

REVOLVING KNIVES AND PLANTATIONS

GOVERNMENT MAY FIX SUGAR PRICES FROM VALLEY ISLE

Such is Fear Expressed in New York—Shipping Conditions Continue Chaotic

Up until the present time the entry of the United States into the war as a belligerent power has had a very stimulating effect on the price of raw sugar, reports a New York correspondent of a local sugar house, under date of April 13.

Every day this week, the report continues, refiners have taken offerings at gradually advancing figures and today Cuba are offered very sparingly at 5 1/2% C. & F. for nearby and prompt sugars while blue is asked for May. It is believed that before the day closes refiners will absorb all offerings at the prices named.

Owners of vessels are not only demanding excessive freight but also that their charterers insure the vessels at the present inflated values and pay the increased premiums due to the war status. Scarcity of seamen is a problem which has become acute also.

The Porto Rico steamship lines, we understand, have cancelled all freight agreements, which, of course, means that Porto Rico sugars lose the advantage in freight they have hitherto possessed, and that before long these sugars will have to be sold at the parity of Cuba, whatever that may be.

The option market has been going up steadily since war was declared and after a slight recession yesterday, is again on the up grade. Despite the fact that appearances are all in favor of the constructive side of the market, there are some who see breakers ahead.

They discredit Prinsen Geerlig's statement that 2,000,000 tons of sugar will be required for European countries this year, and point to the scarcity of tonnage and to the continuous process now going on in these countries of further and further curtailing consumption, so that before many weeks a surplus of sugar may materialize which the United States will not be able to absorb, with the result of a domestic fall in prices. All to this the possibility that the United States government may step in to regulate prices not only for home consumption but for export and we may find ourselves like a rudderless ship on an unknown sea.

Figures from Cuba for the week ending 14th inst. follow:

	Himely (81% water)	Guma
Receipts	91,200 tons	82,267 tons
Exports	31,000	55,286
Stock	301,000	420,250
Exports, week of		
Matanzas	30,000 tons	42,260 tons
Exports to New Orleans, etc.	8,700	8,422
Exports to Europe	17,000	3,037
Exports from		
Matanzas	11,142 tons	
Exports to Europe	12,751	

During last week heavy rains were reported in the western part of the island, while rains in the Oriente province were slight. The opinion seems to prevail that the total crop this year will be about 2,750,000 tons, provided there is no recrudescence of the revolution.

Offerings taken on Monday the American advanced its basis selling price to 7.50. Howell appears to be out of the market completely. Arbeck and Warner are quoting 8c and the Federal 8 1/2c, but some of them are willing to take the 8c bid, thus offering even at these figures.

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THE photographs herewith show the construction, design, working and accomplishments of the Meinecke revolving knives in preparing an even feed of cane for the crusher. These photographs were taken at the Paia mill. They show (1) the cane after passing through two sets of the Meinecke knives, grinding eighty tons of cane per hour; (2) the knives in place, with hood removed, and (3) the knives assembled on hub.



ASKED \$163,000,000 AND GOT \$600,000

NEW ORLEANS, April 13.—Settlement of 180 actions brought by Louisiana planters against the American Sugar Refining Company under the Sherman Antitrust law in November, 1915, which sought treble damages totalling \$163,000,000, has been damaged here at a conference of officials of the sugar company and representatives of the planters and cane growers. What the company agreed to pay the planters was not announced, but persons interested stated the amount was between \$600,000 and \$700,000.

Earl D. Babat, president of the sugar company; Donaldson Caffray, representing the plaintiffs, and L. M. Pool, of New Orleans, representing a planters' and growers' committee, were among the principal figures in the conference. According to the statement issued, certain trade regulations agreeable to both refiners and planters were decided upon, and the company will establish a trade laboratory here similar to the one created in New York.

Settlement of these suits, it was stated, brings to an end virtually all the litigation against the American Sugar Refining Company pending in state and federal courts here for several years. The center suit of the State of Louisiana still is pending, but negotiations for its withdrawal were started some time ago.

In the suits just settled the planters charged the sugar company was operating as an illegal combination in restraint of trade and alleged unfair methods and price fixing.

Revolving Knives Are Now Setting New Mark For Efficiency

Invention of Local Mill Man Is Now Doing Great Work Preparing the Cane of the Paia Plantation

Meinecke revolving knives in use at Paia mill, where they were first installed by the inventor, J. Meinecke, Paia mill engineer, are setting new high records for efficiency. With these knives preparing the cane for the mills, as high as eighty tons of cane an hour is being ground with an extraction of 98.80. One week this season the extraction averaged 98.82.

The knives are arranged in two sets, the first fourteen inches from the carrier and revolved at a speed of 20 revolutions a minute, and the second set seven-eighths of an inch from the carrier and revolved at a speed of 530 revolutions a minute. For the 34x36-inch crusher at Paia, the knives are set seventy-two to the shaft.

Since the invention of the Meinecke knife and its successful operation here, a number of Hawaiian mills have been furnished with this type of cane level by the Honolulu Iron Works.

