

THE 'BEST ROOT SUGAR" QUESTION

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The 'best root sugar" question by E. F. De Man

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E. F. DE MAN

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SUGAR" QUESTION**

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"BEET ROOT SUGAR"
QUESTION.

BY
E. F. DE MAN,
Belgian Agriculturist,
&c., &c., &c.

"Beet Root Sugar is destined to play a great part in the industrial and commercial world."—THE EDITOR.

SECOND EDITION.



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PREFACE.

AT this eventful period of European History, when men's minds are so intensely agitated by the horrors of War, and so much distracted by the apprehension of commercial vicissitudes, it would be difficult indeed to bring the reasoning faculties to bear upon the peaceable and profitable pursuits of introducing important branches of modern Agriculture, and Manufacture. But when those turbulent influences shall have ceased—when the horri- fying and all absorbing subject of carnage, destruc- tion of property, ruin, and devastation, shall no longer exist, and appal the civilized world—when, in fine, the calm and holy blessing of peace, shall under God's high providence, once more proclaim their hallowed presence amongst us, and men's thoughts shall have calmed down to the sober con- sideration of their own individual interest, then, it will be wise for Capitalists (whose attention has been hitherto so much absorbed by manufacturing enterprise) to turn their eyes to an undeveloped source of abundant wealth, in this country—as set forth in the following pages, devoted to the subject of home produced Sugar.

There certainly now exists no longer any doubt in the minds of practical men of the desirability of turning to the most profitable account, many

millions of acres of waste land of the United Kingdom, by means of the cultivation of Beet Root, as a staple for the produce of Sugar, of a quality vastly superior to that which is now ordinarily consumed.

It was with this object in view, that, on the memorable and deplorable day (the 15th of July) when France declared war against Prussia, I sat down to commence my work of bringing before the public, a Pamphlet, treating on the cultivation of Beet Root, and its manufacture into Sugar. I had already some months previously, in letters to the "Times" and "Telegraph" deplored and opposed the emigration scheme, as being calculated to drain from us the flower of manhood, the very pith and marrow of our male population. I pointed out, instead of such an exodus being beneficial to the country, it was ruinous in many points of view; for without supposing for a moment, that such a contingency should arise as might render it necessary to preserve the blood and bone of the country as a supply for the army—Europe being at that time in apparent tranquillity—yet, having regard to Agriculture, to Manufacture, and our Commercial interests, it was indeed a sad mistake to encourage the whole outpouring *en masse* of so prime a portion of our population. What! England with her immense capital and resources, not capable of finding remunerative employment for a few thousand of her willing-hearted stalwart sons!

Are we so thrift of expedients for the employment of labour—is the Government so parsimonious—that nothing can be done to prevent such a catastrophe? are there no new and modern branches of industry which can be introduced into this country, and which would at once supply the means of employment to thousands who are presumed to be compelled to emigrate as a dernier resort?

The answer is “Yes, undoubtedly.”

The science of Agriculture it has been said is, comparatively speaking, yet in its infancy; and the culture of the Beet Root, and its manufacture into Sugar, is unquestionably *one* of the very many means by which profitable industry might be promoted, and that to an extent that can only be known and justly appreciated, when it shall be discovered how so great a scope for remunerative industry has been neglected.

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