

## U. S. Equalization Board Gives Reasons for Sugar Shortage; Beet Crop May Help

Announcement from the United States sugar equalization board tells the reasons for the present sugar shortage and gives all the information obtainable as to how the situation can be relieved. The report reads:

"Figures just compiled show that during the first nine months of the current year approximately 500,000 tons or more sugar was delivered to the domestic trade than was delivered during the corresponding period in 1918. Notwithstanding this 18 per cent increase in distribution, as compared with a normal average increase in consumption of about 4 per cent, the talk of a 'shortage' persists. These figures, however, are a clear indication of the extraordinary consumption of sugar that has taken place, and the fact must be recognized that directly or indirectly the American people have greatly increased their use of sugar. One angle of this is shown in the heavy increased sale of candy, soft drinks, ice cream, etc., which in some sections for the next three months must be curtailed.

"The west should secure immediate relief from the harvesting of an average domestic beet crop which, within a week, will be in full swing. Additional supplies will be forthcoming

from Louisiana after November 1, and while this crop is disappointing, amounting to only 100,000 tons, it will serve to supply the southern territory until the new crop of West Indian sugar is available next January. The eastern territory for the balance of the year is dependent upon the remaining old crop of Cuban supplies; therefore, conservation will have to be practiced, and to meet this condition a distributing committee, with Mr. Frank C. Lowry as chairman, has been appointed at the request of Mr. George A. Zabriskie, president of the United States sugar equalization board, to supervise and direct the distribution of all refined sugar by the eastern refiners.

"In 1917 and 1918 the eastern cane refiners withdrew from the territory west of Pittsburgh and Buffalo on October 1 and the middle west was supplied entirely by beet sugar. This year the eastern refiners took the same step on October 15, and after that date and until the new year, west of Pittsburgh and Buffalo and north of the Ohio rivers must be supplied entirely by the domestic beet sugar producers. After Nov. 1 the Louisiana interests will be able to take care of the territory south of and including North Carolina, a part of Kentucky and the southern

part of Arkansas, just as they did a year ago after October 24.

While the committee in charge of distributing the remaining eastern cane sugar has not yet had time to complete its plans, roughly the situation appears to be that, for the remainder of this year, about the same quantity of cane sugar will be available for October, November and December distribution to the trade in the territory to be covered, as was distributed in August, September and October, 1918. In other words, buyers in these markets will probably receive about the same amount of sugar each month, for the balance of this year, as was delivered to them, say, in October, 1918.

"In the west and south freer distribution is possible, as the beet sugar interests should be able to distribute by January 1 400,000 tons of sugar. In the fall of 1917 they sold 350,000 tons of new crop sugar before January 1, 1918. With a larger crop and without the interference that was experienced in the winter of 1917, as a result of the extremely cold weather, a better record should now be made. In 1918 only 200,000 tons were distributed before January 1; therefore, it will be seen that if the 1917 plan is followed out, considerably more beet sugar can be marketed this year than was sold a year ago. A fairly free and equitable distribution can be secured if each beet factory will duplicate its sales of 1917, and those buyers who secured sugar in that period from a particular factory should now be able to look to that same source

of supply for a like amount. This will give substantially the same results as though the beet sugar distribution committee in Chicago was still functioning, as the 1917 distribution was conducted under the

committee's direction and the orders were turned over to the factory in the best position to furnish the sugar."

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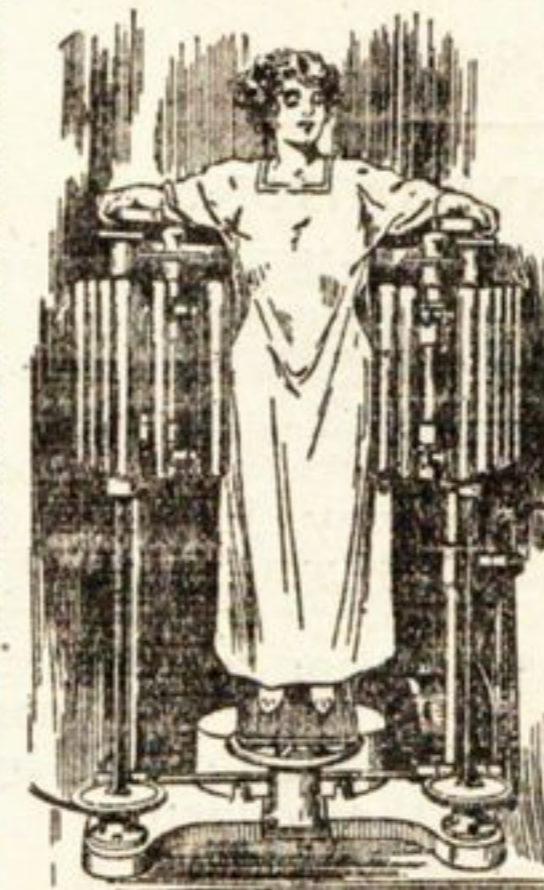
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