

File 235

E. Africa  
UGANDA

X. 1095

30 JAN 1926

Date

RS

12

4th January 1926

COFFEES GROWING BY THE NATIVES

Two copies of reports by the Director of Agriculture and consider that every encouragement should be given to the Natives ~~and~~ except in Bugishu.

MINUTES

Secretary

The arabica industry in Bugishu is very small - in fact with say the Buganda (figures) ~~are~~ <sup>are</sup> small, and it would be very impossible to turn it to robusta if there were sufficient reason. Clearly there is not sufficient reason at present, though it is at least <sup>clear</sup> that robusta would not pay there as well.

It looks as if there was a good future for robusta elsewhere. We shall try it well if someone starts a hibiscus cultivation and let loose the pink boll worm from its uninhabited island.

(over) 2 P.M. 1926

No. 5000 uga

Page

5000  
uga

Uganda

Uganda

I don't understand the conclusions arrived  
at in the report - American plantations are being  
abandoned to a considerable extent by Europeans, &  
the argument so to market Robusta is  
the better type for all other purposes - It there  
should be a sort of understanding that only natives should  
be engaged for such work (which in certain districts  
they undertake, as with rice) is a mystery -

And the statistics give no comparative figures  
for the two kinds with native cultivation,  
which would have been particularly interesting

- Copied  
D. G. ...  
1890

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Copy  
Draft

Ed.

11/4

October, 1916

Mr. [Name obscured]

With reference to Sir [Name obscured]'s despatch No. 12 of the 4th of [Month obscured], I have the honour to transmit to you, for your [Action obscured], a copy of a memorandum of the Joint Pest Control Board relative to the West African Coffee Industry, together with an extract from the minutes of the [Meeting obscured] with the Board at the Colonial Office, at which the memorandum was discussed.

1. I would draw your attention to the Board's request that further information should be obtained regarding the diseases and their effects from the cultivation of robusta coffee by natives; and also to the undertaking given at the conference that inquiries should be made of the local Governments, on these points, not only on the question whether the diseases of robusta coffee are identical with those of arabica.

2. I shall be glad to receive such information as you may be able to furnish on these matters.

4. A similar despatch has been addressed to the Director of the [Territory obscured].

I have the honour to be,  
 Sir,  
 your most obedient  
 humble servant,

[Faint text at bottom left]

JOINT EAST AFRICAN BOARDMEMORANDUM OF THE EAST AFRICAN COFFEE INDUSTRY.Cultivation of Coffee by Natives.

1. At a Conference held at the Colonial Office in January last the advisability of the cultivation by natives of Arabica Coffee was discussed. Since then the Board have received replies to their letter of the 10th December 1925 (to which reference was made at that Conference) from Planters Associations in East Africa, and in view of the strong feeling that exists in East Africa the Board are anxious that further consideration should be given to the matter.

2. Although the Coffee industry in East Africa is in its infancy considerable development has taken place during recent years and in many districts the well-being of the industry is already of vital importance; indeed, in Kenya Colony it may be said to be the staple industry. This development, which has been entirely due to the activities of Europeans, has been of great value both directly and indirectly to the native population there being upwards of 10,000 natives employed in Kenya alone in the upkeep of coffee plantations, a figure which is almost doubled in the picking season, when the harvesting operations provide light and well paid task for the native women and children and in many cases remarkable improvements in the economic conditions of the natives have been brought about by the introduction of the European Coffee Plantations. If the industry is properly conducted there is no reason why the coffee of East Africa should not become of real importance to the Empire.

