



THE BEET SUGAR INDUSTRY



ET us lay before us a map of Orange county, and draw thereon a short, plump-appearing stocking. Let it represent a stocking of strong material, for it must be one that can be filled many hundreds of times with gold coin. To draw this stocking upon the map, we will start the line at the county line near Buena Park and pencil southward through Stanton and swing eastward between Westminster and Garden Grove for the beginning of the instep. We will let the line almost touch the south city limits of Santa Ana and go eastward on to the San Joaquin ranch, where a half circle will be necessary to represent the toe. The base line will curve to the southwest below Old Newport, almost to Fairview, and near the tidelands southeast of Huntington Beach will be the terminus of the heel. For the back of the stocking let the line swing to the northwest near the Holly Sugar Co. plant, then to the west of Smeltzer and sway liberally off to the county line near the Bixby ranch-house.

When we have drawn this stocky stocking we will have inclosed on the map a major portion of the vast territory in which some 290,000 tons of sugar beets are produced each year, for which the farmers receive \$1,750,000 and from which sugar worth double that amount is manufactured.

In seven or eight years the raising of sugar beets has developed from a secondary crop to the leading agricultural crop of Orange county. From a county with one sugar factory, Orange county has come to be a county with five immense sugar factories, all modern and equipped for the production of the finest sugar that is made on earth.

No industry in the county's history in so short a time has worked a transformation anywhere near the equal of the transformation with which the

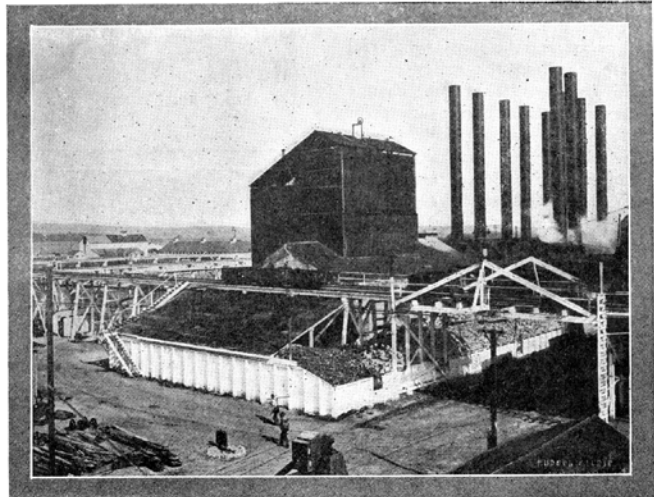
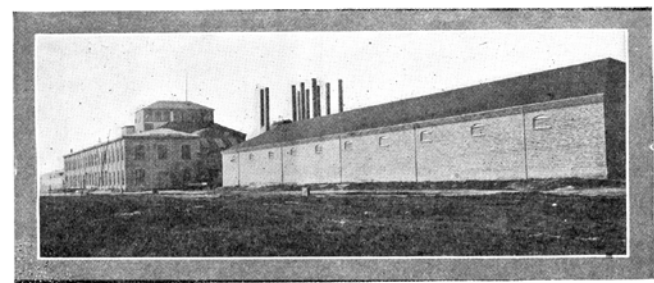
sugar beet is to be credited. Large tracts of land which were formerly alkaline, swamps and barren wastes have been reclaimed by the introduction of the culture of the sugar beets, and have undergone a development that has encouraged more intensive farming, has doubled the yield of succeeding crops, has brought thousands of good citizens to the county, and has increased the income of the county many hundreds of thousands of dollars yearly.

The industry has built railroads and villages as well as factories and sugar beet dumps.

It was in the early nineties that the first experiments were made here, proving the adaptability of the lowlands of the county to the growing of sugar beets. In 1896-7 the first factory was built at Los Alamitos. While this factory sliced the product of about 12,000 acres, several thousand acres were devoted to beets grown for the factories at Oxnard and Chino. In 1908 the second factory, the Southern California Sugar Co., was built two miles south of Santa Ana. For its benefit largely, an electric railway was built from Santa Ana to Huntington Beach through the rich Old Newport and Talbert sections, and the Southern Pacific completed its branch from Huntington Beach to join the Los Alamitos-Anaheim line at what is now Stanton.

Since 1908 three other factories have been completed, those of the Anaheim Sugar Co. at Anaheim, the Holly Sugar Co. at Huntington Beach and the Santa Ana Co-Operative Sugar Co. 2½ miles south of Santa Ana, on the west edge of the San Joaquin ranch. The last named plant and that of the Southern California Sugar Co. are near the south limits of Santa Ana.

