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Chamber of Commerce
— Madras 2nd February 1872

From

R. S. Walker Esq
Chairman, Chamber of Commerce

To

The Secretary to Government
Revenue Department
Madras.

Sir,

I have the honor to return to you, as
desired, the Cotton Commissioner's reports to the
Bombay Chamber of Commerce, A 20 and 21, of the 15th
and 30th December last respectively. The Chamber
desire me to thank you for affording them an
opportunity of perusing these papers.

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your most obedient servant

R. S. Walker
Chairman

COTTON COMMISSIONER.

A. 19.

STATE OF THE WEATHER AND PROSPECTS OF THE COTTON-
CROP IN THE CENTRAL PROVINCES AND THE BERARS.

No. 6631.

FROM

HARRY RIVETT-CARNAC, Esq., C.S.,
Cotton Commissioner,

TO

THE SECRETARY TO THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
BOMBAY.

DATED ALLAHABAD, THE 4TH DECEMBER, 1871.

SIR,

I HAVE now the honour to forward, for the information of your Chamber, the usual Annual Statement showing approximately the Area under Cotton Cultivation in the Central Provinces and the Berars for the season 1871-72, to which will be found added abstracts of the reports of the Local Officers on the prospects of the out-turn of the crop, together with a brief expression of my own views on the subject.

2 The statement on page 2 gives approximately the area under cotton cultivation in each district of the Central Provinces and the Berars during the present season, as compared with the figures of former years. The districts and divisions will be found arranged in the order observed on former occasions. The total result, then, as the figures will show, is as follows:—The acreage sown with cotton in the Central Provinces this year is 697,941 acres as compared with 768,936 acres in 1870-71, and there is thus a decrease of about 70,995 acres, or nine per cent., in the cultivation. The Berars also show a falling-off, the figures being 1,478,648 acres for the present season, as compared with 1,547,427 acres last year, or a decrease in the Berars of about 68,779 acres, or four per cent. The grand total for the two provinces is 2,176,589 acres for 1871-72, against 2,316,363 acres in 1870-71, or a decrease of 139,774 acres, or six per cent. The returns, it will be remembered, are approximate only. It is quite impossible to ensure the returns being prepared with perfect accuracy, but they convey, it is believed, a sufficiently correct idea of the state of the cultivation during the present season as compared with former years.

Area under cotton
in the Central Pro-
vinces and the Be-
rars for 1871-72.

Compared with
the previous sea-
son.

STATEMENT SHOWING APPROXIMATELY THE AREA UNDER COTTON CULTIVATION IN THE CENTRAL PROVINCES AND THE BERARS DURING THE YEAR 1871-72, AS COMPARED WITH 1870-71.

Divisions.	Districts.	Acres. 1870-71.	Acres. 1871-72.	Increase in 1871-72, acres.	Decrease in 1871-72, acres.	Quantity of cotton annually exported in a good season (in bales of 400lbs.)
CENTRAL PROVINCES.						
NAGPORE,	NAGPORE,	96,287	72,215	...	24,072	These districts send about 30,000 bales to Bombay from the markets of Hingunghat, Arwa, Wurdah, and Deek. Much cotton is consumed locally.
	BRUNDARA,	...	...	...	...	
	CHANDA,	57,527	55,739	...	1,788	
	WURDAH,	181,119	181,879	760	...	
	BALAGHAT,	...	...	...	...	
	TOTAL,	334,933	309,833	760	25,860	
JUBBULPORE,	JUBBULPORE,	33,934	28,007	...	5,927	Export about 15,000 bales. The trade used to be with Mirzapore, but is turning towards Bombay since the opening of the main line of the G. I. P. Railway. A considerable local consumption affects the exports.
	SANGHER,	28,730	28,130	...	600	
	DUMOH,	18,000	17,500	...	1,400	
	SEONEE,	8,431	6,300	...	131	
	MUNDLAH,	1,617	681	...	836	
	TOTAL,	89,572	80,638	...	8,934	
NERBUDDA,	RAITODL,	1,950	1,555	...	395	These districts send some 7,000 bales to the Orissa country.
	CHINDWARA,	23,343	37,400	14,157	...	
	HOSHUNGABAD,	21,198	14,897	...	6,301	
	NURSINGPORE,	53,378	52,694	...	684	
	NIMAR,	24,869	19,800	...	5,069	
	TOTAL,	124,738	125,946	14,157	12,949	
CHUTTEESGURH	RAMPORE,	77,260	53,451	...	23,799	These districts send some 7,000 bales to the Orissa country.
	SUMBULPORE,	75,750	51,800	...	23,950	
	BELESPORE,	63,974	75,554	9,580	...	
	TOTAL,	216,974	180,805	9,580	47,749	
	UPPER GODAVERY,	719	719	...	...	
	TOTAL, CENTRAL PROVINCES,	768,936	697,941	24,497	96,492	
THE BERARS.						
EAST BERAR,	OOMRAOTEE,	361,210	351,084	...	10,126	These district exports all their cotton to Bombay. In round numbers the annual exports amount to about 80,000 bales, Oomraotee being the chief mart.
	ELLICHPORE,	191,237	196,251	4,994	...	
	WOON,	184,548	173,001	38,458	...	
	TOTAL,	636,995	720,336	43,452	10,126	
WEST BERAR,	AKOLA,	504,498	463,574	...	40,924	Annual exports to Bombay about 140,000 bales, Khangan and Akote being the chief markets.
	BOOLDANA,	291,762	222,728	...	69,034	
	RASSIM,	64,157	72,010	7,853	...	
	TOTAL,	860,417	758,312	7,853	109,958	
	TOTAL, BERARS,	1,547,427	1,478,648	61,305	120,084	
	CENTRAL PROVINCES, BERARS,	758,936	697,941	...	...	
	GRAND TOTAL, CENTRAL PROVINCES AND BERARS,	2,316,363	2,176,589	...	...	

Total decrease,
Central Provinces,
70,635 acres.Total decrease,
Berars, 68,779
acres.Total decrease,
Central Provinces,
and the Berars,
139,774 acres.