3. Arabica Coffee is particularly susceptible to pests and diseases which can only be kept in check by careful and intelligent cultivation. The native, however, does not possess the mentality required for the necessary attention to his trees, and it is extremely doubtful whether he can be sufficiently trained, even at prohibitive cost, to recognise the various pests and diseases; even if this could eventually be accomplished, it would still be a matter of the utmost difficulty, if not an impossibility, to induce him to sacrifice the profit of the moment to the future prosperity of the industry. Moreover, the native has demonstrated in the case of cattle diseases that no matter what laws exist or how much they are calculated to protect his interests alike with those of the European, he will invariably fail to report casualties even at the risk of heavy penalties if and when discovered. This deficiency in the mental capacity of the native cannot be overcome by means of European supervision, as native agriculture, being based on a system of small patches of various mixed crops scattered over large areas, precludes the possibility of effective official scientific supervision. The European planters recognise that the cultivation of Arabica Coffee, even under the most favourable circumstances, entails various risks owing to the danger from disease to which the trees are exposed and they feel that, if, in addition to dangers which cannot be avoided, their plantations are also to be exposed to the transmission of disease from trees grown by natives, the outlook for the future is menacing.

4. Apart from the fear of the spread of disease from native grown trees, the European Planters are of the opinion that the placing of native Coffee on the market will detrimentally affect the high standard which East African coffee at present holds amongst the Coffees of the World.

3. It would seem that in certain areas in Tanganyika the native cultivators of Arabica coffee were given advantages denied to European settlers. In districts where free grants of large areas of bearing coffee trees were handed over to natives, for the first year or two considerable returns were obtained with the result that it was seized abroad amongst the natives that coffee growing was extremely profitable. There has thus grown up a certain demand for coffee amongst the natives of the districts in which it is grown; in Kenya there is no genuine or widespread demand to plant coffee.

The cultivation of coffee is not suited to the capabilities and resources; even if the difficulties of factory cultivation be overcome, nearly four years elapse before the trees come into bearing with the expenditure of some capital, of which the native is not possessed, requires to be found. If the difficulties arising from lack of capital are overcome, the risk of disease is more than likely to take away the returns which might otherwise have accrued. The native requires a quick return from his labour, and a crop which takes three or five years to grow before giving any return does not appeal to him. In a word, if no encouragement is given, discouragement will be required.

It is a regrettable fact that there is a general tendency on the part of the native to steal. It is admitted that should the native be permitted to grow coffee in direct competition with the European there is to be an enormous increase of such crime both as regards coffee and the young plants from nurseries;

It can be drawn from the experience of Coconut Planters,

Planters, but perhaps the strongest evidence on this point is contained in the Report of the Native Produce and Stock Theft Commission held in Kenya Colony.

8. If native energies are directed towards the uneconomic production of coffee, there will undoubtedly be a shortage in the production of foodstuffs, which the native is far better fitted to produce. If native cultivation of coffee should assume large proportions the danger of famine would become very real. Uganda is tending, owing to the growing of cotton by natives, to become dependent upon Kenya for food supplies and even under existing circumstances a difficult position is likely to arise in the event of a failure of the cotton crop or a fall in the price of cotton so that supplies cannot be purchased, but those difficulties would be very much aggravated if natives are permitted to grow other crops such as coffee, instead of producing foodstuffs.

9. While stress is especially laid on the cultivation of Arabica coffee, it must not be assumed that the indiscriminate growing of Robusta coffee by natives should be acquiesced in without investigation. It is not certain at the present time whether the arguments against the cultivation of Arabica are or are not equally applicable to the cultivation of Robusta by natives.

There are several points upon which <sup>accurate</sup> information is lacking, such as:

- (a) The altitude at which this variety can be successfully cultivated.
- (b) Its susceptibility to disease.
- (c) The risk of the inferior variety hybridizing the superior, and we recommend that the Local Governments should be invited to instruct their technical officers to hold an early enquiry into the subject.

10. It is submitted that from whatever point of view  
the matter is regarded, the cultivation of Coffee by  
natives is neither in the interests of Europeans nor of the  
natives themselves. The present position is not at all  
conducive to European cultivators, with the result that  
the production of fresh capital into the industry is  
prevented.

