### THE FUTURE OF

AMERICAN POTASH (Continued from Page 1)

saw dust. Much of this waste is

burned to prevent fires and to get it

out of the way. The burning pro-

duces ashes which are crudely treat-

There has been some recovery of potash from corn cobs, corn stalks

and other plant materials. Potash

occurs in considerable quantities in

soap weed, sage brush, mesquite and

sun flower plants. Some sun flower potash has been imported from Rus-

mostly for local use and will supple-

ment the output from other sources.

Potash from Distillery Wastes.

the cane sugar mills. In the manu-facture of alcohol, the inedible mo-

lasses is diluted with water, treated

with acid and allowed to ferment.

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Some Examples:

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1918

Much of the responsibility for the future of potash in America rests with Congress and the National Administration backed by public senti-ment. Some people will be against protection and further development. cause of selfishness springing from local conditions, but most citizens may be expected to reflect a larger and more patriotic view. Though the dominant factor in the future of the industry will be federal legisla-tion, this procedure will be induenced by such things as the extent of the domestic potash resources, the cost of production, the attitude of fertilizer companies, German propaganda, the amount of capital invested in American plants and the treaty relations. The ultimate purpose should be to conserve the industry for the good of the country by creating a sure supply of potash at a low cost to the consumer.

#### **Domestic Potash Resources.**

Our potash resources were not fully investigated prior to the war mainly because cheap potash was coming in from Germany. When the war cut off the foreign supply, it became necessary at once to make a strenuous search for domestic potash. strenuous search for domestic potash. Surveys were organized and made by federal and state departments and by private intersets. The sur-veys and investigations were unus-ually successful and production was soon started from various sources as from the natural brines, various tinds of rocks and industrial plants. The high price received for the do-mestic production was a stimulus for investigation and development. It is now known that the United States is richly endowed with potash resources, occurring under a wide range of conditions. The natural brines, cement plants, beet sugar factories distilleries and silicate rocks appear to be the most promis-ing sources for future development. The Industry Extabilisted.

The Industry Established. The government urged the de velopment of domestic potash. The response was prompt and with good results. Starting with very little output of potash at the beginning of the war, the amount rapidly increasthe war, the amount rapidly increased ed until there was a production of about 60,000 tons of K20 in 1918. The production was about 1,000 tons of K20 in 1915; 9,220 tons in 1916; 26,700 tons in 1917; and 60,000 tons in 1918. In the United States there are now about 90 potash plants, large and small, representing an in-vestment of about \$50,000,000. The largest installations are in Nebraska, southern California, and Utah, yet southern California, and Utah, yet Colorado, Wyoming, Wisconsin, Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Ken-tucky,t New York, Massachusets, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland, Georgia, Louisiana and other states have become producers of optash. I will briefly view some of the potash developments in order to show how the industry stands with respect to its future possibilities.

Potash from Wood Ash. This is one of the oldest sources, especially in wood areas. Ashes are collected mainly from the burn-

It is estimated that in 1915 there was a loss of 38,690 tons of K20 in tively low cost. the distilleries of the United States, much of which could have been coned by leaching. A better grade of served. In 1917 four companies of product could be formed by leaching. California, Louisiana and Porto Rico

product could be formed by leaching. California, Louisiana and Porto Rico evaporation, and crystallization. It is estimated that something like 1,000 tons of commercial potash was manufactured at the saw mills in duction is increasing.

Potash from Beet Sugar Factories. Beets contain about 0.303 per cent of K20. The 6,000,000 short tons of on the coast of Alaska; five square beets grown annually in 'the United miles on the coast of Puget Sound States carry about 18,000 tons of and 225 square miles on the coast of K20. This potash is largely extracted as juice, condensed in the residues of the low-grade molasses, and The sea weeks of these areas are said

duction from these sources will go sugar factories requires large vats in which to hold the Steffenhouse waters, and dries in which to handle

the product after it has left the evap-Alcohol is made at a number of orators and effects of the factory. plants in the United States from This means that much of the regular molasses containing potash. The molasses is secured principally from equipment is used in the recovery of potash.

In 1917, five sugar factories-three operating in California, one in Colorado and one in Michigan-reported a production of 2,642 tons of

plants is a by-product made at rela-Here is a fiel which warrants further development It should become a factor in solving the potash problem of the country.

Potash from Kelp. Kelp is a sea weed containing a high percentage of potash absorbed from sea water. It grows at a number of places along the Pacific coast. The United States Geographic Survey estimates that there are 160 square miles of commercially valuable kelp southern California, or a total of 390 square miles on the Pacific coast. large way from the woody plants, scrap timber and saw dust. The pro-duction from these sources with the propotassium oxide.

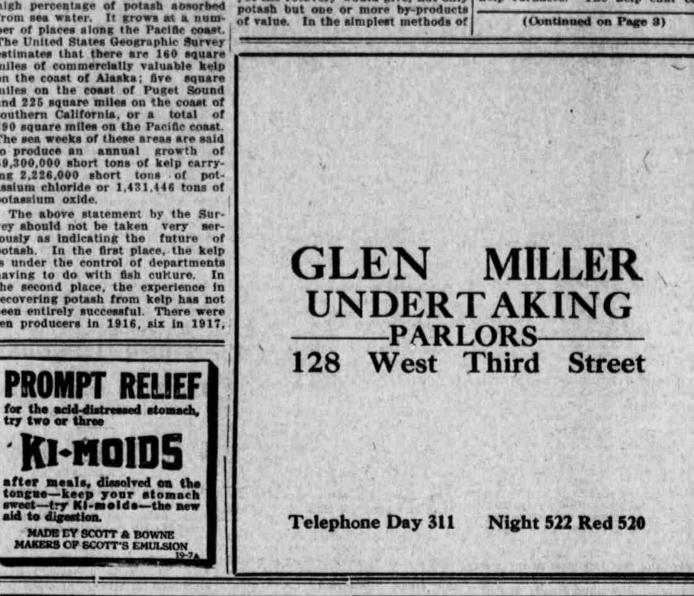
The above statement by the Survey should not be taken very serlously as indicating the future of potash. In the first place, the kelp is under the control of departments having to do with fish culture. In the second place, the experience in recovering potash from kelp has not been entirely successful. There were ten producers in 1916, six in 1917,

and all of them closed in 1918.

and all of them closed in 1818. It is now thought that the kelp re-sources of the Pacific coast could be caused to supply about 3,000 tons of K20 per year under good manage-ment. The cost would be quite high, weeds are gathered or narrowthe izer. Part of the production is char-red by burning in the open of in es-pecially devised equipment known as kelp furnaces. The kelp char conproduction of potash from kelp, the

Thursday, August 21st, 1919

(Continued on Page 3)



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ing of fire wood, stored and leached for making lye, which is especially a strong potash brine. The hard woods are well suited for this purpose. Much of the production is in isolated places where the lye is made for home consumption and has no com-mercial importance.

A number of the big lumber com-panies, notably those of Michigan and Wisconsin, produce a large amount of waste in the form of slabs, short pieces, strips, bark and

M. A. Lacy, two years ago, paid \$2,900 for a house at 2440 Camden Ave. He lived in it two years, sold it this year for \$3,750.

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\$6,250. Swansie sold it in June this year to

\$6,250. This year it sold for \$7,250.

Note-E. E. Peake, Kansas City Realtor, in a speech to the Omaha Real Estate Board, June 5, said Omaha will have 500,000 population in ten years. He's one of many conservative men who have that opinion.

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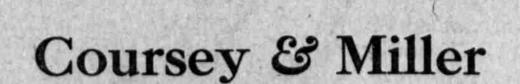
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