

PREFACE

The information contained in this bulletin was originally submitted to the Government of Bombay in my capacity as a Government of India technical scholar for the years 1920-23. It embodies my experience concerning the sugar industry and methods of sugar manufacture in use in foreign countries, namely, Louisiana, Cuba, Porto Rico, British West Indies, British Guiana, Hawaii and Java, which form the principal canesugar manufacturing countries of the world. I have also briefly discussed the chief difficulties the sugar industry in India has to face, which are so peculiar and intricate that they are not obtained in any other part of the world. On the strength of the information supplied by the Indian Sugar Committee in their report concerning the existing sugar factories in India, I have briefly dealt with the causes of failure of existing factories from a technological point of view.

This bulletin is in no way a treatise on the principles of sugar manufacture, which are usually found discussed in text books on this subject. I have, therefore, tried to avoid theoretical discussion of the principles underlying the process of sugar manufacture, though an occasional reference is unavoidable in order to elucidate a particular point. I have, however, discussed the various methods of sugar manufacture in use in those countries, together with the conditions under which those methods are expected to work successfully, and also the methods that are likely to be suitable to conditions in India. As Government decided to print this information as a bulletin of the Department of Agriculture, I have omitted all references to particular factories, except, where the information supplied by them has already appeared in the press.

Technical scholars from India usually meet insuperable difficulties in foreign countries with regard to practical training in existing factories under actual operating conditions, without which it is not possible to get a practical insight into any industry. Fortunately I had in Dr. Charles E. Coates, the Dean of the Audubon Sugar School, Louisiana, a very sympathetic and helping Professor, without whose help it would have been practically impossible to obtain facilities for practical training in sugar factories, and also for securing practical information from various sugar factories situated in U. S. A. and her insular possessions. In fact, the present bulletin would have been impossible without his help. I owe such a deep debt of gratitude to him that I shall never be able to repay it. I had similarly in Sir Francis Watts, the Imperial Commissioner of Agriculture for the West Indies, Trinidad, a sympathetic helper who made it possible for me to obtain practical training concerning sugar manufacture in the British West Indies. I am also greatly obliged to him.

For the information contained in this bulletin I am much obliged to various sugar manufacturers, engineers and chemists in Louisiana, Cuba, Porto Rico, Jamaica, St. Kitts, Trinidad, British Guiana, Hawaii and Java, to each of whom an individual reference is not possible, but I would like to record their great willingness to give any information concerning sugar manufacture to any one that may visit their factories.

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R. G. PADHYE.

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