SUGAR and PLANTATION NEWS

STRONGER MARKET IN ALL GRADES

Willett & Gray Report Many Favorable Factors In Sugar Outlook

Heavy Export Business In Cuban Raws and American Refined Continues

Sales of raw sugar at New York during the week ending March 16 were again heavy, totaling over 665,000 bags—Cuba, Porto Rico, San Domingo and Peru. A 5000 ton lot of Peru was reported sold to Canada. The business was about evenly divided between operators and refiners and included sugars in port, afloat, and March-April delivery.

Willett & Gray's report states, in part, that stocks in the United States and Cuba together were 670,795 tons, against 588,131 tons last week and 566,607 tons last year, an increase of 104,188 tons from last year.

The Raws Market

Influenced by a steady and continuous demand for refined sugars, both locally and for export, the market has continued strong and advancing.

Last week cost and freight quotations were 4⅝c for prompt, 4½c for April and 4½c for May shipment. The strength of the market is shown in the fact that the advances made were in eighths, say from 5.39c to 5.52c to 5.64c to 5.77c to 5.89c, or totaling an advance of 50 points for the week.

Porto Ricos sold March 16 at 5.64c, an advance of 37 points. Philadelphia paid 5.71c for Porto Ricos.

Full-duty sugars have also been active and at advancing prices, last sales being at 4⅝c c.i.f. New York. Perus and San Domingos comprise the chief sales.

Among the recent sales of raws were purchases by European operators of 12,000 tons Cubas for immediate, March and April shipments to cover purchases of granulated for export. The prices paid for these raw sugars were 5.72c and 5.77c.

At the close the market was very strong, with sales at 5.89c for March and April Cubas, and with holders asking 6.02c for any position.

The Atlantic port figures continue to show large meltings (70,000 tons) and with receipts only about sufficient to cover the meltings (72,520 tons) the refiner's stocks are not able to increase materially.

Cuban Trade Bullish

The weekly cabled figures were bullish, receipts being 134,049 tons or 24,839 tons less than those of last week. The total exports, 57,854 tons, were comparatively small, 13,326 tons being consigned to Europe, and according to Mr. Himley, 12,000 tons to New Orleans, leaving only 32,528 tons for the United States Atlantic ports, which is only about one-half a week's meltings at the rate that the Atlantic refiners have been working lately.

Stocks in the Island are increased considerably, in consequence, and now stand at 535,350 tons, against 384,000 tons last year. On March 13 there were 183 centrals grinding, compared with 174 corresponding date last year. Visible production to March 11 was 1,373,460 tons, against 964,715 tons last year and 1,177,352 tons in 1914.

Latest cable advices covering the weather in the Island for the week state that rains have occurred in the western provinces and some in Oriente province, which is more favorable than the previously existing dry weather conditions.

Foreign Situation.

Our regular monthly cable gives Java exports in February of 45,000 tons, all to Asiatic ports. The latest exports to Europe were in October, 1915.

Belgium production of of the 1915-16 campaign is placed at 120,000 tons, while the stock at the end of the campaign year is placed at about 53,000 tons, together 173,000 tons, whereas requirements are figured about 200,000 tons. The deficit could be imported from Holland, but the Dutch export values are above the maximum prices allowed in Belgium by the German authorities.

France has arranged to pay beet factories $9.65 (at the par of exchange) per ton for beets for the coming campaign.

In Russia only fifteen of the fifty-four beet factories are in working order, and the production of these fifteen factories is less than one-quarter of the usual annual consumption.

Refined Also Advances

The refined market has closely followed raws, and quotations have advanced to 6.90c, regular terms, an advance of 40 points for the week. The demand locally has been fairly active, although restricted in many cases by refiners, who are reluctant sellers.

The export demand has been brisk, and in addition to the usual daily business in moderate size lots, the following round lots have been placed: March 9-10, 3500 tons at 5.55c; March 11, 2000 tons at 5.60c; March 13, 1000 tons at 5.65c and March 15, 15-20,000 tons at 5.80-85-90c. The above lots are for various shipments up to May, and quotations net cash, in bond, f.o.b. New York.

Trust Gets Big Order

The announcement is made that the English Commission has entered into a contract with the American to refine raws for them to the extent of 50,000 tons, extending into a period of several months.