* These are the corrected figures supplied by the Deputy Commissioner.

ALLAHABAD:
The 4th December, 1871.

HARRY RIVETT-CARNAC,

Cotton Commissioner.

3. The totals of the cotton acreage in the Central Provinces and the Berars for some years past is given below for the sake of comparison:—

Figures of former
years.

Year.	Central Provinces.	Berars.	Total.
1864-65,	...	1,196,800	...
1865-66,	...	910,000	...
1866-67,	...	1,238,966	...
1867-68,	735,633	1,254,553	1,990,185
1868-69,	754,875	1,286,742	2,037,617
1869-70,	824,027	1,415,786	2,239,813
1870-71,	768,936	1,547,427	2,316,563
1871-72,	697,941	1,478,648	2,176,589

THE CENTRAL PROVINCES.

4. Examining these returns in detail, and commencing with the Nagpore Division, it is to be noticed that the Nagpore District shows a falling-off of 24,000 acres. The detailed figures for this district have not, however, been received, and the entry is founded on the rough and not very sanguine estimates of the Native Subordinate Magistrates, who report that the heavy and continuous rain which fell early in the season prevented many cultivators from sowing cotton, and that a falling-off of about 25 per cent. is to be expected. There is a hope, however, that matters may turn out rather better than represented, and in accepting the above estimate we are quite on the safe side. In Chanda and Wurdah the figures are about the same as those of last year, and this, it will be remembered, is quite the most important cotton-growing tract in the Central Provinces.

The Nagpore
Division.

5. A decrease in the area sown with cotton is to be noticed in every single district of the Jubbulpore Division. But the decrease in each case is nominal, save in the Jubbulpore District, where it is to be debited to the heavy rain at the commencement of the season, to be noticed in more detail hereafter. The cotton grown in this division is chiefly consumed locally, and the trade of Bombay has, as yet, but little interest in it.

The Jubbulpore
Division.

6. In the Nerbudda Division, the most noticeable point is the decrease in the Nimar District, which adjoins Berar, and sends some cotton of fair quality to the Bombay market. The other districts, with the exception of Chindwara, also show some decrease, the net result for the whole Division being a slight improvement.

The Nerbudda
Division.

7. In the last Division of the Central Provinces, the Chutteesguruh country lying far east of Nagpore towards Orissa, there has been a falling-off. But here, also, the cotton grown is nearly entirely used for home consumption, and for the Bombay trade at least the falling-off is not a matter of any great importance.

The Chuttees-
guruh country.

THE BERARS.

8. We now come to the area under cotton cultivation in the Berars, in which the trade of Western India has so great an interest. The figures indicate that there has been a falling-off of about 10,000 acres in the Oomraotee District. But this is more than counterbalanced by the increase in the adjoining districts of Woon and Ellichpore; the net result for the division being an increase of about 30,000 acres.

East Berar.

9. In West Berar, a considerable decrease is unfortunately to be noted. The cause of this will be explained in more detail hereafter, but it may

West Berar.

briefly be noted here that the falling-off is to be attributed entirely to the very unfavourable weather that has been experienced in this part of Berar, and which will be found fully described in the succeeding paragraphs of this letter.

Decrease in the
Akola District.

10. The falling-off in the area sown with cotton in the Akola District is thus described by Captain Hudleston, Deputy Commissioner of that District:—

"It is admitted in all the taluqs that there has been a slight falling-off in the sowings this season.

"This is in consequence of the failure of the early rains, which caused some small portions sown with cotton to be re-sown with cereals.

"This decrease is as nearly as possible 10 per cent. for the whole district.

"The sowings, would have been, indeed actually were, almost the same as last year. But, for the cause assigned above, only 90 per cent. of the usual cotton soil was ultimately prepared for and sown with cotton."

In Booldana.

11. In the adjoining district, Booldana, the falling-off is still more serious, and is to be traced to exactly the same cause as that assigned by Captain Hudleston for the decrease in the Akola District. And the same remarks apply to the Bassim District, the conditions of which are nearly identical with other portions of West Berar.

12. From the above paragraphs it will, then, be seen that the area sown with cotton this season compares unfavourably with the figures of 1870-71. At the same time a reference to para. 3 will show that the cotton acreage of 1871-72 is larger than that of the years 1867-68 and 1868-69 which were good average seasons. It will also be noticed that the falling-off is attributed by the District Officers to the unfavourable weather that affected the sowings early in the season, and not to any decrease in the popularity of the crop, and consequent disinclination on the part of the peasantry to cultivate cotton.

EFFECT OF THE WEATHER ON THE CROP.

13. And this brings me to the most important point connected with this season's prospects, viz., the effect of the weather on the crop and the probable out-turn as compared with former years. For, as is but too well known to your Chamber, unfavourable weather often more than counterbalances the effect of even a large increase in the acreage sown with cotton; whilst a thoroughly good season may so increase the out-turn of the crop as to cause a decrease in the area to be but little felt. This season, however, in addition to a falling-off in the cultivation, I have to report that the unseasonable weather in some parts of the Berars has caused considerable damage to the crop. We must, then, be prepared, I fear, for a falling-off in the supplies and the exports.

Characteristics of
the season.

14. The following facts, supplemented by extracts from the reports of the Local Officers, will enable the members of your Chamber to judge for themselves of the probable extent of the damage to the crop, and they will also be able to form their own opinion as to the correctness of my estimate of the coming season's exports as compared with the supplies

drawn by the Bombay market from the Central Provinces and the Berars during former years. Your Chamber has been kept informed by the reports submitted to you from time to time of the state of the weather in the cotton-growing country to which this report relates, and it will be remembered that the leading characteristics of the season have been exceptionally heavy rain early in the monsoon in the northern and eastern portions of the Central Provinces and the Berars, with a very scanty rain-fall in the districts to the south and west. Thus the heavy rain which ~~marked the~~ north-western Provinces and Bengal extended to the districts of the Jubbulpore Division and to Nursingpore and to parts of the Hoshungabad District. The rain was very heavy during the early part of the monsoon in the Nagpore District also, and in the Wurdah Valley, and in the eastern portion of East Berar. Thus the Deputy Commissioner of Nagpore reports that the falling-off in the area sown with cotton is to be attributed to the continued downpour, which prevented the cultivators putting in the cotton-seed. In West Berar, again, and in the Nimar District of the Central Provinces which adjoins Khandesh, exactly the opposite results are to be noticed. Here the rain failed almost entirely, and the dryness of the season either prevented the sowings or burnt up a considerable portion of the young crop.