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This memorandum is not intended to apply to the  
cultivation of coffee by natives of Uganda in those parts  
of the country where there is no danger of  
contaminations with disease".



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EXTRACT FROM THE MINUTES OF A CONFERENCE BETWEEN  
REPRESENTATIVES OF THE COLONIAL OFFICE AND JOINT  
EAST AFRICAN BOARD HELD AT THE COLONIAL OFFICE AT  
11.30 A.M. ON TUESDAY 20th JULY, 1926.

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EAST AFRICAN COFFEE INDUSTRY

Mr Sidney Henn referred briefly to the various objections to the cultivation of coffee by natives as set out in the Board's memorandum of 30th June, 1926.

Major Massey-ore stated that the native plantations at Arusha no longer existed. There were two important areas where natives cultivated Arabica, namely Kilimanjaro and Mount Elgon. In the Kilimanjaro area 7,000 natives were cultivating 1,250,000 trees at a high altitude, where no other export crop would grow, and they were not in proximity to European plantations; he was informed that the area was now effectively supervised, and the coffee had obtained a higher price than that from European plantations. He had received no evidence as to thieving by natives. On the information in their possession the Colonial Office were not justified in stopping this flourishing native industry. The native cultivation of Arabica in the Kilimanjaro area was a specific problem; there was no intention of conducting similar experiments elsewhere and the Government would prevent uncontrolled cultivation.

ord

Lord Cranworth said that the cultivation of any kind of coffee in East Africa was still in an experimental stage. These Europeans who had founded the industry viewed the present position with great apprehension. The cultivation of Robusta Coffee should be regarded with caution as disease might be transmitted from Robusta to Arabica coffee.

Major Gurney-Bare stated that in view of the danger of the dissemination of disease in Kenya there was no intention of introducing the growing of coffee by natives in that Colony, and he agreed that further investigation ought to be made concerning the diseases and dangers arising from Robusta coffee and he would ascertain from Tanganyika and Uganda whether the diseases are identical with those of Arabica. The cultivation of Robusta by natives was, and would be, encouraged in Bukoba. Finally summing up the situation he stated that his view was that native growing of Arabica should be strictly confined to the two areas, viz: that on the higher slopes of Kilimanjaro in Tanganyika and that in a similar position on Mount Elgon in Uganda.

It was decided that the Board's memorandum should not be published.

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X

X

X. 1095  
30 JAN 1926  
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL HOUSE,  
UGANDA.



Uganda Protectorate.

4th January, 1926.

Sir,

With reference to your despatch No. 506 dated the 13th August, 1925, on the subject of the production of coffee by natives, I have the honour to submit a report by the Director of Agriculture dealing with the cultivation of arabica coffee by natives in the Bugisu area, and also a general report on the growing by natives of both the arabica and robusta types of coffee.

2. I am of opinion that every encouragement should be given to the growing of robusta coffee by natives throughout the Protectorate, except in Bugisu. There is not, however, at the moment a sufficient supply of the best robusta seed available to meet the demand, but every effort is being made to increase this supply as soon as possible.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

*[Signature]*  
GOVERNOR.

Honourable  
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,

&c., &c., &c.

BUGISHU NATIVE COFFEE INDUSTRY.  
(Coffea Arabica)

This industry was started on a small scale in 1912, when nurseries were laid out under the supervision of the Agricultural Department, with the close co-operation of the Administration. These nurseries were sited in the densely populated Manawa Valley of South Bugishu, and Kallabi Hill in North Bugishu. They were under the direct supervision of a native headman, with periodical visits by the local Agricultural Officer.

In June 1913 the first plots were prepared, and by the end of the year seedlings in blocks of from 50 to 2,000 were planted out at 21 centres. By October 1914 the number of plots had increased to 111, the total planted area being approximately 50 acres.

