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AMBER CANE IN WISCONSIN.

A CIRCULAR

From the Agricultural Department of the State University,

BY PROF. W. A. HENRY.

INTRODUCTORY.

Lest the purpose of this circular be misunderstood it is well in the very beginning to explain its mission.

Last winter the Legislature generously appropriated to the State University Experimental Farm the sum of four thousand dollars for the purpose of conducting experiments in the production of syrup and sugar from Amber Cane, and for experiments in the ensilage of fodder.

With the means now at hand it remains to arrange for the greatest possible good to result from the undertaking. The act which grants the money provides that a "plain practical report" shall be made to the Governor at the close of the year, and I am anxious that this shall be one of real merit.

To obtain the best results the co-operation of all interested in cane growing is essential, and I consider that the quickest way to gain this is to make the public familiar with the proposed programme of operations. I have therefore taken this means to announce what will be undertaken in the way of experiments, and have given directions for one in which all cane growers can render efficient aid.

Since inquiries are quite frequent in regard to planting and cultivation, directions are given for this part of the work, which coming from a most reliable source cannot but be of value. The reasons for introducing other topics will ap-

pear evident, I think, to those who have the welfare of the subject at heart.

EXPERIMENTS TO BE CONDUCTED.

In compliance with the act granting the money, a chemist will be appointed early in the season, who will devote his whole time to the subject during the summer. It is expected that small works will be erected, and the operation of syrup and sugar making conducted experimentally. The attempt will be made to obtain a method for removing impurities from the juice which will admit of application by such workmen, as follow the vocation of syrup and sugar boiling. This is now the great problem and its solution is not easy. A study will also be made to determine the best means for reducing the juice to a sugar-syrup, without inverting the cane sugar. Since in the end the success in manufacturing sugar will depend upon the percentage of cane sugar in the juice, and the yield per acre, these subjects will receive due attention, and samples from various districts in the state will be analyzed to ascertain the per cent. of sucrose in the cane.

The improvement of the Amber Cane, if that be possible, by selecting seed from stalks rich in sugar, and by cross-fertilization is proper work for our farm, as well as testing new varieties and attempting to acclimatize varieties which now only ripen in latitudes south of Wisconsin.

The influence of soils on the quality of the syrup is one which, though much discussed, is far from settlement. The same is true in regard to fertilizers. Experiments to solve questions of this character can hardly be carried out on a single farm, and the attention of our farmers is earnestly directed to what is mentioned farther on in regard to this important topic.

AMBER CANE IN WISCONSIN.

Unfortunately the present law does not require statistics in regard to Amber Cane as with the other farm crops, and