Heavy rain in the
North.

Scant rain-fall
towards the West.

15. For the injury to the crop in West Berar my former reports will in some degree have prepared you. At one time there was, indeed, a danger of the utter failure of the crop. But some rain fell in September, and the danger was averted. Had the rain returned later in the season, as was, I understand, the case in Guzerat, the crop might after all have been hardly below the average. But, unfortunately, this did not happen, and with the exception of 80 cents in the middle of November no rain has since fallen in West Berar. It is now too late to hope for any benefit to the cotton-crop from the return of rain. On the contrary, rain at this season would damage the ripe cotton, and would in no way improve the out-turn. I have hitherto been unwilling to predict a decrease in the outturn, as rain might have at any moment returned, and changed the whole complexion of affairs. But there is now no chance of matters mending, and I lose no time in communicating to your Chamber the best information that is available, together with my own views on the subject.

Damage to the
crop in West Be
rar.

16. The annexed statement will help to explain the unequal distribution of the rain-fall in the cotton-growing country:—

Comparative Statement showing the Rain-fall in the Wurdah Valley and the Berars during the Monsoon of 1871 as compared with 1870.

NAGPORE DIVISION.				
		Nagpore.		Wurdah.
		1871.	1870.	1871.
		Inches.	Inches.	Inches.
June, ...	...	12.75	} 29.45	6.47
July, ...	...	18.08		15.78
August, ...	...	2.01		4.72
September, ...	...	11.50		3.93
October, ...	...	...		5.67
November, ...	...	...	4.77	7.0
		44.34	37.52	37.27
		6.82	...	26.16
Increase, inches,		...	11.11	...

Rain-fall of 1871
compared with
1870.

THE BERARS.

	Shearnon.		Oomracte.	
	1871.	1870.	1871.	1870.
	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.
June, ...	3	8.33	5.26	8.20
July, ...	3.77	10.11	7.23	16.80
August, ...	1.55	2.24	1.12	2.70
September, ...	3.58	2.32	5.86	2.75
October, ...	...	2.84	...	8.30
November, ...	...	0.5	41	50
	12.70	26.14	19.88	59.35
Decrease, inches.	13.44	...	19.37	...

17. Thus in 1871 Nagpore and Wurdah had 44.34 and 37.27 inches of rain respectively, against 19.88 inches in East Berar and only 12.70 inches in West Berar; and whilst the rain-fall in Nagpore and Wurdah for 1871 shows an increase over that of 1870, the Berar rain-fall shows a decrease—a result which may well be expected to affect the outturn of the crops.

18. In noticing the reports of the Local Officers, it will, perhaps, be found most convenient to take first the Northern and Eastern Divisions of the Central Provinces, before considering the prospects in the Wurdah Valley and the Berars, which, being the most important cotton-growing tract, will require to be treated of in some detail. Writing on the 13th ultimo of the prospects of the crop in the Jubbulpore Division, the Commissioner says:—

“The area under cotton cultivation has decreased in every district as compared with 1870-71, and in three of the districts (Mundla, Seonee, and Damoh) the cotton sowings have suffered to a considerable extent from excessive rain. In the Damoh District the damage caused to the crops is estimated at about 361,500 lbs. The Jubbulpore report was written so far back as the 25th August last: from subsequent information received in this office the crops appear to be doing well, and the yield is expected to reach the standard of the best years.”

19. Much of the cotton grown here is for local consumption; the export towards Bombay is comparatively small.

20. Mr. Jones, the Commissioner of the Nerbudda Districts, thus describes the season in that division:—

“The features of this cotton season in every district except Nimar have been, first, the want of a break after the first rains, that retarded and probably slightly curtailed sowing operations, and in particular prevented farmers from weeding the young cotton as soon as it was desirable; second, extremely heavy rain, which did some, but quite partial, damage. The plants look remarkably healthy and have come up thickly. In Nimar, and in fact in the western part of the Hoshungabad District, the rain-fall has been remarkably scanty, and all the conditions mentioned above have been reversed. It is a singular fact that while the rain-gauge at Hoshungabad showed 42 inches, that at Hurda showed only 15: a line passing north and south through a point somewhat east of Hurda would mark the limit between the areas of scanty and of over-abundant rain. In Nimar the plants are backward but healthy, and require nothing but rain to bring them on.”

The weather in the Jubbulpore Division.

In the Nerbudda Division.

21. The reports from the Chutteesgurh country show that the plants suffered early in the season from the heavy rains that visited this part of the country also, but that prospects are on the whole favourable. The area under cotton, as has already been shown, has decreased. But none of the crop finds its way to Bombay, and so far as your Chamber is concerned the matter is not of much importance.

In Chutteesgurh.

22. We now come to quite the most important of the cotton-growing tracts that has to be noticed, namely, the Wurdah Valley and the Berars, which contribute respectively about 25,000 and 210,000 bales of the total of 250,005 bales exported by these Provinces during a good season to Bombay.

23. The leading characteristics of the season in the Nagpore District have been, first excessive rain early in the monsoon which interfered in some degree with the sowings, and then a long break of dry weather in August which threatened to damage the crop. The timely return of rain in September, however, removed the chief cause for anxiety. It is now expected that the crop in the Nagpore Division will be on the whole a fair one. The area has slightly decreased as already explained. It still amounts 309,833 acres.

The Wurdah Valley.