Each of these new factories has brought about the planting of new fields. Each factory has contracted in advance for the product of large



TWO VIEWS OF THE LOS ALAMITOS SUGAR FACTORY

acres, taking any and all sized pieces of land. To factories in this county are brought beets grown in Los Angeles County. Some new lands at Corona have been developed for Orange County factories, and several hundred acres near Oceanside are tributary to the two Santa Ana factories.

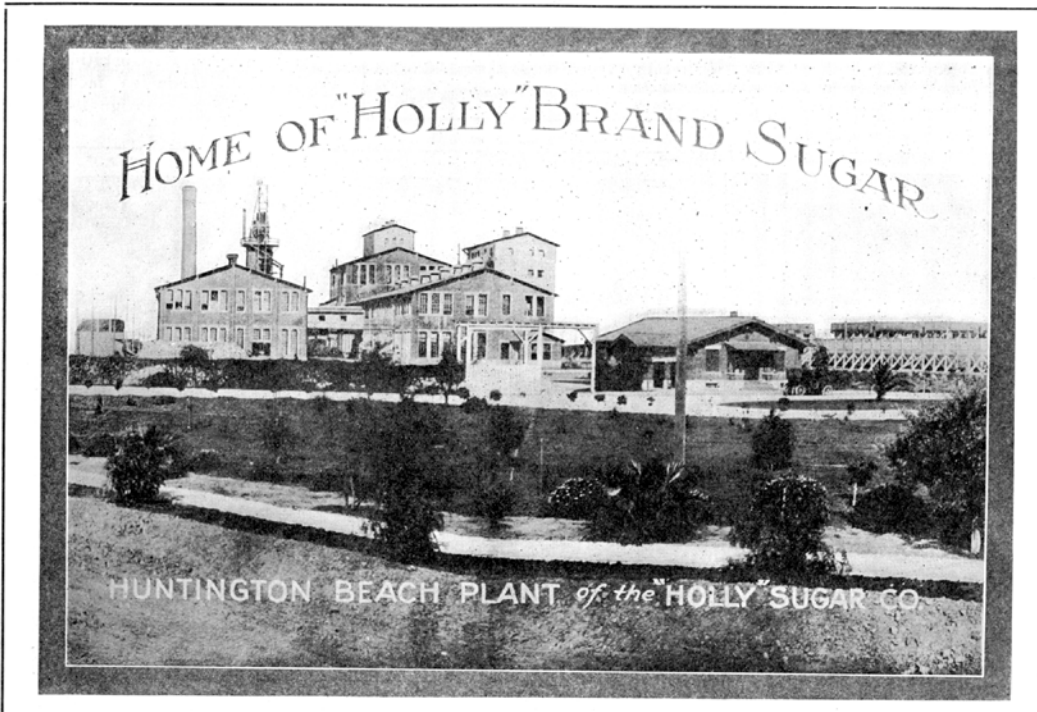
A farmer growing sugar beets

knows when he plants in the early spring what the price will be. If he grows a crop he knows where he will deliver it in the fall and that the money will be paid on delivery. In any ordinary year the rancher is sure of a good crop. Advice as to the care of the crop is furnished by expert field men from the factories, and all things, including climate and soil, work together for the good of those who grow sugar beets.

Sugar beets are paid for according to weight and quality. The price paid now is practically \$5.25 a ton for beets that contain fifteen per cent sugar, with thirty cents per ton added for each one per cent above fifteen per cent. That is, beets that test twenty per cent will bring \$6.75 per ton. The average test is about eighteen per cent. That means that from each ton of beets that enters a factory 280 pounds of pure white sugar is made.

The yield per acre varies widely according to cultivation and soil, all the way from seven to thirty-five tons to the acre. With an average yield of ten tons of eighteen per cent beets the farmer will receive returns of \$61.50 per acre. For plowing, harrowing, planting, thinning, harvesting and hauling the crop the cost per acre will be about \$32.50. The beet grower in Orange County takes fewer chances of failure than does the grower of almost any crop in any state in the union. If it has an equal in these respects, its fame has not reached the Pacific Coast.

Orange County raises more sugar beets than any other county in the



state. It raises them on lands now worth from \$150 to \$350 an acre. Not so very long ago much of these lands was thought worthless, and, in fact, was worthless until cultivation for beets rendered it of value. Beets make a crop in land that will grow little else, and the experience of growers here is that beet growing is a big benefit to the soil. While producing crops and an income, the grower at the same time is increasing the productiveness, value and quality of his soil.