As we go to press quotations are, Federal 7.00c and others 6.90c. Warner is still withdrawn.

Delays in shipments are still considerable. American are today shipping orders placed about February 25. Howell is prompt on straight cars of fine granulated by all rail routes but other grades are three to four weeks behind. Arbuckle is about a week delayed on city deliveries and slightly more on out of town cars. Federal is a week to ten days behind and Warner about a week.

Advances were made in both cane and beet in other parts of the country. Michigan beet is quoted at 6.80c basis in favorable territory.

Cuban Freights

We extract the following from Mr. Himley's circular dated March 6, 1916: The charters closed during the past week have been mostly for Gulf ports and at prices considerably below what is asked for Atlantic ports, owing to the moderate amount of sugar destined for the Gulf and the proportionately larger number of steamers which sail thereto.

The following cargoes have closed: Cienfuegos to Galveston, 26,000 bags, at 36c; Sagua to New Orleans, 23,000 bags, at 35c; Caibarien or Matanzas to New Orleans, 14,000-15,000 bags, at 35c; one port North Coast to Galveston, 24,000 bags at 34c; one port North Coast to New Orleans, 19,000 bags, at 35c. From the North Coast to ports north of Hatteras shipper's ideas are 45c while 50c is wanted, and from the South Coast 2c more should be added to these rates.

BRITISH ROYAL COMMISSION PLEADS FOR ECONOMY

The British royal commission on sugar supply has issued an appeal for economy in consumption. Sugar is worth just double what it was before the war and the amount consumed has been practically the same. It is therefore evident that further economies in its use can be effected, and the commission desires to impress upon the public the urgency of the obligation to use every effort to effect such economies.

"It accordingly requests all classes to reduce their consumption not only of sugar, as such, but also of jams, biscuits, sweetmeats, chocolates, and other goods of which sugar is an important constituent.

"If due care is exercised, and individual consumption is kept within reasonable limits, such restrictions will not cause anything in the nature of a shortage of adequate supplies of these foodstuffs, and will afford no ground for an increase in prices.

"A reduction in consumption will afford material assistance in solving the problem of tonnage, and will in this way help to keep down the prices of other commodities. Moreover, as all sugar consumed here is imported from abroad, economies in its use will tend to influence rates of exchange in favor of this country."

Argentina Plants More Cane

The sugar cane area of the provinces of Tucuman, Salta and Jujuy, in Argentine, has increased from 72,000 to 109,000 hectares, according to a German consular report. Through better technical arrangements in the factories the extraction of sugar has been raised two per cent in the past few years so that nine per cent is the general average.

There have been considerable quantities of sugar in storage for some years because of the prohibitive tariff on outgoing sugar which tariff, however, has now been so arranged that a sliding scale will reduce it down to the year 1921 when it may have reached a level whereby it will be profitable to export. The government wanted to encourage the local industry in this prohibitive tariff, but the sugar manufacturers had to export sugars at a loss just to equalize the profits.

Argentina Sugar Embargo

The reason why Argentina has recently declared an embargo on sugar exports is that the 1915 crop was only about one-half the usual amount.

A cold period of three months did the damage. The total output of forty sugar factories was only 150,000,000 kilograms compared with 332,000,000 kilograms in 1914, and 280,000,000 in 1913. This year's crop will not cover the home consumption, which is about 210,000,000 kilograms. There was a good deal of sugar sold in 1914 and 1915 for export to Europe on account of the high prices.

Sugar Ship Earnings

Shipping Illustrated, March 11, reports five American-Hawaiian vessels formerly in the sugar trade chartered, as follows: the Arizona and Columbian, each 12,000 tons freight capacity, and the Iowan, 10,000 tons, Virginia to Rio de Janeiro for two round trips, 1000 tons per day discharge, at $17.25.

The Panaman, 10,000 tons, will leave New York in April for one round trip to the River Plate, the charter terms private.

On the Pacific the Honolulan, 9000 tons is chartered for two round trips, Puget Sound to Vladivostok at $100,000 per month, the first trip in March.

Everybody Busy

Alexander & Baldwin state that there have been good rains on Maui. Harvesting is everywhere in full blast and sugar shipments are going forward rapidly. Everyone is too busy to write reports and there have been no untoward happenings. In fact none of the plantations have anything to report.