24. In the Wurdah District, also, the season was ushered in with unusually heavy rain. The fall during August and September was moderate, and rain returned again in October. Mr. Noble, the Assistant to the Cotton Commissioner in the Wurdah Valley, has recently been on a tour through this tract, and his reports are, on the whole, favourable. Towards the east, the crops have felt the want of rain just as the pods were ripening, but further to the south-west, towards the Wurdah river, the fields are in excellent condition; and he reports, under date the 30th:—

“To all appearance some of the fields of cotton and jowaree that are to be seen about here are as fine as one could wish,” and that “the accounts received in this part are favourable, the cotton and jowaree crops are better than last season.” He further reports that the crops towards Arvee are excellent.

25. This view is confirmed by the reports of the District Officers: the Deputy Commissioner of Wurdah's remarks on the prospects of the crop in his district being to the effect that a good outturn is expected; and the Deputy Commissioner of Chandah's report being also favourable. From my own observations when in the Wurdah Valley in the autumn, and from my knowledge of the weather since that date, I should be inclined to predict that quite an average supply of cotton may be expected from this quarter.

26. Under date the 22nd November, Mr. Noble reports:—

“The quality of the cotton coming into the Hingunghât market is very good, and the present rate is Rs. 65 and Rs. 80 for a *bhojah* of 12 maunds (264 lbs.) and 15 maunds (330 lbs.) respectively, the rates for *kapas*, or cotton in the seed, are Rs. 45 to Rs. 48 per *kandy* (a *kandy* = 20 maunds, 16 seers to the maund = 640 lbs.)”

And again, on the 30th:—

"Cotton is coming into Hingunghât in large quantities, and the quality is good.

"The present rates are:—Rs. 90 per *bhojah* of 15 maunds (330lbs.), Rs. 74 per *bhojah* of 12 maunds (260lbs.); and Rs. 48 per *kandy* (640lbs), for *kapas*, or cotton in the seed."

East Berar.

27. As we go west the reports become less favourable, for here the want of rain begins to be more and more felt. The table given in para. 16 will show this, but it may be convenient to notice here how the amount of rain registered decreases as we move westwards from Nagpore towards Bombay. Thus:—

Rain from 1st June, 1871.

		INCHES.
Nagpore,	...	44.34
Wurdah,	...	37.27
Oomraotee,	...	19.88
Sheogaon,	...	12.70

28. The reports from Mr. Nago Rao, the Assistant to the Cotton Commissioner, East Berar, go to show that the prospects towards the Wurdah river are excellent, but that the scant rain-fall of August and September has affected the crop to some extent in the track lying to the west. It is feared that the favourable prospects in the one part will hardly counterbalance the damage done in the other.

29. The prospects in East Berar are thus summed up by Colonel Nembhard, Commissioner of the Division, in a letter dated the 17th November:—

"The cotton-plants are undoubtedly stunted and the bolls are small. The cotton-produce in good soil is pretty fair, but that in light soil is scanty. I should set the crop down as a twelve-anna* one. The new cotton is now being picked, and some of it has already come forward to market.

"The jowaree (*Sorghum vulgare*) is also stunted, and the ears are small: this also is a twelve-anna crop. The rubbee sowings have not only been completed, but the young wheat and gram have come up and are looking well. The night before last (on 15th November) clouds gathered up from the westward, and towards morning we had a heavy shower which lasted some two or three hours. This, of course, will immensely improve and irrigate the young rubbee, and if we have, as I trust we shall, a succession of dewy mornings, the latter crop should be a full one.

"I much fear, however, that in some parts of the Division there will be a good deal of distress next hot weather from want of water in the wells. In this present month, the latter are as dry as they usually are at the end of March."

* Sixteen annas in the rupee is a full, perfect crop, not often realized, alas!

30. In West Berar the prospects are much less encouraging. Captain Hudleston, the Deputy Commissioner of Akola, writing in October, thus describes matters in his district:—

"As to the yield, the crop is still in a somewhat precarious condition, although the prospects compared with what they were a month ago are very much better.

"More rain within the next month is much needed, while rain after this period will do more harm than good. In some places, buds and flowers have appeared prematurely upon the young plants. Still, with a little more favourable rain, the out-turn will, I conceive, be within 12 or 15 per cent. of the usual yield per acre.

"The following figures show the rain-fall for nine years for the four rainy months up to present time:—

Year.	Months.				Total.
	June.	July.	August.	September.	
1863,	...	3.96	5.76	2.20	11.92
1864,	...	4.68	8.94	5.45	20.82
1865,	...	6.44	9.37	3.95	19.76
1866,	...	0.35	1.32	3.53	5.67
1867,	...	3.12	4.16	6.48	15.54
1868,	...	6.29	4.69	7.99	31.2
1869,	...	3.21	3.22	11.84	26.92
1870,	...	6.43	17.4	7.33	32.49
1871,	...	5.2	2.98	2.11	13.16

"From this statement the history of the coming harvest may be clearly read. How it was sown with an average fall in June; how in July it received less rain than in any year but one during the last nine years, so that the earliest sowings were lost, and all the rest retarded in growth; further, how in August it languished under a rain-fall less than 40 per cent. of any one year during same period; and how, lastly, in September it revived partially under a full average supply for that month, which, though falling late, was of much benefit to the crops.

"During July and August the weather was cloudy, with cool winds and dewy nights; had it been otherwise, I believe the greater part of the crop would have perished. Just now the days are bright and hot, suitable enough for a crop fairly treated in its infancy, but dangerous under present circumstances where the plants are undergrown and liable to be prematurely forced into flower before maturity."

31. Fortunately rain fell on the 15th and 16th November, and slightly improved matters.

32. Reports from the other Districts of West Berar are equally unsatisfactory, and the state of the crops in the division is thus summed up by the Commissioner, Colonel Stubbs, in a letter dated the 17th November:—

"In my last report to Government, I stated that the crop prospects in West Berar were never worse than at present, and this was literally the

Colonel Stubbs' opinion.

state of the case. Whole fields, which have in many cases been sown more than once, are entirely bare, in others the crop is stunted and will produce nothing; and even where the crop looks tolerable, and large heads have formed, it is found that they often contain little or no grain. The cotton in many places is miserable, the bolls having either fallen off or burst unnaturally owing to the excessive heat. In the latter case, the cotton, though formed, is pinched up, hard, and in many cases worm-eaten. Under the hills the prospects are better, but the above may be considered the state of the khurreef crops in the greater part of West Berar.