In December 1915 the first crop had been picked from the early sown plots, and during the ripening period the Agricultural Officer of the Agricultural Department had toured the district, demonstrating and instructing the natives in the correct methods of pulping, fermenting, and drying. The methods employed at that time were naturally of a primitive nature, but they enabled the grower to market his crop in a reasonably sound condition.

It was essential at this stage of the industry that the grower should receive just treatment and full value for the coffee produced, and as there was no market on the spot, arrangements were made with a Jinja buyer to purchase the whole of the crop in Mbale at 15 Rupee cents (approx. 2½d) per pound. The quantity brought in reached a total of 11 tons, representing a money value to the grower of £240, and this amount was distributed between 130 natives, in proportion to the quantity of clean coffee each had brought in.

Up to this

Up to this stage constant supervision had been necessary, the natives of Bugishu are naturally very superstitious, and not having previously attempted to cultivate crops other than for their own food, they found the long wait of three years rather trying. Having received some practical return for their labours, the position was more clear and further progress was possible.

Local traders now commenced to take an interest in the crop, competition was keen, and growers had no difficulty in disposing of their coffee.

During the war the development of the industry received a temporary check, and in 1921, owing to the general trade slump, there was no market, and the crop was bought and shipped by the Government through the Department of Agriculture.

In 1922 twelve additional nurseries were laid down at convenient centres in South Bugishu, and in the following year a large central nursery was laid down at Ebulu in South Bugishu, and Bayoto in North Bugishu. Seedlings were distributed free from these nurseries during 1923 and 1924, enabling the natives to plant up plots giving an additional planted area of 175 acres, the total area in the whole district now being approximately 270 acres.

In 1924, owing to the keen competition among buyers, and the rise in prices on the home market, the growers realised from 40 to 60 shilling cents per pound for merchant coffee.

During 1925 the demand for plants exceeded the supply, and although the central nurseries have been kept well stocked it has not been possible to satisfy all requirements. To obviate this difficulty, additional nurseries have been established at suitable centres, and the natives themselves have also laid down nurseries in

their own

their own villages. In all cases seed is supplied free, and supervision is undertaken by the native agricultural staff stationed in the district, and controlled by the local Agricultural Officer. In the coffee area of Southern Bugishu the country is for the most part densely populated, it is not suitable for cotton cultivation, and coffee is the only "money" crop that the natives can rely upon with any sense of security. It is grown at altitudes varying from 4,000 to 6,000 feet. The first plots planted were cultivated on the communal system, but with the extension of the industry this has given way to individual or family ownership. The cultivation of coffee is now well established and a steady increase in production may be safely anticipated.

Improved methods of preparation.

From the commencement of the industry, reports received from London on the quality of Bugishu coffee have been very satisfactory, and with a view to maintaining, and if possible improving the standard, it was decided in 1923 to establish a small pulping station in South Bugishu. A second station was established in North Bugishu the following year. Two coffee pulpers have been purchased by chiefs this year (1925) for their own use.

These two stations are doing excellent work. The pulping machines were supplied and erected by the Government. Temporary buildings, washing and fermenting tanks, drying trays, and other necessary fittings were paid for out of native Lukiko funds. Every possible help is given by the Department of Agriculture, but both pulping stations are under the direct management and care of the native Lukiko, with a competent headman in charge of each. The bulk of the crop is prepared at these stations but a

certain

certain amount is prepared by the natives themselves, this latter is usually inferior in quality. The cost of upkeep is small as the growers handle their own coffee at the miller. The natives enjoy the free use of these stations, and realise the advantage to be gained by more careful preparation.

Pests and Diseases.

The growth of coffee in most parts of Bugishu is very robust, and the industry at present is singularly free from insect pests and fungoid diseases. In South Bugishu, the stem borer occurs in old trees planted previous to 1921, and many of these old plots have been stumped on this account. The coffee bug is not prevalent. Hemileia vastatrix is to be seen in many parts of South Bugishu, but does not cause appreciable damage.

