

1925

E. AFRICA
TANGANYIKA

63
55485

Date

Governor CAMERON. 765

29th October 1925.

LOCATION:—

COFFEE GROWING BY NATIVES.

M. Shamba
...

Refers to Remarks of E.A. Commission and
SUBJECTS DISCUSSED ON THE QUESTION AS TO WHETHER NATIVES
SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO GROW ROBUSTA IN PREFERENCE
TO ARABICA COFFEE.

Previous Page

MINUTES

B 55486

The opinion has been formed that the value of the world market for coffee and the increasing demand for it are such that the high class Arabica coffee which are not so numerous as the full bodied one will be much more valuable to disease than the low and irregular plantations and produce a better quality of coffee than any known at present in Tanganyika. It is recommended that over a million or thereabouts be maintained in the state of affairs...

*Placed 36 - 20.11.1925
to be 601 applied to 20.11.1925*

Subsequent Paper

*Gov. 1095 20
26 Uga*

The Governor wishes that his trees should be
looking on the ground that the natives should
be made to plant his mangoes on government farms
at their own expense (primarily low land)
and to be made to be the standard of their
hygiene and health.

It is suggested that the Government should purchase any
mangoes which are planted on government farms
and sell them at a profit.

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mangoes on government farms, and that the natives
should be made to plant mangoes on their own
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Mr. H. H. H.

1925

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Government should purchase any mangoes which are
planted on government farms and sell them at a
profit. The fruit probably is

That if you get the right sort of water, as
you have at Moshi and in certain districts
(at any rate) in Uganda, he can grow Avocado
every bit as well as the European can.

? C. C. H. say it has been used
with much interest.

C.S. 332

17.12.25

\$ 11.10
22.12.25

1000 47.20

13/1/26

7/2/26

1/3/26

Copy

Draft on M/J/F 5304/26 Ea.

TANGANYIKA TERRITORY

BOURING STREET,

no. 641

9 October, 1926.

313

Sir,

With reference to your despatch no. 765 of the 29th October, 1926, I have the honour to transmit to you, for your information, a copy of a memorandum by the Joint East African Board relative to the East African Coffee Industry, together with an extract from the minutes of the recent conference with the Board of the Colonial Office, at which the memorandum was discussed.

no. 50 June

SECRET

2. I would draw your attention to the Board's request that further information should be obtained regarding the diseases and dangers arising from the cultivation of robusta coffee by natives; and also to the undertaking given at the Conference that inquiries would be made of the local Governments, on these points and also on the question whether the diseases of robusta coffee are identical with those of arabica.

3. 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 Officer Administering the Government of Uganda.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,
Your most obedient,
humble servant,

THOB

W. D. CAMERON, A.C.S., A.S.E.

(Signed) L. S. AMERY.

etc. etc. etc.

EAST AFRICAN COFFEE INDUSTRY

Mr. Sidney Hemm 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 Crawley stated that the native plantations at Arusha are no longer cultivated. There were 105 important areas where natives cultivated Arabica, mainly in Kilimanjaro and Ulu-gu. In the Kilimanjaro area 7,000 natives were cultivating 1,000,000 trees at a high altitude, where no other Arabica crop would grow, and they were not in proximity to European plantations. It was informed that the crop was now affected by pest disease, and the coffee had obtained a higher price than that from European plantations. It had received no evidence as to whether by natives. On the information in their possession the Colonial Office were not justified in stopping the 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.

Lord

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

Mr. Gumbly-Gore stated that in view of the danger of the introduction of disease in Kenya there was no possibility of expanding the growing coffee by establishing a colony, and he agreed that further investigation should be made concerning the diseases and their origin 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 regarding 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.

[Faint, illegible text, possibly a translated document]

TANGANYIKA TERRITORY

RECEIVED
9 DEC 1925
COL. OFFICE

No 765.

C.O.
55485
GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
DARES SALAAM.

29 October, 1925.

339

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 458 of the 13th August in which you invite my attention to the remarks on pages 25 and 36 of the report of the East Africa Commission on the subject of the cultivation of coffee by natives in East Africa. You ask that special attention should be given to the ~~arabica~~ coffee plantations which have been handed over to native cultivation, and that I should furnish a report on the question whether in this Territory native growers should be encouraged to grow robusta in preference to arabica coffee.

2. I find considerable difficulty in dealing with the latter point. The Commission make certain very definite statements with regard to the principles which should govern the cultivation of coffee as, for instance, that arabica is essentially a crop for the European producer, but those statements do not entirely accord with the expert advice at my disposal, and I am unable to discover from the report of the Commission the nature and source of the evidence on which their statements are based. In the absence, therefore, of any

any

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
L.C.M.S. AMERY, P.C., M.P.,
&c., &c., &c.,
DOWNING STREET,
S.W.

any other advice from agricultural scientists I feel that I must be guided largely in this matter by the advice of my own professional officers.

3. The Director of Agriculture writes as follows in this connexion:-

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"If either arabica or robusta coffee is grown, care must be taken to keep the plant healthy, and Africans properly taught and controlled are capable of doing this, so that there is no reason why they should be deprived of the advantage of growing the more valuable product. On Kilimanjaro the native coffee farms, being usually at the higher altitudes, are growing arabica industrially, not experimentally, under the conditions best suited to it, and they are thus less likely to suffer from disease than the European plantations; the "difficulty" that the owners of the latter may find in growing arabica is due to the circumstances that situation (as regards altitude) is not entirely favourable, proper care is in more than one case not given, and there is over-cropping. If anyone, it is the European who ought to grow robusta coffee on Kilimanjaro.