"All hopes of a rubbee crop had entirely died away, for in many places sowings had not been even attempted, as the ground was too hard and dry; in others, where the crop had sprung up, it was considered impossible it could ever arrive at maturity, owing to the absence of moisture. We have now,* however, been blessed with two good nights of rain in Akola,† which, from all I can learn, must have been general throughout the division, and every hope is now entertained that the rubbee crops will be saved.

* 15th and 16th instant.

† 1 inch 62 cents.

The season is too far gone for sowing wheat, but grain, peas, and such like can still be planted, and the opportunity will no doubt be gladly seized.

"Up to yesterday I was of opinion that if we collected eight annas in the rupee of revenue we should be lucky. Our prospects are now brighter, but you are aware that in many parts of Berar there is no rubbee cultivation possible. Badly as matters looked in Berar, I regret to say there was every reason to believe they were very much worse in the Mogullai (the Nizam's) country beyond, as is evidenced by the large number of people looking for food who have flocked into these districts, and the immense quantity of grain daily under transportation.

33. The reports of Mr. Dunlop, the Assistant Commissioner, West Berar, are all in the same strain. The damage done to the crops at the experimental farm at Shegaon has been very considerable, and this is a fair index of the effect of the season in the neighbouring country.

34. Writing on the 15th November, Mr. Dunlop reported as follows:—

"A decided change took place in the weather four days ago. It has been cooler, and heavy clouds have rolled up in the evening, leading us to believe that rain was about to fall, but unfortunately they have passed over without doing any good. I still hope, however, that rain may come at this time. The reports from the western coast show that the weather there is in an unsettled state, and it is not improbable that the clouds we have had during the past few nights are only the forerunners of heavier ones to follow hereafter.

"It is a question how much good rain at the present time would do the cotton-crop of Berar. In the districts where the crops are in an advanced and healthy state, it is probable that a considerable quantity of ripe cotton would be discoloured, and here the crop is so far gone that, perhaps, rain would not do much in the way of increasing the yield. This is the idea the cultivators hold: they look upon the state of their cotton

warree crops as unimprovable, and long for rain only to secure the harvest, and to increase the water-supply; and if rain does come probable that in many instances the cotton-plants will be rooted up, and ram or wheat sown in their place.

My own view is that the best fields will be improved in so far that bolls now forming will mature satisfactorily. I do not think rain will do much to any extent. I have very carefully inspected the fields which from a distance look tolerably well, but a closer scrutiny shows that the plants have a poor display of blossom or pods, and unless comes at repeated intervals I doubt if this could be much increased.

"The Cotton Farm is suffering much from the continued drought. The plants are strong and well formed, but from want of nourishment the cotton-pods are miserable. The powerful heat of the sun causes the pods to burst prematurely, and the *kapas* is short both in quantity and quality, and seriously damaged by the boll-worm. The farm was visited during the week by two of the principal *deshmooks* in the district, who themselves are farmers on a large scale. They were greatly delighted with the size and strength of our plants, and I hope to get them to express their views in writing, which would doubtless be of interest to you.

"The Cotton Farm would probably benefit by rain more than the cultivators' fields, the plants having a stronger growth. If, however, the weather continues, I seriously doubt if our best cotton will yield 50lbs. per acre, whereas many will bear me out in saying that had the season been a favourable one our average yield would probably not have been under 150lbs.

"I regret to say that it has been necessary to abandon most of the Carolina paddy, the supply of water in our wells being quite inadequate for the requirements of it and other crops.

"P. S.—Since writing the above, we have had some rain—in Shegaon 74 cents., in Akola 60 cents; but it was heavier towards Khamgaum and Mulkapore.

"The weather is still unsettled, and I expect more rain will fall."

35. And, writing again on the 4th December, he adds:—

"The rain of which I informed you in a postscript to my last report continued for only a few hours, and the quantity registered during that time did not exceed 80 cents., hardly sufficient to affect the late cotton-plants. It may have done good to the more forward ones, which were in the course of budding; but, on the whole, I doubt if the late rain was sufficient to materially alter the cotton prospects of the season.

"The latest reports from West Berar indicate cloudy weather and general signs of further rain; but so far as the cotton-crop is concerned a change in the weather is not desirable, as much ripe cotton would be exposed and liable to stain, while, on the other hand, it is too late in the season to hope for any compensating improvement in the sickly plants.

Of December 4th.

To the district generally rain would be most acceptable, and would insure a good spring harvest.

"The late rain, trifling as it was, has had a marked effect on the strong plants in the model farm. It assisted the bolls to fill up before bursting, and a few days afterwards the best of plants were covered with well-sized pods. Up to date the Superintendent has picked 1,500lbs. of cotton with seed, and he now expects a larger yield than formerly there was any prospect of getting."

36. The benefit received from the light rain that fell in the middle of November has thus been but inconsiderable, and it is clear that there is no hope of the condition of the cotton-crop being improved by any rain that may now fall. On the contrary, rain now would undoubtedly damage much of the ripe cotton.

37. Unfortunately, a considerable portion of the territory of His Highness the Nizam lying to the south of the Berars, has suffered in like manner from the scanty rain-fall of the past season, and the distress that prevails in that quarter will be found alluded to in the report of Colonel Stubbs quoted above. Now on this tract cotton is grown in large quantities, and year by year the supplies drawn by the Berar markets from this quarter are increasing. There can, thus, be little doubt that the unfavourable state of the crop beyond the Berar boundary, will affect the exports this season, although to what extent it is not possible to say, on account of the imperfect information that is available on the subject.

