

# SUGAR AND PLANTATION NEWS

## CROP CONDITIONS ON HAWAII GROWING MUCH MORE SERIOUS

Drought Continues Unbroken In Some Districts and Whole Cane Belt Is Damaged

### LITTLE HOPE IS FELT FOR SAVING NEXT CROP

Maui Dry But Not Badly Damaged—Rainfall On Oahu and Kauai Is Above Normal

No improvement in weather conditions is reported from Hawaii and Maui. In the drought-stricken sections of the Big Island the fields are dryer than ever and hopes of saving a fair amount of next year's crops are growing fainter. Cane is drying, growing yellow, dying and the young shoots that would go to make up the 1918 crop are further retarded at the period when they should be making the best of headway. Unless rain comes soon these tender stalks will wither and die. Two years' shortages, not one, are threatened. On Maui conditions are not nearly so bad as on Hawaii, but they are materially worse than they were a week ago. Very Dry In North Kohala.

North Kohala, Hamakua and North Hilo had no rains of importance as week as is shown by the weekly weather report and crop bulletin issued by the weather bureau. In North Kohala a third of an inch of rain fell in the week but the total for four months is more than nine inches below the normal. At Kohala Mill the precipitation was 0.17 of an inch and the moisture for the past four months is only about a third of the normal. Kohala Mission reports 0.12 of an inch of rain and is more than eleven inches under the normal for four months and for five months as well. Niihau had 0.19 of an inch of rain and is ten and a half inches below normal.

Whole Cane Belt Suffers. In Hamakua no rainfall is reported from the Hanalei station north from Paahou. For five months the former has had about one third of the normal rains and the latter less than one-fourth.

North Hilo is less affected but conditions are very bad. Oohala had 0.11 of an inch and has had about half the normal for five months. Laupahoehoe had 0.23 of an inch and the average compared with former years is also about a half for the past four and five months. Honohou had 0.70 and was only five inches below normal for five months, or about one-sixth under. The need of a good soaking rainfall is felt throughout the entire cane belt of the Big Island, says the crop bulletin. It adds that dry weather continued on Maui but that there were good rains on Kauai. On Oahu the rainfall for the late winter, spring and summer months is well above the normal.

## SUGAR MARKET IS TRENDING HIGHER

Refiners Buy All In Sight But Are Anxious About Control Action By Hoover

Buoynancy of refined sugar in the market and a wary conservatism of refiners in contracting for their output in an atmosphere "charged with electricity and no one knowing where the lightning from the food control clouds will strike," are told in the weekly letter which a local agency has received from its New York representative under date of August 9. The writer looks for still higher prices and, commenting on the situation, says: "Again we have had a week of soaring prices and no reason to believe that the top has been reached."

Refiners have bought for September shipment all Cubas offered at six and five-eighths cents C. & F. and with duty sugars at an even higher parity. Porto Rico for August-September shipment have been snapped up at 7.55 cents C. & F. after having been turned down only a day or two before at 7.34 cents. Some believe the market is due for a reaction, but others are firm in the belief that, until a strong hand takes hold, the present prices and even higher ones are inevitable. Today a refiner, said to Howell, bought 9000 bags Cubas for September shipment at six and five-eighths cents C. & F. which cleans up the market of sugars on offer at his price. Both Howell and Arbuckle are ready buyers at that figure but the only lot now offering is 10,000 bags August-September shipment at six and three-fourths cents and this, we just learn, has been taken in by the Federal along with 7500 bags September shipment at the same price.