SUGAR'S PART IN HIGH LIVING COST

Department of Labor Shows Price Made Smallest Advance of All Staples

Under date of April 4, "Facts About Sugar" publishes the following Washington despatch:

According to the figures compiled by the United States department of labor, and appearing in the April number of its Monthly Review in an article covering the increased cost of living in February, 1917, out of seven food products the average cost of which have increased less than ten per cent, sugar showed the smallest advance in price.

The department's average price of sugar per pound in February, 1916, is placed at 8.00 cents, and for February of the present year 9.10 cents, or an increase of only one-tenth of a cent a pound. As compared with other food products selected for illustration, the following table given in the report clearly shows how little sugar has contributed to the high cost of living compared with eight other food products, the price of which has shown the least increase of all commodities which are now helping to swell the average family food bill:

	Average Price Per Pound Feb. 1916	Average Price Per Pound Feb. 1917
Rice	27.00	28.50
Wheat	25.00	26.50
Beans	15.00	16.50
Butter	12.00	13.50
Bread	4.00	4.50
Meat	10.00	11.00
Sugar	8.00	9.10
Coffee	25.00	26.00
Tea	54.00	55.00

Of the above, tea and coffee remained at a stationary price and as sugar only advanced one and one-tenth per cent in the same comparative period its position is very close to these two products given a zero rating. In this connection it is also interesting to note that the department in this article shows that onions showed a seventy-seven per cent increase, potatoes thirty per cent, and that other articles, such as lamb, butter, cheese, flour, cornmeal and navy beans had jumped to abnormal levels.

Commenting on the above editorially, the organ of the domestic sugar producers says:

"The cost of most commodities of everyday use has been advancing more or less steadily for many years. For the decade prior to 1915 the rise was practically continuous but so gradual that it attracted relatively little attention except from economists and statisticians who deal with index figures and intricate percentages. Within the past year, however, and more particularly during the past few months, the upward swing of prices has been abrupt and sudden. As a consequence the high cost of living has ceased to be a subject of merely academic interest to the ordinary citizen. It has become a grim, practical and pressing problem.

Some figures and comparisons published by the department of labor show how marked this upward movement had become during the early months of the current year. A study of retail prices on February 1, made by the department, shows that the cost of onions on that date was seventy-seven per cent higher than the average price during 1916. In the case of potatoes the increase was thirty per cent. Many other articles of ordinary use had advanced from ten to twenty per cent. This increase in the more striking when it is considered that the average price of these articles during 1916, with which comparison is made, represented a marked advance over previous years and were generally regarded as abnormally high.

"The department publishes a table of the nine foodstuffs in which the advances in price had been least up to February 1 as compared with the preceding year. It is noteworthy that sugar is well toward the bottom of this list. Only two articles are below it. These are tea and coffee, in which no advance whatever had taken place. In the case of sugar the increase in cost shown by this table amounts only to one-tenth of a cent a pound. This is from one-sixth to one-twentieth of the rise in the prices of other staple food commodities, such as bread, meat and milk.

"This is merely another proof of the fact to which attention has been called frequently in these columns, that sugar has continued cheap notwithstanding the growing world shortage in this commodity. And it is worth while remembering in this period of high prices that the people of the United States have been paying less for their sugar than have the residents of any other important sugar-consuming country in the world."

WAR BANISHES DANCES (By The Associated Press) LONDON, April 17.—The feeling against dances in public places during the war has grown so strong that nearly all the hotels have decided to abandon them. The last important places to give way to sentiment in this respect were two London hotels, patronized largely by Americans. About the only noted night in private clubs and at house parties.

EUROPE SHORTAGE IS STAGGERING

Dutch Export Predicts That Imports Up To Two Million Tons Will Have To Be Made

Dr. H. C. Prinsen Geerlig, one of the foremost sugar statisticians of Europe, predicts that Europe will require two million tons of sugar from overseas during the present year to meet its demand, a statement which, according to a New York letter printed on this page, is doubted by American sugar men. Doctor Geerlig's statement, given out through the Indian Mercury, is summarized by the Associated Press as follows:

"Communicating in the Indian Mercury the results of a careful inquiry into Europe's sugar problem, as created by the war, this expert arrives at the conclusion that the prevailing sugar scarcity probably will become still more pronounced in the near future. It is already certain that the 1916-17 European crop will be a disappointing one, and that in general it has not yielded enough to allow of an unlimited consumption even in the countries of production, regardless of the possibility of any export.

"The estimates for Germany do not put the yield at more than 1,600,000 tons, or only enough for a moderate economical consumption. In Austria-Hungary the production is large enough for a normal consumption.

"None of the European-producing countries have anything to export, whereas France, Italy, Switzerland, Norway and Russia are likely to need more or less large imports. Great Britain is entirely dependent on overseas countries for its sugar. Putting the British import requirements in 1917 at 1,500,000 tons, France needs at 400,000 and the import requirements of the other countries named at 300,000 tons, a total is arrived at of 2,200,000 tons.