38. I have now placed before your Chamber such detailed information as I possess regarding the prospects of the cotton-crop in the Central Provinces and the Berars. The state of affairs may be summed up briefly as follows:—There has been a falling-off of about 70,000 acres in cotton cultivation in the Central Provinces. The weather, save in the western portion of Wurdah Valley, has been unfavourable. In the most important tract, however, that adjoining Berar, the prospects are good. The Central Provinces export annually about 30,000 bales of cotton of about 400 lbs. each to Bombay. My own opinion in the matter is that the supplies of this season in the Wurdah Valley will not be found inferior to those of former seasons either in quantity or quality.

39. In the eastern portion of East Berar the crop is in good condition; towards the west it has suffered. The cultivation has increased in this quarter to the extent of 30,000 acres. But even this is, I fear, hardly sufficient to counterbalance the effect of the unseasonable weather.

40. In West Berar prospects are decidedly bad. There has been a falling-off of nearly 100,000 acres in the area cultivated with cotton, and a rain-fall of less than half what is registered in ordinary seasons has greatly damaged the crop. Moreover, the Nizam's country to the south, which contributes its share of cotton to the Khangaon market, has suffered in a like degree. So in this quarter, at least, we must be prepared for a considerable decrease in the supplies.

41. My own views, founded on the facts given above, are that the falling off in the exports consequent on the damage that has been caused to the crop in West Berar will be from 20 to 25 per cent., and taking the average annual exports from these Provinces to Bombay at 250,000 bales of 400lbs. each, the supplies this season will I fear hardly exceed from 180,000 to 200,000 bales.

42. Your Chamber has before them the facts on which this opinion is founded, and you will be able to judge for yourselves how far my views are likely to prove correct. I hope soon to be back in camp in the Berars, and any further information that may be obtained on this important subject will be communicated to you without delay.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient Servant,

HARRY RIVETT-CARNAC,
Cotton Commissioner.

COTTON COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE :
Allahabad, 4th December, 1871. }

COTTON COMMISSIONER.

A. 20.

STATE OF THE WEATHER AND PROSPECTS OF THE COTTON-
CROP IN THE CENTRAL PROVINCES AND THE BERARS.

No. 6712.

FROM

HARRY RIVETT-CARNAC, Esq., C.S.,
Cotton Commissioner,

TO

THE SECRETARY TO THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
BOMBAY.

DATED ALLAHABAD, THE 13TH DECEMBER, 1871.

SIR,

In continuation of my letter of the 4th instant, No. 6631, I have the honour to forward herewith the latest information regarding the weather and crop prospects in these Provinces.

2. Mr. Noble, writing on the 9th instant, thus speaks of the prospects in the Wurdah country:—

Wurdah Valley.

"The weather for the most part has been the same as that of the preceding week—warm and cloudy—but as yet there are no signs that rain will shortly fall. Near the Wurdah River the rubbee crops do not seem to have suffered much from want of rain, but in the poorer fields and in the country to the east of the river, a great many wheat-fields are beginning to present rather a sickly and irregular appearance, the latter no doubt being caused by a great many of the seeds not having germinated for want of moisture.

"Even those fields which were favoured with rain which fell about the 18th of last month have not benefited thereby as would have been expected, on account of warm, cloudy weather following, instead of cold, fine weather.

"Since my last report my marches have been:—

- 1st, Pohna to Kanholee.
- 2nd, Kanholee to Khangaon.
- 3rd, Khangaon to Waigaon.
- 4th, Waigaon to Wurdah and Nagpore.

"The accounts of the cotton-crops are good, the cultivators estimating the crop at 12 annas, against 4 annas last season. I do not think it is in the nature of Native cultivators to admit that the crop is ever more

Resd. 16/12/71
No. 6712
Jm Postd 16/12/71

than a 12-anna* one, which in reality signifies that the crop is very good, and considerably above the average.

"I have heard cultivators very early in the season estimate a crop at one rupee and one rupee four annas, but before the pickings commence it has always dwindled down to 8 annas or so, no matter how favourable the weather.

"The 'Katan' crop (such as gram, peas, &c.) it is generally admitted will be less than last year, when they were above the average."

3. The following extract from Mr. Nago Rao's report will show the condition of matters in East Berar. Writing on the 11th instant he says:—

"I have the honour to report that during the past week ending Saturday last the weather continued to be as cloudy and oppressive as it was during the preceding weeks. It has been bright and somewhat cool since yesterday.

"During the week under report I have had but little time to inspect the crops of the country, and, consequently, I could not travel over a distance of more than 50 miles by road. I visited the important cotton-growing tract lying between Oomraotee, Dhunuj, Kooram Khullar, and Oothumsurrah, &c., and found that between Phool Amlah and Lontalk, the crops of cotton and jowaree, and the whole of the rubbee crops, were all that could be desired. The cotton-plants were usually high and branchy; and, although the first picking had been completed, there was still plenty of *kapas* on the plants to pick for the second time. Nearly the whole of the jowaree crop was reaped and gathered, but I could see that the jowaree plants were very high, and had also given a good outturn. The Koonbee cultivators who met me on this road said that the yield of cotton and jowaree was, notwithstanding, about 4 annas below the average; but, from my own observation I am inclined to believe that the outturn of these crops would not be below, if not above, the average. The whole of the rubbee crops of this locality were seen to be in an excellent condition.

"Between Oomraotee and Dhunuj, and also between Dhunuj and Phool-Amlah, the general appearance of the cotton-crop, so far as I have seen and heard, is good. The plants are high enough. The first picking is entirely over, but I am sorry to report that in most of the fields there is very little cotton on the plants to pick for the second time, and the plants have now very few flowers and young bols upon them. The inquiries made from the cultivators of this tract showed that the outturn of jowaree, also, was about 5 or 4 annas below the average; but that the first picking of *kapas* was good. I am also of opinion that the loss to the jowaree and the cotton-crops of this locality would not be less than about 4 annas in the rupee. The rubbee crops of this tract looked to be in good condition.