The option market is cautiously

## LOUISIANA ENJOYS IDEAL CONDITIONS

After Long Dry Spells Rain Comes To Every Parish But One and Cane Does Well

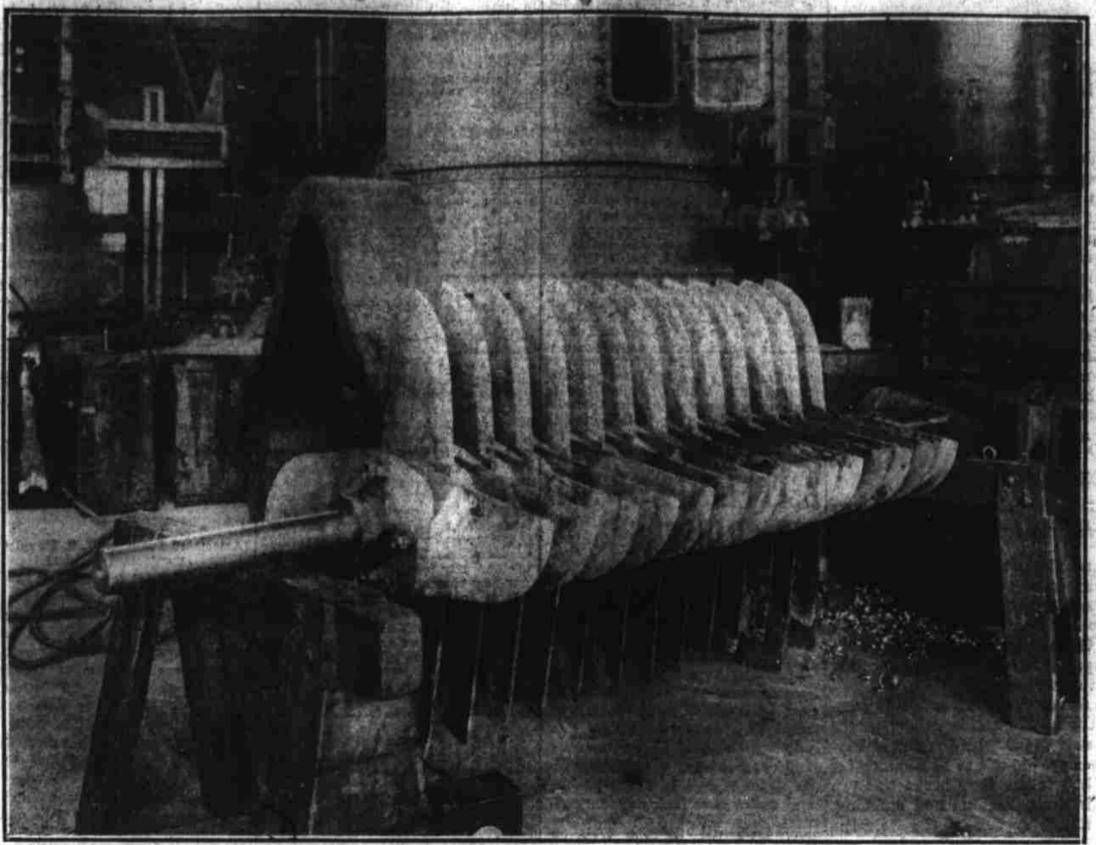
NEW ORLEANS, August 4.—Up to Wednesday no rain has been reported in West Baton Rouge, where cane has been severely damaged by one of the worst droughts that has ever been known in that parish and where the cane crop has likewise, and almost as seriously been impaired. In every other part of the sugar belt ideal conditions, conditions are reported as though one of the leading cane growers of the State said Thursday that some sections of sugar lands along Bayou Lafourche in the northern part of the State welcome a little more rain, what they need is not more rain, but a little more rain. Recent rains in Vermilion Parish have brought about a wonderful advancement in the crops, cane and sugar men with holdings in that Parish are very cheerful over the bright prospects for a great 1917 sugar season in that part of sugar Louisiana. The growth since the rains that fell has been something remarkable. Numerous samples are being exhibited by Vermilion cane farmers of cane with nine red joints fully developed. Vermilion Parish has the largest acreage of cane this year in its history and its factories there are making the most thorough preparations for handling the crop expeditiously. The Vermilion Sugar Company has placed an order for some twenty barges to handle the crop along Bayou Vermilion and Rose Hill is having a number built, while Erath Central, which operates about twelve miles of standard gauge railroad is having all of these and their rolling stock repaired. All of these things indicate that Vermilion Parish means to make the handling of the coming crop the most efficient since sugar manufacturing was started as an industry in that parish. J. Gladu Broussard was the first Vermilion Parish cane grower to send a fine ripe cane to Abbeville for exhibition at the First National Bank of that place. It had nine red joints. The cane crop in St. Mary Parish which was planted in June is showing up fine and only perhaps the comparatively small planting will stop it from assuming immense proportion. St. Martin reports good rains with resultant benefit to the cane and corn and other crops. The cane is a beautiful color everywhere and the fields are free from the recent rains reflect a beautiful picture to the eyes of the Louisiana sugar agriculturists.