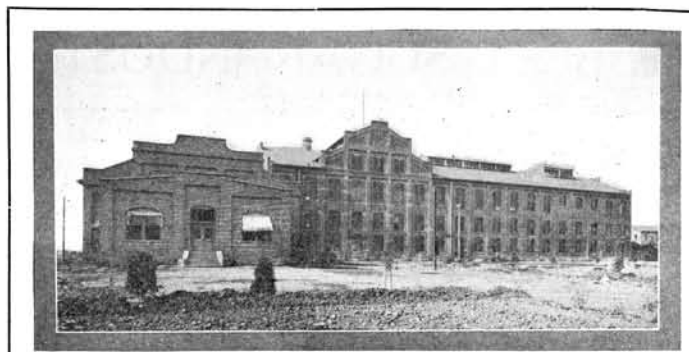
Thousands of acres of land now used for beet growing not long ago were under water a large part of the year. These lands have been reclaimed through drainage ditches and tilling. In that way some of the best producing fields have been established. The bottom lands of the county are known wherever sugar beets are discussed as among the most wonderful on earth, rivalling the valley of the Nile in fertility. That the change has been made from barren wastes or a wilderness of swamp and willows into a valuable and productive area is but one instance of the tremendously valuable asset that the sugar beet industry is to this richest little county on earth.

The sugar beet industry is of tremendous importance to Orange county, more so than to any other county of the state. Of eleven factories in California, five are located in this county. Outside this county and in the state are: Alameda Sugar Co., Alameda; American Beet Sugar Co., Chino and Oxnard; Spreckels Sugar Co., Monterey; Sacramento Valley Sugar Co., Glenn; Union Sugar Co., Santa Barbara.

Here are some statistics that indicate the immensity of the industry in California:

Local Expenditures in 1912

For Beets (showing the total value of the crop to the farmers of the state)	\$6,701,582.82
Labor in factories and fields	3,939,165.01
Railroad freights	1,811,112.46
Fuel oil	503,789.90
Lime rock	211,169.09
Bags	391,504.93
Other supplies	542,598.11
Total	\$14,100,922.32



SANTA ANA CO-OPERATIVE SUGAR CO. FACTORY, SANTA ANA

Acres harvested	112,003
Tons sugar beets grown (2000 lbs.)	1,037,499
Tons of sugar produced (2000 lbs.)	168,765
Total investment in factories, land and equipment	\$19,904,823.21

One of the big factors in the utility of the factories, judged from the standpoint of the county at large, is the number of men to which they give employment. Each factory has been a community builder. Not only have villages sprung up close to the factories, but they have helped all near-by

towns. For instance, many of the employees of the two factories just south of Santa Ana live in Santa Ana. The same thing is true at Anaheim and Huntington Beach.

The districts in which sugar beets are raised have increased materially in population. Practically all of the growers live on the ranches on which they grow their crops.

The Los Alamitos Sugar Co. factory is at Los Alamitos, at the northwest corner of the county. Some of the lands from which this factory gets its beets are in Los Angeles county. It is a well managed factory. Last year it sliced beets from about 12,000 acres. A goodly portion of the crop is within wagon haul of the factory, which saves loading into cars, freight and other shipping expenses.

The Southern California Sugar Co. ordinarily cuts the crop from 6000 acres of land. Most of its acreage lies in the bottomlands. Last year sugar beets were shipped to this plant from Oceanside.



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SUGAR CO. FACTORY, SANTA ANA

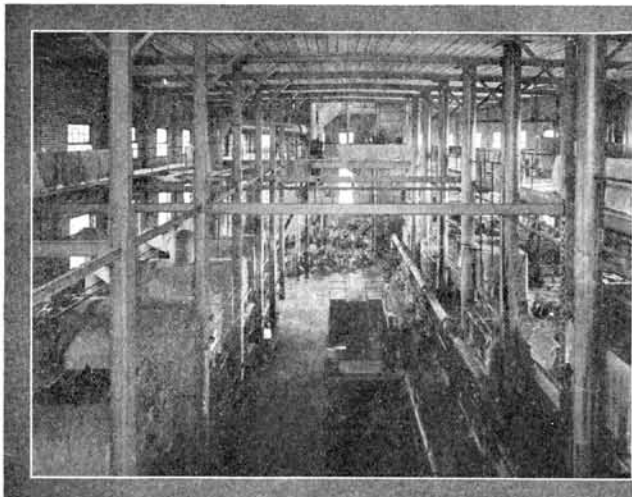
Figures as Compiled by the American Beet Sugar Co. Show the California and Arizona Production for 1912 to be as follows:

