15 and upward a month, with house rent, and sometimes with a certain amount of food. On many of the new plantations the men work at piecework or by contract. A man will keep so many acres clean at so much per month per acre, and they will be paid by the day for cutting cane or other work in addition. I

know of one plantation where the men make \$30 or \$40 a month in this way, and the plantation is one of the best kept on the island.

Every one of these big sugar estates is a little community of its own. It requires the labor of from 1,000 to 3,000 men or more. This means two or three thousand families, or a population all told of about 10,000 souls. These people live about the mill or scattered in little settlements here and there over the estate. Every plantation has one or more stores and, as a rule, the workmen are in debt to the stores. Advancements are common, and there is scarcely a man who is not more or less behind.

In talking with Mr. H. Dunois, who for years was at the head of the United Fruit company estate at Banes, he told me that the profits of the plantation store there would be about \$5,000 per year. In such stores the prices are as low as those in the neighboring towns, but the town stores require cash, while

at the company stores credit is freely given. Indeed, this plantation store business is one of the important departments on the sugar man's ledger. I know some men here who have several plantations who have big incomes from their store sales. There is one old Spaniard at Cienfuegos who owns half a dozen plantations. He is one of the richest men on the island. He buys his goods at wholesale in large quantities and distributes them to his various stores, where they are sold at a large profit. These stores have every variety of goods demanded by the Cuban peasant—from face powder and ribbons to furniture to fancy saddles, machetes, hardware, wines and, in short, everything that you will find in a country store of the United States.

SUGAR RAILROADS.

Most of the sugar estates bring their cane from the fields to the factories on railroads. In passing through the

The Vast Possessions of Americans—The World's Biggest Sugar Mill, Which a Boston Syndicate Is Now Building—Cuba's New Lands—What It Costs to Produce Sugar—Labor and Wages—Railroads and the Plantation Stores—Something About Uncle Sam's Sweet Tooth and the World's Sugar Crop.

sugar country one sees cars loaded with cane standing at every depot. It has been brought in from the smaller plantations to be shipped over the trunk line to the mills. The plantation railroads bring the cane from the fields to the mills, from 15 to 30 miles of such roads being often required for one plantation. The United Fruit Company, for instance, has 25 miles of such road at Banes, and the Tarojo estate, adjoining it, has 12 miles of track which are connected with the line of the United Fruit Company. There are in Cuba altogether more than 500 miles of railroad track on the sugar plantations alone, and this has a value of more than \$10,000,000. The most of these roads are equipped with rolling stock from the United States. They use Baldwin locomotives largely and some of them buy their steel rails of Krupp.

ELECTRIC RAILS AND AUTOMOBILES.

So far the sugar estates have had few electric railroads, and Cuba has no electric railroad system, such as is fast spreading in the United States. This would seem to me one of the most desirable of the future. Each big plantation, with its population of several thousand, will eventually have its railway connection with its neighbors, and the roads will carry sugar cane to the mills as well as other freight and passengers. Many of the sugar planters are studying cheap railroad transportation. They are considering the use of automobile engines made after the present gasoline pattern operated with alcohol as fuel. Alcohol here is much cheaper than gasoline. Indeed, it is a by-product of the sugar mills, being made at so little cost that it is sold in hundred-gallon casks at 15 cents per gallon. It has been estimated that 38 per cent of the heat generating power of commercial gasoline, and it can be used with a little gasoline to start it. I understand that some of the planters have been making experiments with alcohol as fuel, and that they are now using alcohol engines for small electric light plants in some Havana houses. At the agricultural experiment station at Santiago de Vigor the pumping and lighting is done by means of alcohol, and there is an establishment in Havana which has very electric lights run by alcohol motors.

HOW SUGAR IS GROWN.

It will surprise many of our American farmers to know that much of the sugar cane here is raised without plowing. In the new plantations, which are set out in the woods, no plow can be used on account of the logs and stumps. None is necessary, however. After the wood has been burned the land is perfectly clean, and the men then dig holes at intervals along the rows and put in sections of sugar cane a few inches long and cover them up. In a few days the cane begins to sprout at the knots,

and a day or so later the blades, which are much like those of corn, come through the ground. A young cane field looks much like a corn field. The crop grows rapidly, and all that is necessary is to keep down the weeds. It sprouts up in bunches of several stalks to a bunch.