CUBA ENJOYING GREAT PROSPERITY

This Sugar Crop Worth Hundred Million More Than Any Other

The Weekly Bulletin of the Canadian Department of Trade and Commerce dated February 14 gives the following statement showing the commercial progress of Cuba for the last ten years and the accumulation of over $344,000,000 of exports over imports in the decennial period:

	Imports	Exports	Balance
1906	$ 99,540,000	$ 108,910,000	$ 9,370,000
1907	105,218,000	116,593,000	11,375,000
1908	86,369,000	98,849,000	12,480,000
1909	95,307,000	124,740,000	29,433,000
1910	107,959,000	151,271,000	43,312,000
1911	113,267,000	123,136,000	9,869,000
1912	125,902,000	172,978,000	47,076,000
1913	143,827,000	165,125,000	21,298,000
1914	119,001,000	177,554,000	58,553,000
1915	128,132,000	219,447,000	91,315,000
Total	$1,124,522,000	$1,458,603,000	$334,081,000

"This accumulated wealth of Cuba is used to expand the business of the island in all its various lines, the chief of which is the sugar industry. New sugar mills are being erected every year, representing an outlay of millions of dollars. New lands are being cleared, railways are being extended, public buildings are being erected and there is a general feeling of prosperity on the island.

"Cuba's sugar mills, or centrals, as they are called here, are busily engaged in grinding the largest crop of sugar cane ever produced on the island. As the result of the high prices that have prevailed for the last eighteen months, the acreage has been largely increased. It is estimated that the 1916 sugar crop of Cuba will amount to 3,173,429 long tons, or about 22,214,000 sacks.

The handling of this immense quantity of sugar will require over 1200 steamers of an average capacity of 18,000 sacks each. At the prevailing prices, which are about 3⅝ cents per pound f.o.b. steamer the crop will be worth $266,568,000, or an average of over $100 for every man, woman and child on the island. This will be an increase of over $100,000,000 over the crop of 1914."

HAWAII MIGHTY INDEPENDENT SAYS SAN FRANCISCO PRESS

San Francisco Bulletin of March 17 states:

"The price of refined sugar, granulated basis, is $6.95 per 100 pounds today. The two local refineries, the Western and the California-Hawaiian, simultaneously announced overnight advances of 25 cents per 100 pounds this morning. This is the high record since the outbreak of the European war, when sugar at wholesale sold at $7.50. The retail price will of course be advanced 50 cents as usual, which will make the price $7.45 to consumers who buy by the 100-pound sack.

Owing to the fact that Europe is producing but eighty per cent of its normal beet sugar crop, Great Britain and some of the neutral nations which formerly were partly supplied by the central powers are this year in the market for largely increased consignments of Cuban raw and refined sugar, so that despite the fact that the Cuban crop now being crushed, is 25 per cent above normal, it is expected the European demand will far more than offset this increase.

Says We Are Cocky

"The Hawaiian cane sugar crop, which has just been harvested, is above normal, and plantation stock companies are reaping bigger profits than ever before. Hawaiian raw sugar is sold under contract to refineries throughout the country on a price basis fixed in the New York raw sugar market on the day deliveries are made.

"An official of one of the San Francisco refineries this morning predicted that refined sugar would go to $7.50 before October.

"I expect to see raw sugar advance to $6.65. The world supply of sugar is short. Europe, Canada and the United States are looking to Cuba for a supply. The plantation owners in Hawaii and Cuba are very independent. They are in a position to dictate prices. The cargo of less than 7000 tons of raw sugar arriving on the Matsonia yesterday is about a six-day run for the California-Hawaiian refinery at Crocket. Constant shipments from Hawaii are expected for the Pacific Coast trade."

Progress At Kohala

Castle & Cooke have nothing to report except that work is proceeding satisfactorily on all their plantations. As has been previously announced Kohala Sugar Company has bought a new 3-roller mill, Searby shredder and some improvements for the boiling house. These will be installed at the end of the season in time to handle the 1917 crop.

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That little cold and sore throat of yours must be checked at once or it may develop into something worse. Taken a few doses of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy and your troubles will soon vanish. For sale by all dealers. Benson, Smith & Co., Ltd., agents for Hawaii.