Staff and Supervision.

Three native instructors are continually touring the coffee areas of Bugishu. They were first trained in coffee cultivation on the Government Plantation in Kampala, and have a good knowledge of their work. They assist and advise the local native in the laying out and planting of plots and general care of the trees. Four other probationers are being trained on the spot, and if found to be suitable will be appointed as additional instructors.

The Coffee Officer has visited the district, and having studied local conditions, has submitted suggestions and advice which will be acted upon in the future.

The whole of the work comes directly under the supervision of the Agricultural Officer stationed at Mbale, who makes periodical tours of inspection, and help is always forthcoming from the local Administrative Officers, who have done much to bring the industry to its present satisfactory condition.

S. Simpson  
18/12/25



COFFEE GROWING BY NATIVES IN UGANDAHistorical

Coffee of various types is indigenous to this country. We have the Uganda forest variety which is closely allied to the Arabian coffees and especially to the Nyasaland variety. The name Coffea eugenioides has become attached to this variety because of its Eugenia like appearance. In the open it is a stiff erect plant, and almost fastigate in habit, possessing small leaves compared with those of the Arabian. In its natural habitat however it is of freer growth and with larger leaves, but of a varying character, as individual trees have been observed with small narrow undulating leaves. It occurs in the Mabira, Lugalambo and Mukono Forests of Kiagwe County and the Kangafe Forest of Bulanzi County—both counties in the Mengo District. In all probability it also occurs in the forests of Toro.

Herbarium specimens from Kangafe Forest were submitted to Kew in 1915, and were described as differing in no respect from Coffea arabica Linn., when the two types are compared in the field, the Uganda forest variety appears to be merely a diminutive form or type. Its cherry and bean are small, but individual cherries have been observed on trees under experiment to reach a fairly large size.

In Kiagwe County most of the European coffee estates were established in the early days, and Coffea arabica of the Bourbon and Nyasaland types were cultivated.

Coffea robusta



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Coffea robusta is indigenous and the Baganda have been cultivating this type from a remote period. It is this coffee to which Speke refers in his "Journal of the discovery of the source of the Nile" published in 1863. During a visit to the Pokino, Chief of Buddu, in the Masaka District on the west of the Victoria Nyanza, a bundle of coffee was brought to Speke who states:- "This grows in great profusion all over this land in large bushy trees, and berries sticking on the branches like clusters of holly berries".

In the Victoria Nyanza region of the Buganda Province there were approximately 50,000 trees distributed in native gardens in groups of two or three up to a dozen and even in some cases as many as 300. Its distribution extends as far south as Bukoba in Tanganyika Territory, from which port about 2,500 tons annually are exported to continental and other markets.

This type also exists on the Sese Islands which produced practically the whole of our coffee exports in early days.

Owing to sleeping sickness, the population was moved from the Sese Islands, and now we find Coffea robusta trees still in existence on these islands which appear to be from 50 to 60 years old.

Coffea robusta occurs in a wild state in some of the forests of the Victoria Nyanza region, in the Toro region and in the Semiliki Valley adjoining the Congo.

Coffee Development  
Arabian coffee grown in the Victoria Nyanza region has suffered seriously from pests of all descriptions

descriptions, so that its cultivation in this area - undertaken chiefly by European planters is rapidly dying out and a large proportion of the coffee areas have been planted up with Para rubber. It is impossible to deal clearly with the subject of native coffee growing in Uganda without giving the facts and figures regarding the coffee development by Europeans and Indians. In the past European planters have depended almost entirely on coffee although now in the Mengo District Para Rubber has replaced coffee to a large extent.

