

SUGAR OUTPUT CUT IS OPPOSED

(Continued From Page 1.)

beet production to reduce the volume of the surplus grain crops and to increase correspondingly the acreage for sugar production, a deficiency crop. Any plan to alter the continuation of this program seems to me inconsistent with the general plan of national agricultural readjustment.

"One of the contributing factors of agriculture and economic troubles is represented by the one word 'surplus.' We do not produce in this country as much sugar as we consume and therefore the producing districts like our own, have a right to increase, surely not to be curtailed until such time as the production of sugar in the United States approaches what might be termed a surplus for our own country's requirements."

As the president of the Billings Commercial club, Eugene O'Keefe expressed dissatisfaction with a program of limiting domestic beet production looking at it from the standpoint of business interests of the city. "The beet industry is the life blood of this community and our agricultural expansion is dependent upon expansion of beet acreage to supply one commodity which we are obliged to import—sugar.

"Beets are a big labor crop. In fact beet growing is truck farming on a large scale, and there is more manual labor in growing them than any other crop. In this respect it is significant that 75 per cent of the beet laborers employed in this territory are resident American citizens, whom we would be obliged to care for if they suddenly became dependent upon the community."

Rockwood Brown, local attorney, irrigation farmer and stockman, added a protest from the standpoint of livestock interests and pointed out that beet by-products have served a valuable role in livestock feeding at the same time enabling the absorption of some of the surplus grains which are now the object of nation-wide curtailment.

Sugar Allotment (continued)

Clipped By:



seabix1

Wed, Apr 1, 2020