CONSUMERS OBJECT TO PRODUCER'S LUCK

They Say We Are Acting High-Handed and Are Money Mad

"It is going to be awfully expensive to have a sweet tooth this year," says the San Francisco Bulletin:

"Now that congress has voted to keep the tariff on sugar, the price of that commodity has started heavenward so rapidly that nobody but a financial angel would have the least chance to keep pace with it.

"Right on the heels of the news of the sugar vote in the house of representatives this morning refined sugar on the Pacific Coast jumped 15 cents a hundredweight. This makes the wholesale price here $7.10, and three more jumps like today's will break the previous high record of $7.50 per hundredweight, established in 1911.

How To Explain It

Students of the sugar market mournfully admit that there is no economic reason for its skyrocket adventures. The only explanation is speculation.

There is an enormous crop of sugar in Cuba, where the production last month—597,227 tons—was more than twice as great as the highest yield for any previous month in history.

The cane crops in Porto Rico, Hawaii, the West Indies, the Philippines, Java and other places are correspondingly large.

Honolulu On Spree

"Honolulu is money mad. The island sugar planters, with their huge output, are fairly rolling in wealth, and the tidal wave of excess profits that is sweeping over the Hawaiian archipelago finds its only parallel in the war earnings of the Eastern munitions manufacturers.

"But—Mr. Average Citizen, who is cast in the role of consumer, doesn't like it a bit. He can't for the life of him see why the law of supply and demand—to which producers and wholesalers and manufacturers usually refer so reverently when there is a shortage of any commodity—should be so absolutely disregarded that prices are acting like a balloon in the face of a superabundant supply.

It's Not Healthy

"Ranskorf, Lyon & Co. of New York, in their News Bulletin of March 10, make the following significant comment:

"Not only will production, outside of the continent of Europe, be much larger this year than last, but Great Britain and France are going to cut down the consumption of sugar very materially. France has forbidden the importation of sugar, either raw or refined, and the British government has decided to reduce imports 25 per cent, with the possibility that this reduction will be made even more drastic. It will not be very long before the export demand will fall to very small proportions, and yet sugar prices in this country are being forced higher and higher. It does not look like a healthy market."

The Price Fixed

"Here in San Francisco, where Hawaiian and Philippine sugar is brought by ocean steamers, the cost of raw sugar is just as high as it is in New York, although there is no transcontinental freight expense involved.

"Refiners admit that the local price is arbitrary. They have no competition here, so they can charge what they please.

"In the East the Hawaiian sugar is forced to compete with Cuban sugar, so the prices are fixed there and enforced out here.

The Inside View

"One of the officers of a big refining concern located at Crocket this morning said:

"While I do not anticipate any break this year in the price of sugar, the condition of the market is far from satisfactory from our standpoint.

"High prices cut into consumption and slumps in demand too frequently cause slumps in prices at the very moment when we are loaded up with high-priced raw sugar.

"The growers hold the whip hand in the sugar business in both Hawaii and Cuba. Two companies control a third of the Cuban crop, and at present they are doling out sugar in very small amounts, comparatively, to the New York market. They are well financed and in a position to regulate the supply in such manner as to force refineries to buy at their prices."

Olaa Flumes Full

Olaa reports that the main flume is running fairly full and harvesting operations are proceeding at a rapid pace. The condition of the plantation could not be better.

LOUISIANA-TRUST SUIT TO BE TRIED ON ITS MERIT

The Louisiana Planter of March 11, 1916, says: "It will be a matter of interest to our readers to learn that the state supreme court has refused a rehearing in the matter of the ouster suit instituted by Governor Hall in the name of the state against the American Sugar Refining Company, with a view of appointing a receiver for the property and driving the corporation out of the state, unless it complied with the requirements of the anti-trust laws of the state, and especially the laws enacted by the last session of the Louisiana legislature.

Our readers will recall that Judge King refused to grant an injunction, or rather an exception, because of no cause of action, from which an appeal was taken to the state supreme court, the present order of that court returning the case to the civil district court for trial on its merits. As we now understand it, the matter will come before the civil district court on its merits. The chief argument made against the recent anti-trust legislation has been that it was unconstitutional under the constitution of the state of Louisiana as well as federal constitution. It will doubtless require a considerable time for its final determination."