Louisiana King of New Iberia had a cane with seven red joints on exhibition there last week and it is a fair specimen of the entire western end of the sugar belt where weather conditions and other things were more favorable this year than in other parts of the sugar district. The hot weather has also been conducive to better growth everywhere after the rains and all in all as a general proposition the entire situation, as far as weather is concerned, is everything that could be desired outside of some few unfortunate places. It is reported from Lafayette Parish that since the recent rains corn, which had been thought to be destroyed, had come out wonderfully and will yield an average crop. Sugar cane there though a little backward is now growing fast and looks well.

There will be few if any recruits to the white sugar manufacturing contingent in Louisiana this season. The falling off in high grade sugar is almost certain. One hears no one who has not got white sugar manufacturing equipment talking about installing it, while a number of planters whose factories are equipped to make white sugar are saying that they will very likely make raws instead of high grades because prices will be good anyhow and the work and other worry attached to the making of white sugar is too great. Meanwhile big sales of plantation granulated sugar of the 1916 crop were effected this week at 8 cents a pound and over. E. A. Rainold, Inc., figured most prominently in the sales which featured the market which had been very dull for many weeks. The sales of plantation granulated are expected to keep up the local refineries are not selling any but small lots and are behind from three weeks to thirty days in their deliveries. Sales at 8.10 had been made, but planters generally are hesitating when they do not have to sell. The demand for blackstrap molasses is very strong.

Following the actual sugar market and keeping one eye on Washington. Figures from Cuba for week ending 2nd, instant, follow: Receipts 22,951 tons Exports 17,995 " Stock 476,786 " Exports No. Hatteras 31,049 " Exports New Orleans 9,343 " Exports Europe 21,604 " Today Arbuckle advanced their basis price for refined sugar from 8.75 to 9.15 cents. The American notes 8.50 cents but both refiners are restricting new business to the limit. All the other refiners have withdrawn from the market entirely, and will make no quotations of any sort. The whole atmosphere is charged with electricity—where, when and what the lightning will strike is the conjecture of the hour. Unusual experiments are about to be made in the prices and control of fuelstuffs, and there are quite a lot of us from Missouri when it comes to that.

HERE is the new "hubless knife" put in use in the sugar mill last Monday. It is the first of the kind ever used, in fact, the first that was ever made. It was designed by the Oahu Sugar Company engineers, turned out by the Honolulu Iron Works and is reported to be giving perfect satisfaction in its first week's trial.



## SERAPIS TO CARRY SUGAR TWO TRIPS

Former German Boat Chartered By American-Hawaiian Replaces One Voyage of Texan

Two sugar carrying voyages between Hawaii and the mainland will be made by the Serapis, one of the steamers taken over by the United States when war with Germany was declared. She has been secured for those two voyages by the American-Hawaiian company and her cargoes will take care for the sugar that would have been taken had not the last scheduled voyage of the Texan, October 9, been cancelled. This was learned in the office of the Sugar Factors Company yesterday.

It is now expected that the Serapis will be loaded and ready to sail by August 25. She will take a full cargo of sugar from Hawaii, but will take none from Honolulu. Her loading points will be Kapaemahu and Kaula. Following the departure of the Serapis the next American-Hawaiian steamer will be the Texan which will probably get away September 5 or 6. She will load from Honolulu, Kahului and Hilo and will take between 13,000 and 14,000 tons. Then will come the Mexican, loading at the same ports and taking the same quantity, approximately as will the Texan and taking 7000 tons. This will accommodate in all more than 40,000 tons of sugar to eastern ports.