The statistics of coffee cultivation on the 31st December 1924, are as follows :-

EUROPEAN AGRICULTURE

DISTRICT	Number of Estates	Acreage of Coffee (Arabica)		Acreage of Coffee (Robusta)	
		Under 2 years	Over 2 years	Under 2 years	Over 2 years
<u>Mengo Province:</u>					
Mengo	62	181	200	154	412
Entebbe	17	68	1,453	80	48
Masaka	16	20	1,235	--	--
Mubende	11	25	1,795	45	5
<b>Total:</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>294</b>	<b>9,683</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>465</b>
<u>Wusoga Province:</u>					
Wusoga	10	24	1,059	8	102
<u>Bunyoro Province:</u>					
Bunyoro	17	100	2,288	--	86
<u>Toro Province:</u>					
Toro	24	165	1,738	--	--
<b>Total:</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>583</b>	<b>14,768</b>	<b>287</b>	<b>653</b>

5,738 acres

5,738 acres of this coffee more particularly in Buganda are interplanted with Para Rubber and 260 acres with other rubbers. The whole of the coffee under rubber is being gradually cut out.

INDIAN AGRICULTURE

DISTRICT:	Number of Estates	Acreage of Coffee (Arabica)		Acreage of Coffee (Robusta)	
		Under 2 years.	Over 2 years.	Under 2 years.	Over 2 years.
<u>Province:</u>					
Mengo.	9	750	885	--	--
Entebbe.	2	--	51	70	--
Masaka.	2	20	65	10	--
Kubende.	2	--	330	--	--
<u>Province:</u>					
Busoga	4	3	87	4	--
<u>Province:</u>					
Total	21	783	1,436	84	--

1,321 acres of coffee are interplanted with Para Rubber and the coffee is being gradually cut out.

NATIVE AGRICULTURE

The approximate acreage under coffee is as follows:

Province and District.	Approximate acreage
<u>Buganda Province:</u>	
Mengo.	12,000
Entebbe.	5,000
Masaka.	3,500
Kubende.	700
Total:	22,000

Eastern province

		B/T.	22,008
<u>Eastern Province:</u>			
Busoga	:		10
Bugishu	:		270
<u>Total:</u>			280
<u>Northern Province:</u>			
Bumyoro	:		150
West Nile	:		4
<u>Total:</u>			154
<u>Western Province:</u>			
Toro	:		25
Ankole	:		200
Kigezi	:		8
<u>Total:</u>			233
<u>GRAND TOTAL:</u>			22,675

EXPORTS OF COFFEE FROM THE UGANDA PROTECTORATE

Year	Net Cwts.	Value £
1908-9	194	194
1909-10	299	371
1910-11	370	383
1911-12	1,172	2,563
1912-13	3,336	8,640
1913-14	12,252	23,167
1914-15	21,101	41,005
1915-16	43,238	87,202
1916-17	48,609	113,939
1917-18	19,847	39,561
1918-19	54,311	106,009
1919-20	58,960	161,714
1920 (9 months)	23,772	67,001
1921	48,856	94,038
1922	51,262	99,227
1923	40,931	108,490
1924	41,093	167,696

the cultivation

The cultivation of Arabian coffee by Europeans is shrinking rapidly in the Kango and Entebbe Districts of Buganda Province. Robusta coffee is being planted on a small scale. All the European estates of Arabian coffee in the Busoga District are practically derelict. Arabian coffee on European estates in Toro, on good soils in Bunyoro, Mabaka and Mubende Districts is a payable proposition.

The Indians have acquired a number of estates from Europeans at a low price and are taking up agriculture on a limited scale.

Natives in all coffee growing areas have for many years cultivated Arabian coffee on a small scale, but it was only in the Bugishu District (where there are neither European nor Indian planters) that this department took active steps to introduce and encourage a purely native Arabian coffee growing industry. A separate report on this industry is attached. Within the last two years natives have been encouraged to plant Arabian coffee in the Bunyoro, Toro, Mubende and Ankole Districts with a view to helping forward the general development of the districts concerned.

