

Shanghai, China, October 13, 1939.

Submitted by:

H. B. Howard, Assistant Trade Commissioner.

SZECHWAN'S SUGAR OUTPUT TO BE DOUBLED

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The following news account, which recently appeared in the Shanghai press, is based on an article published in the current October issue of the "Far Eastern Engineer".

The statement illustrates another example of the reconstruction and modernization which one more of China's centuries old industries is now undergoing as a result of the great migration of Chinese industry and trained personnel into the far interior. Heretofore, there has been considerable waste in Szechwan's manufacture of sugar due to imperfect crushing of the cane by primitive machinery, and by inadequate crystallization.

"Formosan Sugar Will Be Pushed From China Market"

"The quietude which reigned over the canefields in central Szechwan Province has for the first time in 250 years of sugar-producing history been broken by the roaring of machines as science is being vigorously applied to improve and to increase the sugar production of that prosperous region. The application of modern scientific methods to China's main sugar producing center is actually an economic counter-offensive to push Formosan sugar from the China market.

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"In Szechwan's canefield region one now finds high-powered machinery working side by side with crushing devices invented hundreds of years ago for the manufacturing of sugar -- the life-blood of millions of Szechwanese who are annually rewarded with more than yuan 20,000,000 in trade for their labor.

"With the introduction of scientific methods in plantation and production it is expected that the supply of sugar from the hinterland province will at least be doubled within five years with the installation in the near future of the yuan 3,000,000 sugar refinery, a joint enterprise of the Ministry of Economics and the Szechwan provincial authorities.

"Entrusted with this vast scheme of promoting Szechwan's sugar production is the newly-established Sugar-cane Improvement Station of the Szechwan Provincial Government. Under the supervision of the American-trained director, Mr. Chen Shing-ching. It has already produced remarkable results in the selection of varieties and the making of sugar during the past five months of research.

"The Station has discovered that the Java species of sugar-cane and a certain Java-Szechwan hybrid contain the highest percentages of sugar among over a dozen varieties tested. Wide cultivation of the former two species which, according to the analysis, have sugar contents in juice of 13.84 and 14.76 respectively as compared with less than 10 in the native kinds, has been urged by the Station.

"Up to the present, over 2,000 farmers in the leading district have already started planting the new varieties in technical co-operation with the Station experts.

"Not satisfied with its findings, the Station is now conducting another research on seeds. Varieties from America, India and Hawaii will also be tested for their sugar contents and productivity. Meanwhile it is also studying the possibility of using phosphorous as crop fertilizer.

"The Station, which has technical co-operation with the University of Louisiana, the chemical section of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, the Hawaii Sugar Merchants' Association, the National Bureau of Industrial Research, Lingnan University and West China University, is at present daily producing 1,000 kilograms of refined sugar as a demonstration to the native sugar-cane farmers, dealers and manufacturers with a view to arousing their interest in the scientific production of sugar in Central Szechwan Province."

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