

offered for the titillation of the palate whostop to think that the average well-to-do American spends more in a year for sweets than he does for bread? How many are there who know, what is the fact, that the greater share of the sugar now consumed in the world is derived from other substance than sugar cane? How many Americans know that last year this country paid over \$16,000,000 for sugar—produced where, do you suppose? In Cuba, or Manila, or the Sandwich Islands? Oh, no; but, if you please, from the product of the beet sugar factories of Germany. And if this be a surprise, a still greater one may be found in the fact that the beets from which that sugar was made were produced in a region whose latitude corresponds on this continent with that of frozen, inhospitable Labrador.

"It is with the manufacture of sugar from beets, however, that we are dealing, that subject having now become one of the greatest importance to the farmers and capitalists of this country. How to keep that \$16,000,000 at home which is paid to Germany every year, and the other millions which are paid to the sugar producers of other countries, is a problem well worth investigating. That the United States can produce every pound of sugar consumed by its 65,000,000 people is certain, while with the aid of the governmental bounty of 2 cents a pound this country ought to become a large exporter as well.

While that bounty will stimulate cane sugar production to a certain extent, it will be undoubtedly in the beet sugar industry that its most potential effects will be seen.

The bounty of two cents a pound to be paid to American producers of sugar has greatly stimulated the beet sugar industry, and projects are on foot for the establishment of factories in many sections that are known to possess the essentials of soil and climate for the successful production of beets.

Heretofore those who have engaged in raising beets for sugar-makers have been paid various prices for their crops. In some cases payment is made in proportion to the amount of saccharine matter, the percentage being determined by chemists in the employ of the manufacturers. This method has, naturally, not been altogether satisfactory to the producers, since the "benefit of the doubt" doubtless accrues to the buyer rather than the seller. The sugar factory at Alvarado, in Alameda County, makes its contracts on a uniform basis, without regard to variations in sweetness over a certain percentage, and this has proved very satisfactory to the beet-growers. In other cases, where percentage of saccharine determines the price, farmers have been so dissatisfied that they have refused to engage longer in the business. Notably has this been the case at Watsonville, where the sugar-makers have been forced to engage in beet-growing themselves in order to obtain the supplies necessary to keep the factory in operation.

"It is of interest to learn just what price may be paid for the beets and still leave enough to cover the expense of manufacture and leave a fair margin for profit. During the last sugar campaign in Germany it was found that it required a maximum of 832 pounds of beets to make 100 pounds of sugar. A ton of beets then at the rate of 6 cents a pound for granulated sugar (and a very low rate it is, too,) would produce sugar worth a little more than \$14. With the 2 cents per pound added it would bring the proceeds up to about \$18.75 per ton. Prior to the offer of the bounty the sugar makers paid from \$4 to \$6 a ton for the beets. Naturally, with the added profit of the 2 cents for

each pound of sugar, the beet-growers will expect a considerably enhanced price for their product. It should be emphasized that the foregoing calculation is on the basis of the maximum amount of beets for a given amount of sugar. The actual average is considerably less. The average for the entire enormous product of Germany last season was only 808 pounds of beets to 100 of sugar. Although beet-sugar making is comparatively in its infancy in this country, and much is yet to be learned, yet the actual cost of production varies from 3½ to 5 cents a pound. When the average selling price of refined sugar is considered, together with the bounty that is to be paid, it will be seen that the prospect for manufacturers and growers alike is most encouraging. In Germany and France the average cost of production is only 1½ cents a pound.

In order to supply the home demand for sugar in our own country, it would require 700 establishments similar to those now in operation at Grand Island, Neb., and at Alvarado and Watsonville in this State. The average capital invested in a factory capable of handling 300 tons of beets daily is \$500,000. For a hundred day's campaign 30,000 tons of beets would be needed at a cost of about \$150,000. For fuel 5000 tons of coal would cost at least \$25,000, and other working expenses would bring the total outlay up to \$180,000. For each establishment at least 3000 acres of land and 200 men would be needed. For the 700 factories needed to supply the demand of the United States it would take 2,100,000 acres of beets, and at least 2,100,000 men would be needed to cultivate and harvest the crop, the work lasting about six months each year. Each season some \$105,000,000 would be paid out for beets and \$91,000,000 for fuel and working expenses, while \$350,000,000 capital would be needed for the plant of the sugar factories.

"The rapid growth of the industry is seen from the fact that while in 1887 only some 200 tons of beet sugar were made in the entire United States, the product for the present season is estimated at fully 12,000 tons.

"A great stimulus to the industry has been given in Nebraska and Kansas by an offer of a State bounty of one and two cents a pound on all sugar made from beets."

DEFENSE OF THE CITY GOVERNMENT

THE denunciatory remarks against the city government made on Tuesday night by Councilman Spafford, and endorsed by both the morning and evening organs of the "Liberal" party, have caused considerable comment. It would probably be difficult to find half a dozen persons in this city who differ from the strictures referred to. It must be a trifle annoying to some of the officials and alleged officials (the latter are the six Councilmen who purloined the seats of the People's candidates) that there appears to be no stalwart ready to come to the defense.

This situation leads to an investigation of the absolute correctness of Mr. Spafford's charge, sustained by both the "Liberal" newspapers.

The irate councilman's indictment was that the present city government had been in power over a year and had done nothing. This being the case it was time that a move be made.

Now for the question—Is this allegation correct? If the answer be in the affirmative, with what majestic pride the "Liberal" party must point to the fact that in the accomplishment of "nothing" a million dollars of the people's money has been spent; that the credit of the city has so depreciated under the present rule that the bonds of the corporation were lately sold at 96; and that the saving of the public credit was used as a plea for selling Pioneer Square.

But why charge the municipal government with doing "nothing" for more than a year, and thus cast a dark suspicion upon the "Liberal" officials of having manipulated that million dollars of the people's money? In refutation, we point to Mayor Scott's annual report, introduced in the Council on January 27th and published January 28th. Among the "permanent improvements" named in the document was the joint city and county building, upon which it showed that there had been expended the sum of \$10,810.41. There is to show for this slice of the million dollars, a magnificent hole in the ground. Does Mr. Spafford and the two "Liberal" newspapers of this city call this excavation nothing? It may have the appearance of a vacuum, but science says that all space is occupied with something, even though the material be invisible to the naked eye.

But Mr. Spafford and the two "Liberal" journals may seek to demolish our argument by referring to the fact that the joint city and county building will probably be erected on another site—Washington Square. This will of course cause the proposed structure to lose the benefit of the aforesaid "permanent improvement"—the eleven-thousand-dollar-hole. In view of this change of location we humbly suggest that the costly excavation be divided into minute sections and sold to honest farmers for post holes at two-bits a dozen. This may indeed be necessary in order to "save the credit of the city" and meet certain obligations that are "family secrets," which are in danger of developing from the aspect of "mere bagatelles" into genuine "bug-bears."

"MORMONISM" IN ENGLAND.

THE religion of the Latter-day Saints is being most shamefully misrepresented in England by two persons. One is named Ward, who deals out wholesale falsehood in the form of lectures; the other is the Rev. S. Mincher, who is presenting a collection of old, stale and long since exploded fables through the columns of the