

St. Croix Avis.

75TH YEAR

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In the Report on the Agricultural Department, Montserrat, 1918-19, there appeared a note on Vilmorin's stringless bonavist bean, which has been distributed in many of the West Indian Islands. It is a most useful garden bean. By planting a row or two at intervals of six weeks or two months, a continuous supply of a useful vegetable can be obtained throughout the year. The pods may be used when young as an excellent substitute for French beans, and the fully developed beans when cooked are palatable and very tender. This variety is worth attention by growers of garden crops.—*Agricultural News*.

As is well known, at the time of the American Civil War the cultivation of cotton in these West Indian islands was extensively undertaken. From an interesting extract of an old estate's letter book in Montserrat, a copy of which has been forwarded to the Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture, it appears that in that island a variety of cotton known as sugar loaf was considered at the time to be the best for cultivation under local conditions. In 1862, from samples sent to Lancashire for examination, the lint was valued at from 2. s. 2d. to 2. s. 4d. per lb., and was pronounced to be equal to any American cotton except Sea Island. It is stated in the same letter that the average yield per acre of the sugar-loaf was estimated at no less than 400 lb. of ginned cotton.—*Ibid*.

The consumption of sugar in Australia is said to be greater than in any other part of the world, the average consumption being 102 lb. per head per an-

num for every man, woman, and child in the Commonwealth. Hitherto the price of sugar has been lower in Australia than elsewhere in the Empire, owing to the production from its own sugarcane plantations. Consequent on the recent sharp rise in the price of sugar vigorous efforts are now being made in Victoria and Western Australia with a view to supplementing the cane-sugar industry of Queensland and New South Wales by putting extensive areas under sugar beet (*United Empire*, August 1920.)—*Ibid*.

The yield of wheat in the United States is estimated at 101,130,000 quarters for 1920, or 14 per cent less than in 1919, and 2 per cent below the average production of the five previous years. In Canada the yield is estimated at 37,690,000 quarters or 50 per cent greater than in 1919, but only 18 per cent above the five years average. Other cereal crops, barley, oats and rye, are also favourably reported on as likely to be higher than the average. This is good news with regard to the world's food supply. (*The Field*, August 14, 1920.)—*Ibid*.

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