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BEET SUGAR PLANT MAY BE LOCATED IN THE SKAGIT VALLEY

MEETING IS HELD IN SEDRO WOOLLEY TO DISCUSS PLANS - 5,000 ACRES OF BEETS ARE NEEDED TO ASSURE PLANT

The raising of sugar beets will become one of the leading industries of the Skagit valley if plans now being worked out by the Sedro-Woolley commercial club and farmers of the valley are successful. A meeting was held in Sedro-Woolley at which many farmers of the valley were present, and T. R. Horne, of the Utah-Idaho Sugar company, who has been working in the county for several months, addressed the meeting and gave many facts in regard to the growing of sugar beets and told of the benefits that would be derived if the industry was established here. Mr. Horne stated that if the farmers of Skagit, Whatcom and Snohomish counties would plant at least 5,000 acres of sugar beets, that his company would build a \$1,250,000 factory at some central point in the district to handle the crop, and would agree to purchase all beets raised at prices ranging from \$5.50 to \$18 per ton, according to the price of sugar. At present Mr. Horne is signing up farmers for small acreages of beets as an experiment to test out the tonnage per acre and the sugar content of beets raised in the valley. Last year tests were made around Mount Vernon and proved very satisfactory, the sugar content running as high as 17 per cent and the tonnage as high as 32 tons to the acre, which is an unusually good yield.

The company agrees to sell seed to the farmers at 15 cents per pound, ten pounds being enough to plant an acre. The company

will also furnish a drill and plant the seed at 75 cents an acre. It is estimated that it will take the price of ten tons to pay all the expenses of raising and marketing the beets, leaving about \$110 an acre profit to the growers.

The matter of interesting farmers throughout the valley in beet raising has been referred to the rural development committee of the Sedro-Woolley commercial club, of which E. G. Ludwick is chairman, and any farmer interested can secure detailed information on the subject by taking the matter up with Mr. Ludwick.