

HALI, A. D. and C. G. T. MORISON, On the Function of Silica in the nutrition of Cereals. Part I. (Proceedings of the Royal Society, London. B. Vol. LXXVII. p. 455—477. 1906.)

The authors conclusions are summarized by them as follows:

1. Silica, though not an essential constituent of plant food, does play a part in the nutrition of cereal plants, like barley, which contain normally a considerable proportion of silica in their ash.
2. The effect of a free supply of soluble silica manifests itself in an increased and earlier formation of grain, and is thus similar to the effect of phosphoric acid.
3. The silica acts by causing an increased assimilation of phosphoric acid by the plant, to which phosphoric acid the observed effects are due. There is no evidence that the silica within the plant causes a more thorough utilisation of the phosphoric acid that has already been assimilated, or itself promotes the migration of food materials from the straw to the grain.
4. The seat of the action is within the plant and not in the soil.

W. G. Freeman.

WATTS, F., A Review of the Sugar Industry in Antiqua and St. Kitt's-Nevis during 1881—1905. (West Indian Bulletin. Vol. VI. p. 373—386. 1906.)

Until 1906 these three islands were entirely dependent upon the sugar industry and although cotton has recently made great progress especially in Nevis and Anguilla, sugar is still the principal crop.

The exports of sugar, melasses and rum are summarized in a series of tables and in graphic form in diagrams.

During the past ten years the production of sugar in Antiqua has owing to adverse seasons and the prevalence of diseases fallen to about 79 per cent. of what it was in the preceding fourteen years, whilst the gross value of the sugar has declined to about 51 per cent. of that of the former period. For St. Kitts-Nevis the corresponding figures are 80,1 and 52,5 per cent.

In Antiqua in 1895 diseases of the sugar-cane were apparently responsible for a diminution of the crop to the extent of some 2000 to 3000 tons of sugar.

The result of the depression of the industry has been to give an impetus to the practice of economies in production and with the greater stability ensured by the Brussels Convention the outlook for the future is more encouraging, given normally favourable climatic conditions.

W. G. Freeman.

Personalnachrichten.

M. le Dr. St. Petkoff a été nommé Professeur extraordinaire de Botanique à l'Université de Sofia.

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