No farther sugar to Crockett is concerned the Matson line is expected to handle the required shipments without difficulty and will do so unless other steamers of that line be taken off. The same condition for eastern sugar applies to the American-Hawaiian line. Ability to handle cargoes depends on no more steamers being taken. It is understood that the Texan will go into Atlantic travel to meet urgent demands between the United States and the Allies.

Only one steamer has left carrying sugar since August 10. This was the Willingham which took 5000 tons, all for the Sugar Factors Company.

## KAHUKU EMPLOYEES HAVE EVENING ENTERTAINMENT

Managers Edward Adams, Kahuku Plantation Company is one of the managers of the Islands who has the welfare, comfort and enjoyment of the plantation workers in mind. Last Saturday evening he secured the Berteloni Theater and Professor Howman and his daughter Miss Madge Bowman as entertainers and had the workers on the plantation and their families as his guests. This is not the first time that Mr. Adams has thus looked after the enjoyment of those in his employ and his efforts are appreciated by them.

## KNIFE IN OAHU SUGAR MILL NOVELTY IN CONSTRUCTION

In the mill of the Oahu Sugar Company there was put into use Monday of this week a new type of knife, like which nothing has been seen here before. It was designed and gotten up by the engineers of the company, the designs and plans submitted to the Honolulu Iron Works which constructed it. This knife is the first of the kind that was ever constructed or used. The "hubless knife" differs materially from the old style and has twice the breadth at the hub and twice the strength. In the old style of knife each blade is bolted on to the metal piece that fits around the axle. The Oahu type has two blades on each piece, turned in opposite directions.

## SHIPPING AND LABOR CONDITIONS ARE WORRYING PLANTERS IN CUBA

HAVANA, July 28.—The shipping situation continues to interest the Cuban producers to a large extent, inasmuch as freight rates have advanced for the week, and in spite of the present crop shipping period nearing its end the rates show unprecedented strength and firmness. Rates this week from the north coast to New York are recorded at forty-three cents and from the south coast forty-five cents. It is anticipated by local sugar circles that freight rates for late August shipment and well into September will probably reach still higher levels. The labor situation in Cuba has given the sugar producers considerable anxiety. This is clearly shown by the step taken on July 25 by the "Liga Agraria," an agricultural society comprised principally of sugar growers, in issuing a circular letter, addressed to sugar manufacturers and members of the society, calling their attention to the critical situation that has arisen from the lack of an adequate supply of labor for the cultivation and harvesting of the 1917-18 sugar crop, as well as for other industries of Cuba.

One point clearly brought out in this letter was the fact that during the past year, and at the present time as well, there has been very considerable falling off of the immigration of laborers from Spain to Cuba. Inasmuch as Spain has provided in past years a large amount of the labor needed to handle each season's sugar crop, this falling off of the supply of labor from that source is keenly felt by the planters. The reason for the decrease in the Spanish immigration is that these laborers have been diverted to the United States, Argentina and other countries in the Western Hemisphere because of the high wages offered them and the more attractive living conditions that can be secured outside of Cuba. There is no question but that the labor situation is the most perplexing problem to be solved in the coming crop season. The difficulties that surround the obtaining of sufficient labor

to carry on cultivating and harvesting operations in the cane fields and manufacturing operations in the sugar mills are increasing daily. The gravity of the situation has at last been seriously realized by not only the sugar producers but by the Cuban Government as well.

Local Committees Proposed. The welfare of Spanish immigrants to Cuba is looked after by a delegate appointed by the Spanish Government with headquarters in Havana. He is a direct representative of a Spanish Government bureau known as the "Superior Board of Emigration of Spain." The present delegate to Cuba, in order to assist the sugar planters and the Cuban Government has suggested that local committees or boards be established in Cuba to inspect and look after the betterment of conditions surrounding Spanish immigrants and to see that they are well received and properly taken care of while in this country.

This suggestion is being well received by the sugar planters and the heads of other industries, and it is believed that as a result of this suggestion measures backed by Government authority will be taken to make the living and working conditions of not only the Spanish immigrants, but of all laborers coming from other countries, more attractive than is the case at present. These recommendations made by the Spanish Emigration Agent and the action of the Liga Agraria all forcibly show the seriousness of the labor question in Cuba and should bring about a realization by the public of how imperative President Menocal's reasons were for sending a special message to Congress on July 25, calling the attention of the legislators to the necessity of immediate and favorable action on the administration's immigration bill.

