

Station to apply for one.

It would be well perhaps, since the Herald has raised the question, to state briefly, for publication in your paper, a few of the most important things which have been accomplished by the Experiment Station during its brief existence.

1. Large numbers of new varieties of cane have been raised and tested at the Station, and of these one variety, namely S. C. 12/4, which has taken a conspicuous place in these Experiments, has been raised on a large scale and distributed to the Plantations. There are already growing in the Island more than fifty acres of this cane. Last year we distributed at the Station more than 150,000 cuttings.

The results obtained on the Plantations gave an average of more than 50% increase in the quantity of sugar per acre above that produced by the Standard Canes of the Island. These facts can be verified by application to the Managers of the Estates where this cane was grown—namely Mt. Pleasant, Hogensborg, Sion Farm and Bonne Esperance. At St. Johns Plantation there are two large fields of this cane close by the roadside which will repay investigation. In spite of lack of weeding and moulding in these fields, the canes are quite remarkable. Had the fields been better weeded and moulded the results would have been, I venture to say, at least 20% better.

A cane which can add even 25% to the crop of this Island is worth to the Planters annually, reckoning a normal crop at ten thousand tons, and the value of the sugar at one hundred and twenty dollars per ton, the large sum of two hundred and fifty seven thousand dollars a year.

Judging by the results obtained hitherto, this seems a conservative estimate of what S. C. 12/4 is likely to accomplish for this Island.

Contrast this sum with the modest eight thousand dollars spent annually on the Experiment Station.

2. A large amount of work has been done in improving the Sea Island Cotton of St. Croix by breeding and selection.

The results are plainly evident today in the quantity and quality of the Cotton produced on Estates where the seed has been supplied by the Experiment Station.

You are hereby referred for further information on this subject to Messrs. W. L. Penheny, A. Nelthropp and S. Jorgensen.

3. By selection and breeding the Experiment Station has so far improved the quantity and quality of Maize which can be raised in the Island, that from being an unprofitable crop, hardly ever grown, we now find every Planter and nearly every Labourer planting our improved Maize Seed and getting remunerative returns.

All the Planters and Labourers in the Island have been benefited by this work.

4. Soon after the Experiment Station was started, several new varieties of Sweet Potatoes were introduced, and one of these, namely "Black Rock", has practically doubled the yield of potatoes in the Island and displaced nearly every other variety. The parties benefited here are principally the Labourers.

Before closing I should like to state, and I call on the Planters of the Island to witness the truth of this statement, that the Experiment station has at all times encouraged Planters to the Station for advice and that no effort has been spared to help.

If we have erred it has been in the direction of being too anxious to help.

If Planters would take more advantage of the advice we give them, I venture to say that the majority would be better off today. I will instance one point which I have urged repeatedly, namely the planting of cane fields with pieces of cane free from disease. In spite of all advice and urging I still find today that the majority of the cane cuttings used to establish cane fields are poor and unsound. This one measure alone, of planting nothing but sound pieces of cane, would, I am convinced, add at least 25% to the crop of the Island.

The planting season is now here, and I urge Planters to adopt the system of using their best cane for planting purposes. I am prepared to examine cuttings for any Planter in order to help him to secure cuttings free from disease.

I would also urge Planters to plant their canes more closely than they do. Our experiments have proved conclusively that the best distance to plant cane is 4 ft. X 2 instead of the 4½ ft. X 3 ft. which is usually practiced.

I am, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

LONGFIELD SMITH,
Agronomist-in-charge.

TELEGRAMS

ST. CROIX STATION.

London Oct. 6th. Great Britain's railway system was again in operation today as a result of the settlement yesterday of the great railway strike, virtually every man engaged in railway work in London returned to work before noon today. The various services did not especially reach the normal state, however, because of the displacement of the railway material that had resulted from the suspension of work. In the country districts also the resumption was general, except in the outlying districts, where telegrams announcing the settlement and ordering the men back, could not be delivered last night. The railway companies promised today that a virtually regular service would be in operation on the lines tomorrow. Work

in the coalfields, which has been stopped owing to the lack of freighted cars is now being resumed rapidly. The Irish mail service has also been started again. Mr. Thomas, Secretary of the National Union of railway men, said this morning that in some districts strikers had refused to return to work with the men who had volunteered to work during the strike, but he hoped that this difficulty in carrying out the settlement would be overcome. On the other hand one company had declined to permit the strikers to return, thus creating a serious situation but the company yielded after intervention by Mr. Bonar Law and Sir Eric Geddes, with whom Mr. Thomas had a long conference.

London, Oct. 6th.—The opening of an organized prohibition campaign was set for today in Liverpool. Conferences throughout the week are on the programme, and many American lecturers are annexed to take part.

Copenhagen, Oct. 6th.—Polish forces have carried the fortifications of Dvinsk, between old Russia and Poland after two days of hard fighting, according to Berlin advices the dismantled city, except a portion south of the Dvina river, is now held by the Poles, it is said.

London, Oct. 6th.—The controversy between rival claimants for the honour of having invented the army tank, used with such signal success in the great war, will have a hearing before the commission on awards to inventors tomorrow. Eleven claimants will appear before the commission. Mr. Winston Churchill, Minister of War, will be among the witnesses called to the stand, in an effort to settle the controversy.

Washington, Oct. 6th.—President Wilson continues to improve and passed a satisfactory night, says a bulletin issued this morning.

Christiania, Oct. 6th.—A plebiscite to determine the question of a national prohibition of alcohol in Norway was begun today throughout the country.

Chicago, Oct. 6th. Cincinnati today won the fifth game of the world's series, defeating the Chicago White Sox 5 to 0 in a contest that developed sensational pitching, sharp fielding, one-sided batsmanship, and very nearly deprived the White Sox of their last glimmer of hope. The National League champion have won four games, and therefore need but one to win. The teams left for Cincinnati tonight for two games, if that many are required.

Paris, Oct. 6th.—The peace commission of the Chamber of Deputies has approved in principle the proposal to call upon the allies to form an interallied pool toward indemnifying the allied combatants for their war expenditures. Deputy Albert Grodet was charged with drafting the report to the Chamber upon this proposal, which will ask for its adoption with some modifications in the wording of the original resolution.