"The reports which I have received from the various parts of East Berar, as well as my own observation of the country, indicate that the crops of gram, lae, and thoor are still being damaged by caterpillars; that rain is much needed for the whole of the rubbee crops; that the reap-

* I.e. 12 annas in the rupee, or a three-quarter crop.

ing of jowaree and the first picking of cotton are nearly over; and that the cultivators are all busy in ginning *kapas* and gathering jowaree.

"The annexed are the reports from Messrs. Beck and Lloyd on the present condition of the Oomraotee and the Lakhpooree Experimental Farms. They contain every information connected with the varieties of the experiments under trial. I am sorry to observe that on the Oomraotee Farm the gram is being much damaged by various insects; that the cotton, which was sown on deep-ploughed land, and which in consequence required much more rain than what it had during the monsoon, has suffered most seriously; and that wheat and linseed are also going back for want of rain, which is urgently wanted for them. Unless it falls soon, the rubbee crops of the farm, as well as of the Native fields in the neighbourhood, will be seriously damaged. The manured plots of the farm will, it is hoped, give a good second picking; and there has been a remarkable difference between the manured and the unmanured plants of cotton on the farm."

4. Mr. Nago Rao's report relates to the most favoured portion of East Berar. Further West the condition of matters is less favourable.

5. Writing on the 11th instant from Akola, Mr. Dunlop says:—

"The cloudy weather adverted to in my last passed away without rain, and we have again clear hot days without any prospect of rain.

"The harvest prospects are worse even than was lately anticipated. The rain in the middle of November was too light to have any good effect on the crops, and the cotton-crop in this part is miserable. Many fields are yielding nothing, and even where the plants are large and strong-looking, the pods are very scarce. The general outturn from the affected districts cannot, I think, be more than 25 per cent. of last year's yield. As the Akote and East Berar Districts have better crops, I estimate the decrease on the total receipts this year at 30 to 40 per cent. The cultivators in this part are in great distress, and will have much difficulty in paying their land-revenue, the first instalment of which is now about to fall due.

"The jowaree crop has almost entirely failed, the cotton nearly so, and there is little to be seen but *kurbee* (stalks of jowaree), which will be fully required for the cattle. The prospects for the rubbee crops are also bad, and there is a poor chance of their surviving unless rain falls.

"The Tehseeldar of Balapore reports as follows on his talook, the whole of which he has carefully inspected:—

"Towards Hata, and generally most of the villages on the north of Balapore, where, for the want of the first few showers in the beginning of the monsoon, the cotton-seed was sown several times, the crops are a total failure. In the villages on the south and south-east of Balapore, I have seen occasionally a field almost white with bursted cotton-pods, but taking the whole into consideration, the yield in that part could be guessed at about half of what it would otherwise have been had the season been less unfavourable. The average yield from the whole talook may be estimated at 4 annas in the rupee.

(4)

"The crops of the cotton farm are gradually being harvested. The general outturn will compare favourably with that from the cultivators' fields, but little more can be said for our crops."

6. Mr. Dunlop's estimate of a decrease of 30 to 40 per cent. refers to the West Berar Division only.

7. Further reports will be communicated to you as soon as received.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient Servant,

HARRY RIVETT-CARNAC,

Member of and Honorary Secretary to,
the Central Committee in India.

COTTON COMMISSIONER.

A. 21.

STATE OF THE WEATHER AND PROSPECTS OF THE
COTTON-CROP IN THE CENTRAL PROVINCES
AND THE BERARS.

No. 7,014.

FROM

HARRY RIVETT-CARNAC, Esq., C.S.,

Cotton Commissioner,

TO

THE SECRETARY TO THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,

BOMBAY.

DATED ALLAHABAD, THE 30th DECEMBER 1871.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith extracts from the Reports of the Assistants to the Cotton Commissioner, giving the latest information on the weather and crop prospects.

EAST BERAR.

2. Mr. Nago Rao, in his report dated Oomraotee, 25th instant, writes as follows:—

"I have the honour to report that, during the past week ending 23rd instant, the weather continued to be cloudy, and a little rain also fell at Oomraotee and in its neighbourhood on the 22nd idem at night; but the fall amounted to only 10 cents at Oomraotee, and, consequently it was not sufficient to do any good to the rubbee crops of the country. Since then the days are somewhat cloudy, but the nights are pretty cool.

"While passing from Oomraotee to this place through Mortizapore, I found that in most of the cotton-fields on the road, the picking of *kapas* was entirely over, and that *jowarree* also was reaped and gathered. I met with no rubbee crop, save a few fields, between Mortizapore and Karinjah, but between Oomraotee and Mortizapore I perceived that in most of the fields wheat was suffering much from want of moisture, and the plants in many places looked somewhat withered. Gram and other rubbee crops looked to be in better condition, but they were not as fresh and healthy as they should have been by this time of the season.

"The reports which I have received from the different parts of the East Berar country indicate that the cultivators are engaged in picking and ginning *kapas*, and that the rubbee crops of the country are suffering from want of rain."

3. Mr. Beck, the Superintendent of the Farm at Oomraotee, writing on the 23rd instant, says:—

"The weather during the past week has been cooler, and a few clouds have been passing most days. A heavy shower appeared to have fallen in the east last evening. The crops during the week have made little improvement. The bolls of cotton now opening are small and few. The Hingunghat plants will be finished first: they are now nearly leafless; they have not stood the season so well as the Bunnee. The Borda Jurree plants are healthy and strong, but will give a small outturn: one-fifth of the bolls are opened with little *kapas*, some not yielding any; they are one month later than Bunnee and Hingunghat, and I think they would do better where there is a greater quantity of rain. The gram on the farm as compared with other crops is about equal; wheat, lac, and *ulsee* are below the average crops about here. The cultivators' fields of wheat are looking well: they have not gone back this last three weeks as they had done before. The good fields are looking well, and the worst have not improved: they appear to fall off most during the growing season. The linseed has not come up well: the temperature being hot and the soil of a very close nature have been against it. I am making another sowing on loose soil, where I think I shall be more successful."