"Dr. Prinsen Geerlig concludes that Britain will be mainly dependent for its supplies on the United States, Cuba and Java. In Java the crop has turned out very well, yielding 1,617,000 tons of sugar or about 300,000 more tons than in the preceding year. The area planted for 1917 has been somewhat extended, and the prospects of the next crop are very good, so that about 1,600,000 tons may be again expected.

"In 1916, Cuba and the United States together sent 1,489,446 tons of raw sugar to Europe, and as Java shipped over 500,000 tons to the same destination, these countries alone provided last year an amount equal to the present estimated needs.

"The crops in the United States, Porto Rico, Hawaii and the Philippines, are, altogether, a little larger than the previous year. Sugar consumption in the United States in 1916 was somewhat less than in 1915, while the Cuba crop for 1917, is expected to be larger than that of 1916. There will thus be certainly a large, and probably larger, surplus available in the western hemisphere than last year, and if adequate cargo space and shipping facilities are available to bring it safely across, overseas countries will be in a position to fully meet Europe's requirements.

"The great question in 1917 thus resolves itself into one of transport, concludes this sugar authority."

SENATOR HINTS AT LAND LAWS' REFORM

Revision of the land laws by congress is on the cards, whether desired or not, according to a statement made to the senate yesterday afternoon by President Chillingworth.

"I cannot give you the source of my information," said the presiding officer, "but I know it for a fact that a revision of the land laws now in force is contemplated by congress. And if some of the ideas obtaining in Washington are put into effect without regard to local conditions or knowledge of them, the Territory will suffer severely."

The senate at the time of this statement was debating a bill introduced by Senator Baldwin, which appropriates \$500 for expenses to be incurred by the commissioner of public lands on a visit to Washington. At the time the bill was introduced, Senator Baldwin explained that it was intended to supplement Senate Resolution No. 14, introduced by President Chillingworth, which provides for the appointment of a commissioner by the Governor with powers to determine how much and what land shall be reserved for home-owners and to lease the remainder for twenty years or less.

The appropriation for Commissioner Rivenburgh encountered some opposition yesterday from Senators Castle, Wheeler, Quinn and others. Senator Baldwin, Senator Shilbuck and those who supported it, argued that it was a very important the Territory should be represented by somebody in an official position, whose words would command respect. Then President Chillingworth put in his own, and the senate voted eight to five in favor of sending Rivenburgh.

Almost Two Hundred Thousand Tons of Sugar Shipped Out

That 190,000 tons of sugar has been shipped from Hawaii by the Sugar Factors Company during the period January 1 to April 30 of this year, was a statement made by A. M. Nowell yesterday. Of this total 90,000 tons was sent to San Francisco, thence overland to the Atlantic Coast, and the balance of 100,000 tons was despatched to the order of the Crockett Manufacturing Company. According to Mr. Nowell other planters in Hawaii have shipped approximately 40,000 tons from the islands to various mainland centers.

PAIA LOOKS FOR A RECORD SEASON

Yields on Paia plantation so far this season have been better than ever known. Barring the event of unfavorable weather conditions, the crop will be the most successful one ever harvested from the fields of Maui Agricultural Company.

These extremely favorable conditions apply both as to cane yield and sucrose in the cane. The estimate for the 1917 crop is 30,000 tons of sucrose, or an average of six and a half tons of cane for a ton of sugar.

The crop is being harvested from ninety per cent Lahaina and ten per cent Hawaiiian seedlings. It is estimated that the 1918 crop will reach as high as 40,000 tons of sugar.

YESTERDAY'S ARRESTS Yesterday's arrests included: Suspected innkeeper—Fernando Credo (w). Investigation—C. Piper, Moses M. Kulejwold, Henry Goyer, W. Beckman, Kim Hak Soon. Safe-keeping—John Peterson. Second-degree larceny—Jim Maunaka, Peke Louis, P. de la Cruz, Mateo Elvera. Fishes in possession—Kobayashi, Ito. Profanity in possession—Sam Yoru. Profanity—Chang Fook.

FOHEBUR MUD PRESS PROVING UP WELL

The newly-invented type of mud press, the Fohebur, in operation for the first time at Paia Mill this season, is giving entire satisfaction and coming fully up to the expectations of the designers.

The four presses of this type at Paia are doing the work of fourteen ordinary mud presses, according to J. P. Foeter, superintendent of the mill.

The same amount of cloth is used with the Fohebur, though they have a four-inch mud deposit, as in the ordinary press.

The closed channel arrangement for running off the juice is proving a valuable advantage. Instead of the ordinary faucets the pipes conveying the juice from the presses are fitted with glass tubes and stop-cocks. The small glass aperture permits full control of the juice as it is plainly visible flowing through the tube. At the same time the juice is not exposed to the air and there is considerable saving of heat thereby.

THE FRUIT SEASON Paved completely is sure to be prevalent during the fruit season. The usual crop of fruit, though rain's Colic, Choler, and Dysentery, if medly on the ground, may give a life. For sale by H. L. De la Rosa Smith & Co., agents for Hawaii.—Advertisement.