It was hoped that the planters in Bunyoro, Toro and Mubende would take a practical interest in such development by buying the coffee in the cherry from natives and preparing it for export. This system is followed in most of the coffee growing countries of the world but does not as yet appeal to the local planters. The Arabian coffee nurseries for natives in the Bunyoro, Toro and Mubende Districts are therefore being closed down, and in future no plants of Arabian coffee will be distributed free to natives in these districts.

Of course

Of course natives in these districts can plant Arabian coffee if they so desire, buying the seed or plants from each other or from European planters.

The Arabian coffee nurseries in Ankole are still kept going and it is hoped to build up a small coffee industry there. There are no European planters in Ankole. Arabian coffee growing is therefore only being actively encouraged by natives in the Bugishu and Ankole Districts of Uganda, although help and advice is given in all areas where coffee is being grown.

#### Robusta Coffee.

It has been realized by this department for many years that if coffee exports from Uganda are to be on a rapidly increasing scale, coffee growers must turn their attention to C. robusta. This coffee is a much hardier plant than its Arabian relative and gives a larger and more regular crop under local conditions. The market value of the produce weight for weight is not so great as that of Arabian coffee, but the greater yield more than compensates for the lower price. Also where Para rubber is being extended by European planters in the Mengo District robusta coffee is a much better coffee to interplant with rubber than Arabian coffee, because robusta can withstand the heavy dense shade of the rubber for a longer period than Arabian. The climatic conditions favourable to the growth of rubber are also suited to robusta coffee, but Arabian coffee under these conditions is economically un sound. Rubber planters have therefore been encouraged to take up robusta coffee growing.

This department has for many years been working on establishing a finer type of robusta coffee and success in this direction has been achieved. Seed of this

improved



improved type has been widely distributed. The beans sold and experts report that the character of the roasted coffee is particularly good, and that consignments would always be readily saleable in London. To work up an adequate seed supply takes some years, but sufficient work has been done to make a really serious attempt to develop a large native robusta coffee industry.

The first step was taken in the Sese Islands where the natives were permitted to return and 125,038 robusta coffee plants and 278 lbs of seed were distributed. The seed is planted in central nurseries and plants are taken when ready as required.

These islanders are much in need of a money crop. Cotton is not being encouraged because of climatic conditions, paucity of transport arrangements, absence of marketing facilities and so forth. (Incidentally it is of interest to note that Mr. Hancock the Assistant Entomologist whilst on a recent tour in May to the Islands found a specimen of the true Pink Boll Worm Platyedra grossipella Guenée, on Sentwa Island on Hibiscus diversifolius (This island is uninhabited).

Robusta coffee nurseries have also been started on Buyuma Islands and 7 1/2 lbs. of seed planted. In the Ankole District 24,000 plants have been distributed and 381 pounds of seed planted in nurseries. In this district 150,000 plants will be ready for distribution in April.

Coffee robusta nurseries have also been laid out in the Entebbe and Mengo Districts in order to cope with the demand for plants. 50,000 plants have already been distributed in these districts from Kampala alone and when the plants in local nurseries are ready a steady impetus will be given to the industry.

European planters have taken 17,900 plants and 79 lbs. of seed. It is hoped that the European plantations will form the nucleus of a local seed supply in their respective areas.

The growing of good robusta coffee by natives in Uganda will steadily increase and the foundations for a large industry are already laid. The coffee will be dried in the cherry and hulled before export. This will give an even sample, and the natives will not have to pulp the cherry and perhaps spoil the sample by under or over fermentation. The robusta coffee when established will be a very valuable asset to Uganda. The Bese and Buvuma Islands, the Masaka, Mengo and Entebbe Districts are suitable areas in which to develop the industry. Selected seed only is being distributed as it is desirable to market a better quality coffee from Uganda than is being grown in Bukoba, Tanganyika Territory. Java has recently developed a big robusta coffee industry on the plantation system and Uganda robusta, if possible must hold its own on the home market with the Java product.

S. Simpson  
18/12/25