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COTTON COMMISSIONER.

A. 21.

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

No. 7014.

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 rubber 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 ghats 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 *bejahs*, much of which was supposed to be old cotton."

"Mr. Pillans' 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 101lbs. 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 thrashing and winnowing *jowaree*, weighing and stacking *kurbie*, and irrigating. There are 4,123lbs. 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:—

16th, 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 *Malgoozars* 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.

The Secretary to the
Government of
Madras.

N^o. 93.

From the Secy to the Govt of Madras
15th Jan 1872.

14 To the Secy to the Govt of Madras
1. The Chairman of the Chamber of
Commerce.

Revenue 1872. Dept.

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From

The Cotton Commr.
Allahabad

Dated 30th Decemr. 1871.

Received 9th Jan. 1872.

Forwarding extracts
from the Reports of the
Assistants to the Cotton
Commissioner, giving
the latest information
on the weather and
crop prospects in the
Central Provinces and the
Berars.

W. H. O. R.
D. 93-15 January 1872

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