WAIMEA MILL STARTS WORK ON SECOND HALF OF CROP

R. Renton Hind, consulting engineer of the Honolulu Iron Works Company left yesterday for Kauai to be on hand at the first run of the reconstructed Waimea mill. His company has completed the installation of new boilers, a new 3-roller mill and 6-roller gearings, making the plant over into a 12-roller mill and crusher. The plantation also bought the second-hand Waianae quadruple effect and this has been installed and is ready for work. Early this season Waimea plantation ground enough 1916 crop to make up its quota on the old shipping contract and then shut down to install the new machinery. When the mill is satisfactorily tuned the balance of the crop will be ground in rapid time.

The following sugar by bags is reported awaiting shipment on Hawaii:—

Olaa	23,600
Waiakea	10,000
Hawaii Mill	13,000
Hilo Sugar Co.	4,000
Onomea Sugar Co.	11,568
Pepeekeo	3,500
Honomu	8,500
Hakalau	9,716
Laupahoehoe	10,554
Kaiwiki	8,928
Kukaiau	7,132
Hamakua Mill	9,480
Paauhau	9,000
Honokaa	7,000
Punaluu	7,420
Honuapo	1,776

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REFINERS AFRAID OF SPECULATION

'Barring Sudden Peace, Upward Tendency Will Continue,' Says Journal of Commerce

But Undue Rise In Prices Might Lead To Heavy Losses

The recent sudden increase in sugar prices was caused by rumors of heavy British buying of refined, says the New York Journal of Commerce of March 21.

According to reports the American had contracted to sell 100,000 tons but Earl L. Baist, president of the company stated that the amount was only 50,000 tons for delivery in the next six months.

A Philadelphia refinery was said to be dickering to supply another 50,000 tons, at a round price of about $6,000,000.

"Last year by holding off, England broke the market shaply," the Journal says, "but a similar policy more recently has proved of little avail, granulated rising steadily in keeping with the strength of raw sugar in Cuba.

"The world production will be short despite the record breaking Cuban crop, the war having sharply curtailed the beet yield. Last year there were some 211,000 tons of sugar shipped to the United Kingdom by refiners and fully 130,000 tons have been sent so far this year. The 50,000 tons arranged with the American, therefore, will be insufficient for future needs and further purchases must be made by the commission, according to the view of the trade.

Greece And France Are Buyers

"The significant fact is that the deadlock has been broken and both England and France may be more of a factor in the sugar market from now on. Since refiners are a month behind in deliveries, prompt sugar is out of the question. For April shipment 5.50c in bond to 5.60c is asked by local interests with inquiries for several cargoes to Greece and other countries in the market. It is said that France will need 175,000 tons this year to eke out supplies.

"The domestic trade is watching the situation carefully, although provided for two months to come with contracts. An advance to 6.50c, with refiners none to anxious for business, as this involves purchasing raws, thereby further stimulated the market.

"Moreover, there is a desire to discourage speculation in sugar, which usually ends in the refiner footing the bill if a break occurs. The feeling in the trade is that, barring sudden peace, the upward tendency will continue, for the Cuban planted controls the situation and is making the most of it."

SKIPPER SMITH IS ON SEA HONEYMOON

Captain J. F. Smith of the Standard Oil Company's steamer A. F. Lucas, now en route from San Francisco to Honolulu, is bringing his bride with him.

The doughty captain has been known for years on the San Francisco waterfront as a confirmed bachelor, but the morning of the day of the steamer's departure, at the home of Mrs. George Bunting, 6458 Regent street, Oakland, there was a wedding, in which ceremony Captain Smith figured prominently.

Miss Lenora Beatrice Dole, Mrs. Bunting's neice, and Captain Smith were married.

There was a wedding breakfast, and then the bridal couple went aboard the Lucas in Richmond harbor and started out to sea on their honeymoon. Mrs. Smith is a young woman of striking beauty. She confessed after the wedding that the engagement, although kept very quiet, had been of several months' duration.

And all that time Standard Oil Company officials were still addressing Captain Smith as "Mr. Bach".

MAGNETIC DEVIATION AND REFUGEE VESSELS

The German shipping paper "Hansa" calls the attention of German ship-owners to the fact that since most of their vessels have been laid up for more than a year, the magnetic deviation of the ships will have altered considerably.

