

SCARCITY AND COST OF LABOR

In Florida and immediately tributary to Florida, Alabama, Mississippi and Georgia, there is the largest supply of common labor of any state in the Union and with the 500 or 600 Seminole Indians, most of whom live on the property in question, who are willing to work, including men, women, and children, and the almost inexhaustible supply of negroes from the Bahamas, who are permitted to come into the United States by the Department of Labor whenever there is a demand for their services. In the past few weeks I have been approached by a number of Italians who tell me they can secure hundreds of the very best of Italian labor for both plantation, railroad, and mill work, consequently the labor problem is no problem at all there.

When one stops to consider that the population of Cuba is only 2,500,000 and that the production of sugar cane is over 1 5/10 ton per capita, one can understand that there is a limit to Cuba's man power. The Southern nigger is very anxious to go to the farm and if you will note the comparatively low wages that the Southern nigger farm hand receives in Mississippi and Alabama, you can understand that a Florida proposition will appeal very strongly to him.

Compare Cuba complaining of labor situation and their crude and primitive method of cultivation of sugar cane, first found on page 419 of Misc. Document #53, U.S. Department of Commerce, and the second, on page 355, "Cultivation", same Document, and also on page 324, which is a comparison with Louisiana. Cuba pays 80% of its labor which is used in cultivation from \$1.50 to \$2.50 per day. Harvesting, \$1.50 to \$2.00 per day, while their skilled labor costs more than in the States.

Florida Failures.

There have really been no Florida failures, in fact for years. J. Hamilton Cooper, at Darien, Ga., just north of the Florida line, operated a sugar plantation, and it was successful in every sense of the word. See page 37, "Sugar Situation". This plantation was sold to the Shakers.

The Disston operation at St. Cloud was a success in every sense of the word, as they successfully produced white sugar at from 3 1/2 to 3 3/4 per pound. You understand that a corporation was formed in Philadelphia, stock was sold, and Hamilton Disston bought all the stock which had been issued, and this sugar cane venture was only a failure from the standpoint of management.

Sugar cane has been growing and producing successful crops for the past 150 years in the State of Florida.

Killing Frosts.

It is a well-known fact that while cane tops and sugar cane has been injured by cold in the Northern part of Florida, it has never been injured to the extent that it was unfit for reducing the sacrose therefrom, whereas in Southern Florida there is hardly a year but that we see light frosts but never is it cold enough or has it been cold enough to injure the eyes of sugar cane

on the area under consideration.

The Florida Planter.

The Editor of this paper has been preparing a list for the past three months of everyone throughout the United States who could possibly be interested in sugar production, and has wrappers addressed and stamped to mail out 12,000 copies or more to each Senator and Representative in Washington, Home and Foreign Legations, and Attaches, every newspaper of any consequence in the United States, Sugar Cane Machinery manufacturers, brokers and bankers interested therein. Hundreds of copies will go to Cuba, Porto Rico, and throughout the West Indies, also Hawaii, Philippines, etc., etc.

Ways and Means Committee of House of Representatives.

Chairman Fordney of this Committee is compiling all data available with the end that his committee can be the means of securing the appropriation to foster this great American Cane Producing industry to the end that it will be one of America's established productions.

Cost of Production.

The Bisston or St. Cloud Mill Produced Sugar at 3½ to 3¾ per pound under very adverse conditions, but it is estimated now that Cane Sugar can be produced in Florida at 2¢ per pound. This with mechanical tillage, near-by factories, modern machinery, and adequate transportation facilities.