The cane is ready for cutting in 18 months after which it can be cut every month. It is cut close to the ground, the tops trimmed and the leaves stripped off. It is then loaded on the great ox carts, which carry it to the railroad. On the best plantations the carts and cane are loaded and unloaded by machinery, steam cranes being sometimes used for this purpose.

Good sugar lands will yield as much as from 20 to 30 tons of cane to the acre, and a not uncommon yield is two tons of sugar per acre. The harvesting goes on through all the months from December to May, and the mills are usually supposed to grind about 100 days to the season.

THE WORLD'S SUGAR CROP.

Cuba has produced 11 or 12 hundred thousand tons of sugar this year. This is about one-tenth of the world's total sugar product, and fully one-fourth of the cane sugar product. Best sugar leads the cane sugar in quantity by more than 1,000,000 tons. The world's product from beets amounts altogether to 5,000,000 or 6,000,000 tons, whereas the cane sugar crop is usually not more than 4,000,000. Most of our best sugar comes from Europe, the United States producing only about 200,000 tons.

The great cane sugar countries are Cuba and Java and the Sandwich Islands. Several hundred thousand tons of cane sugar are raised in Louisiana, 5,000 tons in Porto Rico and 30,000 tons in the Philippines Islands, including our best product, we raise altogether just about 1,000,000 tons of sugar, which is less than one-fifth of what we consume, the balance being imported.

The United States has, in fact, a sweeter tooth than any other nation except England. We eat on the average more than 70 pounds a year for every man, woman and child in the country, while Europe averages only a little more than 40 pounds. The English sugar consumption is 51 pounds per capita. That of the Swiss is 60 pounds, of the Danes 54 pounds, and of all the other nations much less. The Germans eat altogether about 5,000,000 pounds of sugar annually, or a pound and a half per week for every man, woman and child in the country. We consume three times as much sugar per capita as we did when Andrew Jackson was president, and we are eating more and more from year to year.

FRANK G. CARPENTER.

DON'T'S, FOR SPEAKERS AND WRITERS.

(Written for the Saturday News BY EDWARD B. WARMAN, A. M. Author of "Practical Orthodoxy and Critique," "The Voice; How to Train It; How to Care for It," etc.)

Don't say "banister" for "baluster."
Example: "He leaned over the banister," should be "He leaned over the baluster."

Don't say "barely escaped with their lives."
Example: "Seventeen out of the 40 that were inmates, barely escaped with their lives," should be "Seventeen out of the 40 that were inmates, barely escaped."

Don't say "blamed it on" for "blamed."
Example: "He blamed it on the conductor," should be "He blamed (accused) the conductor."

Don't say "blow" for "blow."
Example: "He blew the bugle when in the army," should be "He blew the bugle when in the army," or "He was a bugler when in the army."

Don't say "they were both alike," should be "They were alike."
Don't say "both recalled" for "recalled."
Example: "The two boys both recalled having met," should be "The two boys recalled having met."

Don't say "bound" for "determined."
Example: "He was bound to interfere," should be "He was determined to interfere."

Don't say "bravery" for "courage."
Example: "He is a brave man," should be "He is a courageous man."

Don't say "brave" for "brave."
Example: "Can I close my school early tomorrow in order to get there in time?" should be "May I close my school earlier tomorrow in order to get there in time?"

Don't say "superintendent" for "superintendent."
Example: "The superintendent kindly criticized his teacher by saying: 'You can and you may.'"

Don't say "brick-bat" for "brick."
Example: "A brick-bat is a piece of brick."

was among seven of them."
Note: Do not use the word between when the number exceeds two.

Don't say "bit" for "any."
Example: "Will you not take a bit less?" should be "Will you not take any less?"

Don't say "burst" for "burst."
Example: "The boiler burst," should be "The boiler burst."

Don't say "burst" for "burst."
Example: "I do not doubt but that he did it," should be "I do not doubt that he did it."

