Settling beet growers' accounts

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One of the most important functions of the accounting department of beet sugar factories is the payment for beet deliveries. When it is considered that the amount involved is rarely under a quarter of a million dollars even with the present low prices paid for beets, it may be readily seen that this special accounting and settlement for beets received, exceptionally well in making the proper accounting and settlement for beets received.

In analysing the system to discover its special features, it may be well first to review the possibilities for error that exist in any method of accounting for beet receipts; it is then possible to determine in what way the system eliminates this possibility.

First, the weighman at the receiving station issues a ticket, showing the gross weight of wagon and beets; after unloading, the net weight of the wagon is determined, and shown on the weight ticket. These two weights are subtracted to determine the gross weight of beets delivered. The tareman, who, in the meantime, has ascertained the tare on the load in question, advises the weighman of his findings, who inserts the percentage of dirt tare to be deducted on the ticket. These tickets are then sent to the factory office, where the tare is calculated and deducted, and the tickets are then posted in one way or another to the account of the grower.

A careful analysis reveals the following possibilities for error, from an accounting standpoint: 1. error in subtraction of wagon weight from gross weight; 2. error in subtraction of the dirt tare to be deducted; 3. error in posting the amounts to growers account, either as to (a) amount posted, or, (b) to the factory office, where the tare is calculated and deducted, and the tickets are then posted in one way or another to the account of the grower.

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on tickets against any possible loss, and to make sure that the proper person received credit for each particular load, the following system was practiced:

Each grower was assigned a separate book of weight tickets containing twenty-five tickets; this was kept in a little file arranged according to contract number

and kept before the weighman in a convenient place. Whenever beets were delivered, the ticket was issued from this particular book for this grower only. By this method, it will be seen, his tickets were in absolute numerical order and any break in the sequence indicated that something was wrong.

When these tickets were posted at the factory office, only three things were taken into account: date, ticket number and net weight. The machine was so arranged as to automatically shift the carriage into the proper position for ticket number and weight, thus making the operation extremely rapid. In each account, therefore, it will be seen that a very reliable check existed as to whether or not the proper tickets had been credited. If a ticket was short, it would be immediately noticed in posting or check-

The recap sheet shown herewith is also designed for posting with the adding machine. In this way, all the additions and subtractions are performed mechanically, with the figures used shown clearly in type, thus making for greater accuracy. This sheet will show daily the condition of the harvest, and if a general recap is kept, in similar manner, of the district recap sheets, the management can tell exactly what portion of the crop is in, what portion is piled in the factory sheds, or yet to be moved.

This system has proved to be both effective, and at the same time very economical; it was possible to handle the accounting with less expense for office clerks than neighboring factories used.

The statement form illustrated shows the arrangement as used and the ruling for mechanical posting; deductions for seed, planting, etc., are shown in the lower right hand corner, and the details of the settlement there worked out.

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tickets were first totaled for the recap, a subtotal was taken on every tenth contract number. When the operator goes through the ledger picking up old and new balances, thus determining the total of the postings for that district. This should check with the total posted to the recap sheet for that district; any errors are thus shown immediately.

An effective way of picking up errors of posting was worked out: when the ledger pages to which tickets have been entered, and picks up the old and new balances, thus determining the total of the postings for that district. This should check with the total posted to the recap sheet for that district; any errors are thus shown immediately.

An effective way of picking up errors of posting was worked out: when the ledger the ticket numbers; if tickets were posted in the wrong account, this also would show up because of the difference in the sequence of ticket numbers; the same condition would apply if a ticket should be duplicated in any way.

When all the tickets are posted for a district, the operator goes back through the ledger pages to which tickets have been entered, and picks up the old and new balances, thus determining the total of the postings for that district. This should check with the total posted to the recap sheet for that district; any errors are thus shown immediately.

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San Juan, P. R., March 8.—Yesterday in the afternoon the Sugar Producers' Association of Porto Rico sent the treasurer of the Porto Rico Government a communication requesting a new appraisement of the property in general, and especially of that of the factories and lands devoted to cane sugar production. A reduction of 30 per cent on the taxes, the same as that granted during the sugar crisis of the year 1913, was also requested.

As far as it is known, the association declares to the treasurer that it is impossible for the sugar cane planters to pay the current year taxes, as it is impossible for them to get funds to cover them, in view of the low price actually quoted for that product, a price which will maintain for the coming years. The association recalls to the treasurer that the last appraisement was made in 1920 with the good-will of the sugar cane planters, and consequently the ordering by the treasurer of a reappraisement which may come in harmony with the actual economic conditions, will constitute an act of justice.

Guantanamo

New York, March 9.—Directors of the Guantanamo Sugar Company have declared an initial dividend of $1.09 a share on the preferred stock for the period from February 10, to March 31, 1922, putting the stock on an 8 per cent, annual basis. The dividend is payable April 1, to stock of record March 20, only on full paid subscription receipts. On any subscription paid in full on any date other than February 10 the amount of the dividend will be adjusted accordingly.