4. And Mr. Lloyd, at Lakpooree on the same date, reports as follows:—

"Very little change has taken place since my last visit. Cotton picking is still going on in a few fields, but in most of the fields it has been all gathered. In our fields a small quantity remains to be picked, including the Dharwar. Egyptian, Sea Island, Peruvian, and Nankin, will give nothing this season, but in a favourable season I have no doubt they would do well. All the *jowarree* has been cut in our fields, but a little still remains standing in the district. The rubbee crops are about the same as when I last saw them. The wheat is dying off in places; about one-third of the crops has gone off, and the remainder is very small. The caterpillars, which had attacked the grain, are not so numerous as they were, but as it is they have done a great deal of damage to the plants. Linseed is looking better, and is in flower; lac is pretty good, and is coming into bloom.

"The temperature during the past few days has been rather lower. A little rain fell at Oomraotee last night, but not enough to do any good to the crops."

WEST BERAR.

5. Mr. Dunlop, writing on the 25th instant from Booldana, reports as follows:—

"Since the date of my last report I have had an opportunity of seeing something of the crops above the ghauts in the Booldana District, and, from what I have been able to learn, they are certainly somewhat better than those in the plains, but still far from what they should be.

"We were threatened with rain three days ago, but, happily for the sake of the cotton, the clouds passed away. Putting cotton out of the

question, it is seriously to be regretted that rain has not fallen at this time; for the water-supply of the country is at a very low ebb, and during the hot weather the distress on this account will be very great.

"Cotton comes very slowly into Khangaum, but I expect to see larger arrivals from the beginning of January, as the cultivators will then realize as much as they can in order to pay the first instalment of the land-revenue, which falls due on the 1st proximo. The receipts at Khangaum up to the 22nd instant, when I was there, amounted to only 1,600 *bojahs*, much of which was supposed to be old cotton.

"Mr. Pillans's report is annexed. The crop on the farm is being gradually secured, and I was pleased to learn some days ago that our best field has yielded up to date 101 lbs. of clean cotton per acre, which, in so poor a season, is a large outturn. It was irrigated in the beginning of the season, but it received so little water that I attribute the large outturn to the ploughing more than to the irrigation.

"P. S.—I have just received the following statement of the exports of cotton from Khangaum by railway up to the 16th instant. The figures are—

Full-pressed Bales.	Half-pressed Bales.	Dokras.
2,093	128	51"

6. And Mr. Pillans, the Superintendent of the Farm at Sheagaum, in his report of the 23rd instant, says:—

"The work has not differed from that of last week; the chief being picking the growing cotton, cutting and threshing and winnowing *jowaree*, weighing and stacking *kurbee*, and irrigating. There are 4,123 lbs. of *kapas* picked up to date, which is chiefly Bunnee and Hingunghat; Jurree is just commencing. Some of the fields show pretty well.

"The cereal crops are not promising well at all: the wheat and gram does not look well; lac is fair, and about the best of any cereals I have; linseed and safflower are fair.

"The young forest-trees and bamboos are all doing well.

"The weather of the past week has been fine, with cloudy days. Our total rain-fall up to date is 12.70 inches."

WURDAH VALLEY.

7. Mr. Noble, in his letter, dated Nagpore, 20th instant, thus reports:—

"Since my last report the weather has been fine, the afternoons being generally cloudy; but I do not think there is much chance of any rain falling shortly, as the nights and mornings have been getting considerably colder.

"My marches since my last report have been:—

10th, Saongee to Nachangaon.
17th, Nachangaon to Bairool.
18th, Bairool to Dhanori.
19th, Dhanori to Daiwalwara.
20th, Daiwalwara to Arvi.

"The state of the crops remains unchanged; there is still a considerable quantity of cotton unpicked, and the *jowarree* is now being cut on all sides.

"In the district through which I have just passed, the *khurreef* crops (crops of the autumn harvest) have on the whole been good—in some parts very good—as may be judged from the fact that at several villages, including the villages of Nachangaon and Bairool (the acreages of the land attached to these being of considerable extent), the Molgoozars when questioned have at first answered that the cotton and *jowarree* crops have been very good, being full 'sixteen-anna' ones. In villages where, perhaps, the land is not quite so good, the crop is generally considered to be a 'twelve-anna' crop, which in reality means a very fair average one.

"I wish I could say the same of the *rubbee* crop (spring harvest); this I am afraid will be as bad as the *khurreef* in this part has been good. Many cultivators say that it will be as much as they will get if they get the amount of seed sown; while others say that certain fields will give a 'twelve-anna' crop, and others an 'eight-anna' one. From my own personal observation, I should say that unless rain falls very shortly, the poorer fields, the soil of which is unable to retain moisture for any length of time, will certainly not yield very much more than was sown, but the number of such fields in this part is in the minority, and I think that the average yield will be nearly an 'eight-anna' one.

"Several of the more forward fields are now in ear, and consequently rain would be of no benefit, even to the more backward fields unless it comes within a few days."

8. Prospects, then, are about the same. In fact, as far as the quality of the cotton crop is concerned, no change either for the better or the worse is to be expected. Heavy rain now might stain and thereby affect the colour and quality of the crop, but would in no way affect the outturn.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

COTTON COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE,
Allahabad, the 30th December 1871.

HARRY RIVETT-CARNAC,
Cotton Commissioner.

Order thereon, 15th January 1872 No. 93.

*Communicated to the Board
of Revenue and Chamber of Commerce.*

True Extract

Shelley

Under Secy. to Govt.

To the Chamber of Commerce.

Ed. H. H.

Revenue 1872. *W. 503*

W. 503.

From

The Chairman, Chamber
of Commerce

Outd 9^{rs} 3 *July* 1872.
Received 10^{rs} 3

Returning the Cotton
Commissioner's reports ⁷⁻¹³⁻³⁰ to
the Bombay Chamber of
Commerce, which were
sent to the Madras Cham-
ber of Commerce for
perusal ²⁻⁷⁻³

LODGED