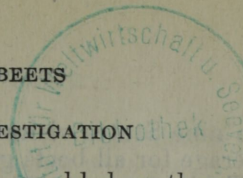


REPRESENTATIVENESS OF THE INVESTIGATION



The commission desired to obtain data which would show the costs of producing sugar beets in the various regions and for the country as a whole. As it was of course impracticable to obtain costs from all growers, representative areas in the chief producing regions were selected. The records obtained for the 22 selected areas cover 2,242 farms in the nine States—Michigan, Ohio, Nebraska, Colorado, Utah, Idaho, Wyoming, Montana, and California.

These nine States produced 94 per cent of the total beet tonnage and included 92 per cent of the acreage of sugar beets harvested in the United States in 1922. The area investigated produced 12.1 per cent of the total tonnage and was 10.4 per cent of the total acreage planted in sugar beets in the United States that year. The percentage of the production investigated in the individual States ranged from 6.5 in Idaho to 27.3 in Wyoming. For the individual areas so visited the commission's figures cover from one-fifth to one-half of the beets produced. The beets for which cost data were obtained were manufactured into sugar in 58 of the 81 beet-sugar factories operating in the United States in 1922.

In California data were obtained for 103 farms, or 6.9 per cent of the total number in the State that reported the production of sugar beets in the 1919 census. Those farms produced 15.4 per cent of the total beet tonnage and had 14.6 per cent of the total acreage of sugar beets harvested in the State in 1922.

In order to condense the summary for California, the beet farms were grouped into three areas—Salinas, Oxnard, and Santa Ana. The beets grown in the Salinas area were worked in the Spreckles factory; those grown in the Oxnard area in the Oxnard factory, and those grown in the Santa Ana area in factories in Santa Ana, Anaheim, Los Alamitos, Huntington Beach, and Dyer.

As shown in Table 1, page 17, the areas investigated were located in regions of dense production, where sugar beets are an important farm crop. A sufficiently large number of localities and farms were visited by the agents of the commission to make the data obtained representative of the industry as a whole.

Table 2, page 19, indicates that the farms investigated grew more acres of sugar beets per farm than did the average farm for the respective States in which the investigations were made; and consequently were perhaps operated more efficiently. (See Table 3, p. 20.) The larger acreage of sugar beets on the farms investigated may be partly accounted for by the fact that cost data were not obtained for farms having less than 3 acres of beets per farm, although beets were grown on some smaller farms in each area, especially near the cities.

In like manner Table 4, page 21, showing considerably higher average yields per acre of sugar beets on the farms investigated than on all farms in any State, may mean that the farms for which cost data were obtained are better or are operated by better farmers.

Table 5, page 22, shows that for the three years 1921 to 1923 the average sugar content of the beets grown in the representative areas of the States investigated was higher by one-half pound per ton of beets harvested than the average sugar content for all beets grown in