ARIZONA:	The Southwestern Sugar and Land Company	Glendale	Bags of 100 lbs.
			42,000
CALIFORNIA:			
Alameda Sugar Company	Alvarado		131,057
Union Sugar Company	Betteravia		262,715
Los Alamitos Sugar Company	Los Alamitos		182,326
Spreckels Sugar Company	Spreckels		550,298
American Beet Sugar Co.	Oxnard and Chino		1,023,339
Sacramento Valley Sugar Co.	Hamilton		204,834
Anaheim Sugar Company	Anaheim		154,510
Southern California Sugar Co.	Santa Ana		146,253
Holly Sugar Company	Huntington Beach		326,298
Santa Ana Co-Op. Sugar Co.	Santa Ana		192,000
Total			3,215,630

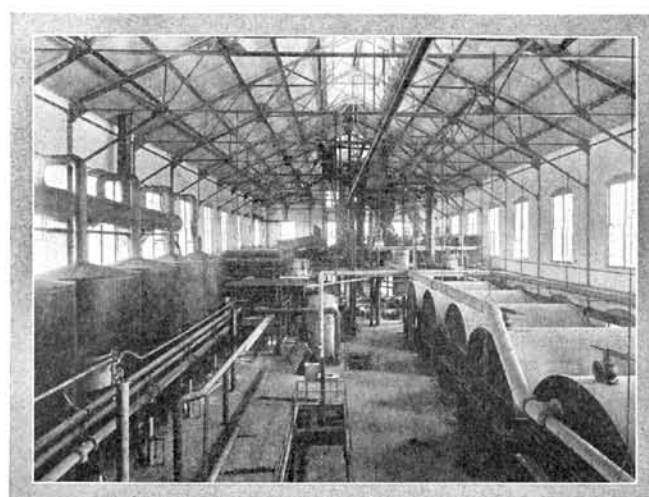
The Anaheim Sugar Co. plant is situated north of Anaheim just outside the city limits. About 6000 acres are contracted for by this factory.

The Holly Sugar Co. plant is conducted by a firm that has large factory interests in Colorado. Many of its sugar beets are within easy wagon-haul. This factory is situated north of Huntington Beach on the Westminster branch of the Southern Pacific.

The Santa Ana Co-operative Sugar Co. is a well conducted factory, as shown by its first campaign, 1912. This



INTERIOR SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SUGAR CO. FACTORY



INTERIOR SANTA ANA CO-OPERATIVE SUGAR CO. FACTORY

factory has about 6000 acres under contract, and will increase its acreage.

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VALUE OF BEET INDUSTRY

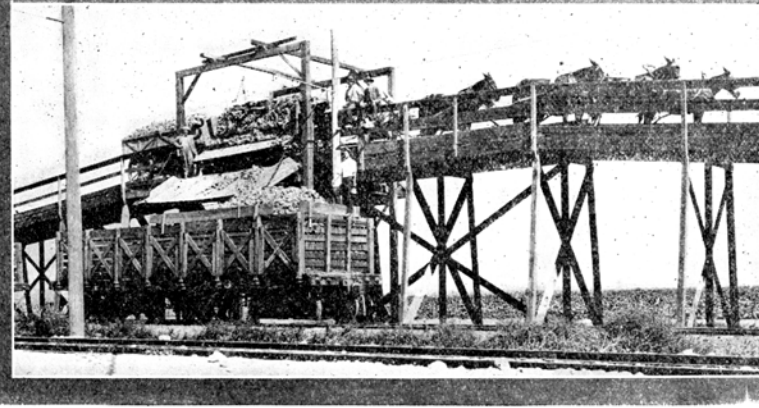
**Comment by Truman Garrett Palmer,
Recognized Authority, on Ef-
fect on Soils.**

Truman Garrett Palmer, a recognized authority in this country and abroad on sugar economics, and who is particularly interested in the beet sugar industry of this country, discussing the sugar situation says:

"Why do the 'worn-out soils of Europe' produce two bushels of grain, while the virgin soils of the United States produce only one? It seems incredible that such a state of affairs actually exists, but statistics show this to be the case. To put it succinctly, Germany, France and England produce two bushels of grain to the acre where we produce only one, because their farmers plant sugar beets or other root crops in rotation with grain and other crops.

Corrects Erroneous Impression

"For a number of years I was at a loss to explain why American farmers had to be coaxed to grow sugar beets, while European farmers were so anxious to grow them. The American farmers claimed that sugar beets injured the soil. I went abroad and studied the situation. I found that unlike the American farmers, who grow beets on the same soil year after year, and consider only the beet tonnage and the price received per ton, the European farmer was growing beets primarily for the increased yield secured from the crops which followed the beets, and was growing beets on the same soil but one year in four."



HARVESTING SUGAR BEETS; ABOVE, TOPPING THE BEETS IN THE FIELD; BELOW, DUMPING THEM INTO CARS