When the vessels are again placed in service after lying so long on one course, their magnetic conditions will be unstable for a time and may easily lead to danger.

It is recommended that every interned or laid-up vessel be now reversed at its moorings.

SOME ROW DUE AT G. O. P. CONVENTION

Judge Wilder Smiles As He Predicts Trouble In Ranks of Republicans

Hist! There is trouble brewing in the ranks of the G. O. P. A. A. Wilder who has just returned from a business trip to San Francisco, tries to look sorrowful when he says it, but some how the tears won't come. Indeed he smiles when he adds that Franklin K. Lane, who was on the Coast at the same time Wilder was there, believes that there is every prospect for a lovely 'scrap' when the G. O. P. convention meets in Chicago this coming summer.

"The rock that the Republicans are going to split upon this time is the same as last," says Mr. Wilder. "If the convention fails to nominate Colonel Roosevelt it is a safe bet that there will be all sorts of a row, and the Progressives are going to start it and keep it going. On the other hand, if Teddy should get the nomination there is the Old Guard to be considered. The Old Guard does not want Roosevelt, won't have him if they can help it and they think they can. Result? Oh, there'll be a fight anyway the convention hops."

Mr. Wilder reported that Secretary Lane made several speeches in San Francisco telling the people of the city by the Gold Gate that the Democratic administration is in favor of "peace, prosperity and preparedness." The "Three Ps Policy," is what they are calling it up on the Coast, where the fight has already become warm.

Mr. Wilder declined to tell the nature of the private business that took him to the Coast, but he admitted that it did not take him very long—just a day and a half.

MATSONIA BROKE FREIGHT RECORD

Liner Brought Mammoth Cargo and Many Passengers From San Francisco

All previous cargo records for the Matson line, out of San Francisco, were broken by the steamer Matsonia arriving yesterday morning, and which brought the mammoth freight of 7064 tons.

Capt. Charles Peterson was alongside Pier 15 about eight o'clock, and shortly afterward 120 cabin passengers were disembarking.

That Honolulu is still buying automobiles was evidenced by the fact that the liner brought 30 cars for Honolulu; and sixteen machines for Hilo, beside. Every steamer from the coast brings a number of automobiles and there seems to be no limit to the demand for the joy-wagons. Several cars were left behind on the wharf at San Francisco.

The Matsonia's freight included 1026 tons of feed, 314 tons of hay, 1055 tons of cement, 665 tons of fertilizer and 4006 tons of general freight.

Cargo for this port amounted to 1625 tons, and there is in the hold for Hilo, 1439 tons. Bills of lading exceed 800.

All wasn't smooth sailing the first two days out of San Francisco, strong westerly winds and a rough sea being experienced. After last Friday, and until the end of the voyage, the weather was all that could be desired.

The Matsonia made the run from the Coast in 5 days 19 hours and 41 minutes.

Among the passengers were Mr. and Mrs. D. H. Bishop of San Francisco, and Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Brown of Goldfields, both newly married couples. Brown is a stepson of Harold L. Morris, the Denver cattleman and big game fisherman, at present residing in Honolulu.

The Matsonia will leave for Hilo at five o'clock tomorrow night.

LURLINE'S SAILOR HAS NARROW ESCAPE

Cuts Away Oilskins While He Battles With Big Waves

On her last trip to San Francisco the steamer Lurline experienced very rough weather, according to word received from a passenger yesterday.

The main deck was continually under water and great waves deluged the vessel from one end to the other.

On March 17 an immense wave swept the steamer, carrying a sailor overboard.

The ship was stopped and a boat lowered, which was itself very dangerous, with the sea that was running. By the time the boat was in the water the man was far astern and could only be seen by aid of a telescope, once in awhile, and then on top of a wave.

By great, good fortune the sailor managed to keep afloat until picked up, and then it was a job to get the boat on the davits again. The incident lasted about an hour.

Captain Smith and the officers of the Lurline are said to have showed great skill throughout the thrilling episode.

The man was a fine swimmer, and while in the water cut away his oilskins and boots in order to be able to hold out longer.

The Lurline left Honolulu March 14 and arrived at San Francisco March 22.