

St. Croix Avis

75TH YEAR.

CHRISTIANSTED, V. I. U. S. A., TUESDAY 27TH APRIL 1920.

No. 95

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Contribution to this paper will be gladly received when the same deals with matters of general interest, and is accompanied with the author's name; as a guarantee of good faith. The editor cannot be responsible for the views of his correspondents nor does he necessarily endorse them.

SUGAR NOTES.

Natal, South Africa, is experiencing an upward swing in the sugar industry according to exchanges and thousands of dollars will be spent for new machinery.—*Louisiana Planter April 10th.*

F. O. Licht puts the sugar outputs for Europe at 2,820,000 tons for the year 1919-20. It was 3,536,000 tons in 1918-19, and 4,634,865 tons in 1917-18.—*Ibid.*

Practically all of the 184 sugar factories in Java are contributors to the General Association of Sugar Planters of Java. Some smaller Chinese and Japanese factories stand out against this combination. The association conducts one great experiment station which Dr. Prinsen-Geerligs had a large part in the day of its formation for the station has different departments covering engineering, chemistry and agriculture. Each factory contributes to the upkeep of the institution according to the area of the land. The board is controlled by nine or ten members chosen by managers of factories. "The Archeif" which comes to our desk is the official publication. The cost of producing sugar in Java at the present time is, of course, much higher and in round numbers now averages ten pounds sterling per ton.—*Ibid.*

Jean Vidal, of the Academy of Agriculture of France, has published a brochure in which he shows that Southern France is far more suited to beet culture than Northern France, though the

industry has held sway mostly in the north. Through experiments made in 1917 it was shown to sugar scientists meeting in a congress that 8,000 kilograms of sugar can be produced from one hectare whereas in the north only 4,000 kilograms are now forthcoming. It is possible to produce from 35 to 40 tons of beets per hectare and with a percentage of sugar running from 18 to 22 which is abnormally high. Of course, these experiments that are always made under intense supervision are always higher than an aggregate in a combined acreage on a large scale. The purity of these beets runs from 85 to 95 per cent and it would seem that many of these regions bordering on the semi-tropical regions hold possibilities in store that up to now have been rather underestimated. One only has to revert to Southern California where the beets has proven a remarkable sugar holder and producer. Mr. Vidal is very strong in his plea that Southern France shall get into the swing of sugar producing sections.—*Ibid.*

The Chino section of California will raise 9,200 acres of beets this year and other sections will have to get a hump on themselves and do likewise if there is going to be any increase in acreage. Good rainfalls are reported in the west with an auspicious outlook for beets.—*Ibid.*

The outlook for the beet crop in Utah and Idaho is very good according to Mark Austin of the Utah-Idaho Sugar Company. There has been heavy snow as well as heavy rains of late and acreage is being signed up rapidly. Last year the drought was exceptional but the farmers also had a part in this, for, unless they harrow and cultivate at the right time, much of the moisture is lost. A fine mulch must be made before it crusts. The farmers expect to plant as soon as it gets dry. Early planting means early harvest. Mr. Austin says that a good harrow and a good leveler are valuable adjuncts to the business.—*Ibid.*

The Atlantic Coast refiners are in serious straits because of the acute car situation. The companies have not been building many new cars and with increased volume of business it will be rather troublesome to deal with the situation.—*Ibid.*

NOTICE.

THE PUBLIC is hereby reminded, that as heretofore, the Police must be notified before burning of trash or grass takes place and that the necessary precautions must be observed to keep such burning under complete control to prevent accidental spread of the Fire.

Christiansted and Frederiksted Police Office, St. Croix, April 23rd. 1920.

JOHN L. CURRY.

Publication

IT is hereby brought to public notice, that a balance of interest amounting to Fres. 478.30, will be on hand for distribution on the 25th day of May 1920, from their Majesties King Christian the Ninth and Queen Louise's Golden Wedding Memorial Fund for the benefit of worthy indigent persons in St. Croix.

Applications containing the requisite information and duly certified to be forwarded to the Despatching Secretary's Office, St. Croix, within the 18th day of May 1920.

Despatching Secretary's Office, St. Croix, Virgin Islands, April 20th. 1920.

FRED. B. COLBY,
Despatching Secretary.

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Christiansted 26' April 1920.

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