In connection with the provisions of this bill it is necessary to point out that its failure to pass has been due to the objection of some members of the Cuban Congress to Asiatic immigration.

## PARTIAL RETURNS OF SHIPMENTS OF SUGAR ARE LARGE

Four Companies Have Realized More Than Hundred Dollars a Ton Up To August 1

### LATER RETURNS WILL PROVE EVEN HIGHER

Pioneer Average Net Return For Each Ton Is Higher Than Those of Three Others

Good receipts, so far as returns have been received up to August 1, have been enjoyed by the sugar companies of Hawaii. This is shown by figures which have been secured relative to output, shipments and returns of four of the big plantations, Ewa, Waiialoa, Pioneer Mill and Oahu Agricultural Company. Of these the highest net receipts per ton were earned by Pioneer.

In quoting what earnings of these companies below, as they are taken up one by one, it is not intended to form comparisons as to the final earnings this year as compared with last but, in computing what receipts have been to August 1, it is interesting to know what last year's total receipts were.

Ewa Does Well. Ewa had manufactured 31,700, shipped 24,412 and of this there had been accounted for 17,965 tons at an average of \$101.72 a ton, net. This brings net receipts for Ewa to that date \$1,735,831.80. The estimated production of Ewa Plantation Company has been announced at 34,500 tons but street reports are to the effect that it will reach \$36,250 tons so the receipts are for half the crop, or less, and at considerably lower figures than are now prevailing. Net profit last year as given by the Hawaiian Manual of Securities was \$1,754,769.

Waiialoa Returns Good. Waiialoa Agricultural Company manufactured 24,161 tons and had shipped 22,549. Of this returns had been received on 15,899 tons at \$101.81 net, making receipts of \$1,618,577.19 or less than half of the estimated crop of 30,400 tons. Net earnings last year are shown by the Manual of Securities to have been \$1,487,754. High Figures For Pioneer. From Pioneer Mill Company more full figures have been secured. It had manufactured 33,278 tons to August 1 and shipped 23,385. Of this 15,385 tons had been accounted for at \$105.50 net. This brings in \$1,646,192.50. There remains to be accounted for 7000 tons at an estimated net of \$104.75 a ton or \$761,253. There was on hand for shipment 9893 tons.

Better Prices Are Assured. Oahu had turned out 30,917 of an estimated crop of 35,000 tons and 23,791 tons had been shipped of which 15,606 had been accounted for at \$100.50 net realizing \$1,568,130.30. There had arrived above this 7176 for which an average price of net return of \$112.50 is expected. This would realize \$807,300. There were on hand 7126 tons for shipment. Last year the net profits of this company were \$1,653,488.

## BEET SUGAR CROP TO EXCEED LAST YEAR

Estimate Puts Increase At One Hundred and Sixty-two Thousands Tons Better Than 1916

NEW YORK, August 4.—The 1917 beet sugar crop of the United States is estimated at 981,250 tons by figures of probable production compiled by the Meinrath Brokerage Company, of Chicago, and issued in the weekly market report of the A. H. Lamson Company for July 20. The estimates, compiled by zones of the principal beet growing regions, with comparison with the crop of last year, are as follows, in bags of 100 pounds each.

California: 4,955,000 bags, as against 4,727,000 bags last year. Utah, Idaho and Oregon: 3,670,000 bags, as against 2,700,000 last year. Colorado, Nebraska, Montana, Wyoming and Kansas: 7,500,000 bags, as against 6,793,000 last year. Iowa, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Michigan, Indiana and Ohio: 3,500,000 bags, as against 2,164,000 last year. Total: 19,625,000 bags, as against 16,384,000 last year, or 981,250 tons, as against 819,200 tons in 1916. The figures are declared to be based on a careful investigation of the conditions existing with practically every producer. The statement sets the probable date of beginning slicing operations as very late July or early August in California; elsewhere, the middle of October.