

GOVERNMENT CONTROL OF THE SUGAR INDUSTRY IN THE UNITED STATES

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Government Control of the Sugar Industry in the United States by Joshua Bernhardt

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JOSHUA BERNHARDT

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OF THE SUGAR INDUSTRY
IN THE UNITED STATES**

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INDUSTRY IN THE UNITED STATES



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GOVERNMENT CONTROL OF THE SUGAR INDUSTRY IN THE UNITED STATES

AN ACCOUNT OF THE WORK OF THE UNITED STATES
FOOD ADMINISTRATION AND THE UNITED
STATES SUGAR EQUALIZATION BOARD, INC.

BY

JOSHUA BERNHARDT

SUGAR STATISTICIAN UNITED STATES FOOD ADMINISTRATION
AND CHIEF, STATISTICAL DEPARTMENT, UNITED
STATES SUGAR EQUALIZATION BOARD, INC.

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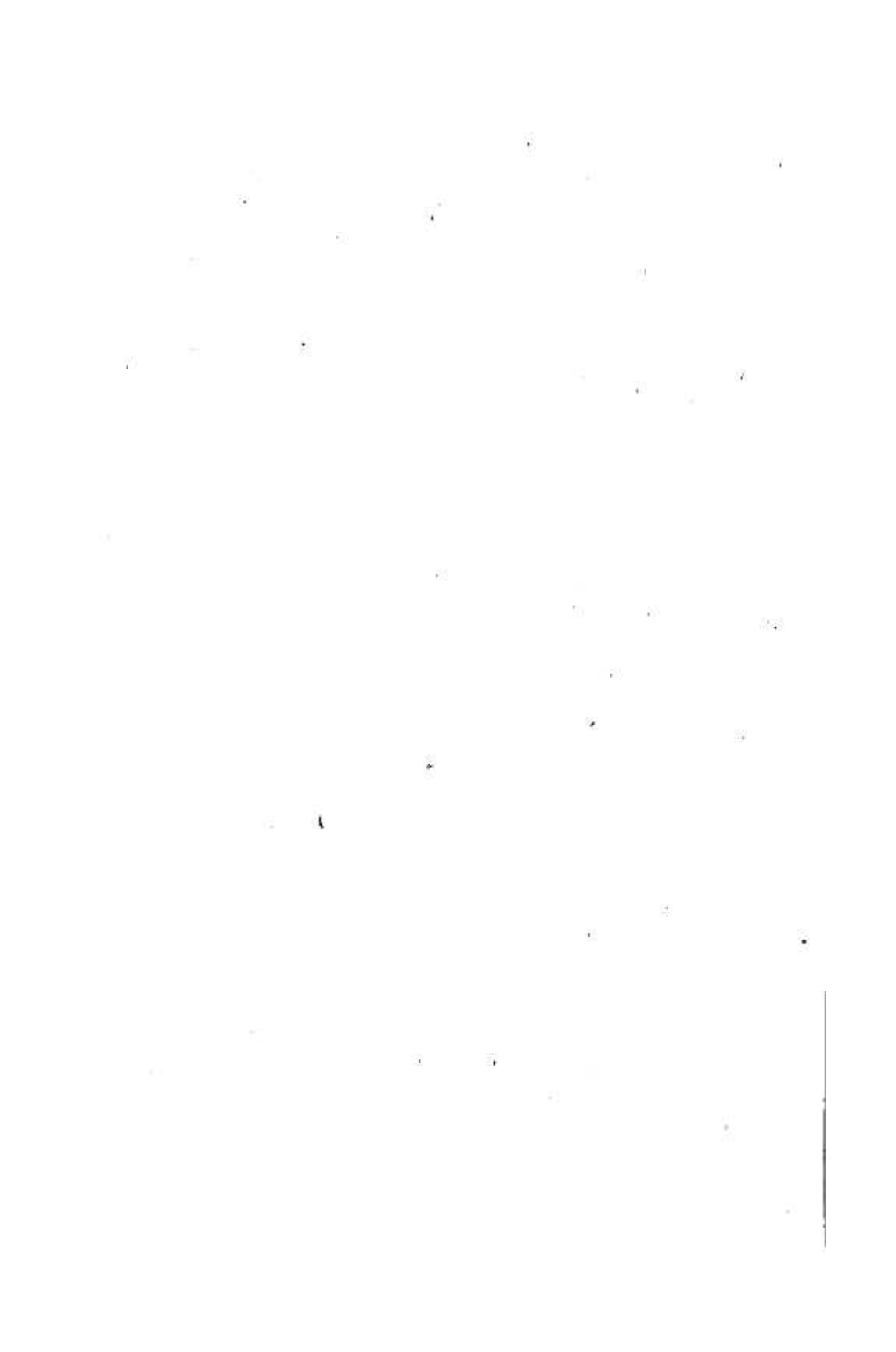
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INTRODUCTION

THE distortions in the world's sugar industry and trade,¹ consequent upon the upheaval of the Great War, affected the United States almost as seriously as it did the European belligerents. The problem of procuring adequate sugar supplies for the United States and stabilizing the price of this peculiarly indispensable commodity, which "has grown during the last one hundred years into our culinary and dietetic life to act as a sort of binding material on which our cuisine so largely revolves,"² became acute shortly after the United States entered the world conflict. The formation of a public commission to attempt solution of this problem was foreshadowed by Herbert C. Hoover a year before the severe logic of sheer economic pressure compelled the actual creation of such a body. Appearing before the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry on June 19, 1917, to testify in behalf of the then pending Food Control Bill (S. 2463), Mr. Hoover made the following statement:

"At the present moment our sugar refiners are competing with the allied sugar commission for the purchase of Cuban sugar. It must be patent that if we create a sugar commission and if that sugar commission coöperates with the Allies and the Cuban producers to take over the Cuban crop at the fixed price, that we can effect a considerable saving on the present inflated price of raw sugar, and we can stabilize the price of sugar throughout the whole of next year, because the sugar commission should be able to impose upon the refiners the necessity to pass

¹ See Appendix, Exhibits 27, 28, and 29, for statistics of world production, imports and exports of sugar.

² From Mr. Hoover's statement in the Hearing before the Subcommittee of the Committee on Manufactures, U. S. Senate, Jan. 2, 1918 (p. 577).