Don't say "but" for "that."
Example: "I do not know but he is gone," should be "I do not know if he is gone."

Don't say "but" for "than."
Example: "No other reason but this was given," should be "No other reason than this was given."

Don't say "by" for "when."
Example: "The fuder will be liberally rewarded by leaving the same at this office," should be "The fuder will be liberally rewarded when leaving the same at this office."

Don't say "calculates" for "intends" or "purposes."
Example: "If calculates going to college," should be "If intends, or purposes, going to college."

Don't say "can" for "may."
Example: "Can I close my school early tomorrow in order to get there in time?" should be "May I close my school earlier tomorrow in order to get there in time?"

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Cure It All Doubt Vanish
When You Use

HOFFMAN'S HAIR TONIC.

Among the hundreds who have been cured of falling hair, of dandruff, who have had their hair entirely restored by Hoffman's Hair Tonic, there were a great many who considered their individual case hopeless, but wonders have been worked, by Hoffman's Hair Tonic, which does in fact what all other hair tonics profess to do.

41.00 A BOTTLE—TRY IT.
Miss Gertrude Hynes, of 1814 Champa Street, Denver, Colo., a copy of whose photograph is shown in this advertisement, some years ago lost her hair entirely. She used innumerable remedies and so-called hair tonics without success, until Hoffman's Hair Tonic was recommended, which produced a more luxuriant growth of hair than she ever before possessed. Miss Hynes permits the use of her photograph as an evidence of her gratitude.

Idaho Springs, Colo., April 5, '05.
The Hoffman Remedy Co.:
Gentlemen:—I wish to commend Hoffman's Hair Tonic. It has proven a great blessing to me. For five years I was troubled with dandruff and would scratch my head, until it would bleed; my hair was falling out rapidly, and I tried various remedies without success. Finally I was induced to try Hoffman's Hair Tonic, and I am certainly feel grateful to you, for what it has accomplished. Now, my scalp is free from dandruff, and I have a good head of hair.

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CO. 44 Main St.
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SEN. W. A. CLARK

SENATOR CLARK DOING WELL.

Senator William A. Clark, of Montana, is surprising his physicians by his vitality after the operation for the removal of an abscess on the mastoid bone. This necessitated the chiseling away of a portion of his skull two inches long, and during the last few weeks became constantly more aggravated. Mr. Clark stands a good chance of recovering if complications do not set in. The inventor, Thomas Edison, has recently recovered from a similar operation.



GOV. JOHNSON FOR PRESIDENT.

Thomas W. Lawson, after a tour of the Western States has brought back a boom for President of the United States. Gov. J. A. Johnson of Minnesota in the name named by Lawson for our chief executive. Mr. Lawson contends that it would be impossible to find a man better equipped to run the affairs of state, and he is sure people will follow his advice.

THE MILLIONAIRE TWINS.

Lewis Boss, director of the Dudley Observatory, whom the Royal Astronomical Society of London recently honored with a gold medal, was talking the other day about astronomical errors.

"Astronomical errors," Mr. Boss concluded, "place astronomers in embarrassing positions. Embarrassment, however, is the usual result of error, isn't it? Did I ever tell you about the millionaire twins?"

"No, never."

"Well, I used to know two twins, two millionaire twins. They looked a good deal alike. One, though, had a very large nose. The other was deaf."

"These twins attended one night dinner party in Albany. The twin with the large nose sat beside a very pretty girl, and she, for some reason, got him confused with his brother. She thought that he was deaf, and she talked to him at the very top of her clear, sweet voice."

"Naturally, he was rather annoyed. But she was such a pretty girl that he got very tender of her feelings. He feared, if he told her of her error, it might embarrass her, so he said nothing. From the oysters on down to the salad he permitted himself to be shouted at like a man in a distant land."

"Finally, though, he forgot his gracious, his sentimental solicitude. For the girl shrieked at the top of her lungs to him, 'It has been a beautiful day, hasn't it?' And then, turning to her left hand neighbor, she said in her usual voice."

"Did you ever see such a nose in your life?"

"Involuntarily the millionaire's hand went up to his nose, and he stroked it. Then he said to the young woman:

"Pardon me; it is my brother who is deaf."

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