2. Growing of robusta coffee by natives would result in the production of two kinds of coffee by them, or the present owners of arabica coffee would be compelled to destroy it and lose a valuable asset. Growing of robusta coffee at all would be objectionable through (1) the likelihood of deterioration of grade through mixing, (2) the inability to prevent the planting of inferior hybrids in future years through spontaneous production of cross-bred seed by cross-pollination,

and I enclose a copy of a memorandum by the Government Entomologist in which he deals with certain of the statements made by the Commission. These two officers express the opinion that there is no reason why natives should not grow arabica coffee successfully on the higher slopes of Kilimanjaro and that such coffee is less likely to suffer from disease than the coffee on the European plantations at a lower altitude.

4. The following extract from the report of the Director of Agriculture for 1924 with regard to the cultivation of coffee (arabica) by natives at Moshi is

of interest in this connection:-

"It has now been possible to make arrangements for the bringing of the native coffee industry in this district under complete Government control and supervision. Thirteen nurseries under such control are in existence in addition to a number of private native nurseries which are to receive periodical inspection for the uprooting of weak and diseased seedlings and the prevention of sale of seedlings without permit. It is intended to replace the private with further central Government nurseries. The native coffee growers' associations have reached a stage in their organisation justifying the opening of a central office at Moshi for the issue of circulars, orders and permits, the preparation of reports and statistics and in general the transaction of affairs common to the associations. This central office is to be opened in July 1925 and will be under the supervision of this Department, though the expenditure connected with it is to be borne entirely by the native associations. It would appear to be an long step from this stage to co-operation for preparation, grading and marketing of the berry, and means for these are being devised, but the time is not yet ripe for the control of this activity by the producers themselves. The production by natives of coffee (hulled) in the last season amounted to 75 tons. The following table indicates the progress since 1916:-

	1916	1922	1923	1924
Number of planters	?	592	1400	3320
Bearing trees	37,163	86,265	68,714	141,131
Mature trees	51,194	142,155	304,478	572,007
Total number of trees	88,347	178,420	373,192	714,145

All native coffee plots are under the supervision of the District Agricultural Officer, the Coffee Officer, and a staff of five trained African instructors; there is no haphazard planting, and the number of trees permitted to be planted by each farmer is now limited to one thousand. The 4,000 to 5,000 farms have all been visited by the Coffee Officer, under whose supervision and that of the instructors all new plantings are made, and who ensures the removal of diseased trees, especially those crowded together in plantations originally made too closely, and taken care that the latter are not replaced. All planting of coffee by natives is voluntary; and it is discouraged among them in cases where it is uncertain that it can be carried out to the satisfaction of the responsible Agricultural Officers."

5. The report of the Commission states that the Chairman and Major Church saw two former German arabica coffee plantations near Arusha which had been handed

handed over to native cultivation by the local Government and were not impressed by the results'. The Senior Commissioner, who was at Arusha when the Commission visited that place, thinks that there is some misapprehension as, so far as he is aware, the Chairman and Major Church could not have inspected the two plantations in question. But, however this may be, it is these two farms (Thiele's and Schluter's) which have afforded to the Kilimanjaro and Arusha Planters' Associations grounds for opposing the cultivation of arabica coffee by natives in those districts.

6. These two farms (the only instances of arabica coffee cultivation by natives at Arusha) were purchased by the Government from the Custodian of Enemy Property on the representations of the Senior Commissioner that too much land had been alienated at Arusha and that the natives were unduly hemmed in. They were not bought for any purpose connected with the coffee cultivation established on portions of them and it is a pity that they were not devoted to the purpose for which they were acquired instead of being used in a loose way as coffee plantations by a handful of natives who apportioned the trees amongst themselves when the Senior Commissioner (Mr. E.D. Browne) was on leave. That officer writes that as there was coffee on the plantations it had to be either tended or destroyed by uprooting, that the latter course would have been unnecessarily destructive, and that it would have caused even more hostile criticism from the non-native planters.

7. The Director of Agriculture writing of these farms, expresses the view that it is now evident that the handing over of coffee plantations to natives is an error and that the present state of affairs on these two farms affords a legitimate subject for grievance on the part of the neighbouring European planters. He recommends therefore that the coffee cultivation on them should be destroyed

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destroyed and I propose to issue instructions accordingly to the Senior Commissioner.

8. The cultivation of arabica coffee in Arusha is, as I have written above, confined to these two farms, and it will cease. The native cultivation of arabica coffee which is of importance ^{is} at Moshi on the higher slopes of Kilimanjaro and, as you will have observed from the preceding paragraphs, the Director of Agriculture states that it is well supervised and well tended; that it is better than some of the non-native cultivation of arabica coffee and compares favourably with the remainder. In the absence, therefore, of further information in regard to the advice on which the conclusions of the Commission were based I should be doing the natives an injustice if I wrote, at this stage, anything in support of the proposition that they should be encouraged to grow robusta instead of arabica coffee. I have just been informed that the native grown arabica coffee sold in the auction market at Moshi fetched £98 a ton and that the average quality was superior to the average quality of the European grown coffee.

9. There are at Moshi, however, two farms with arabica coffee which were handed over to the natives, a former German Experimental station (Kibongoto) and an enemy estate (Cossack's) that was purchased from the Custodian of Enemy Property in the same circumstances as the two estates at Arusha referred to above. On these the cultivation has not done well and I propose to issue instructions that if the cultivation of arabica coffee on them is not brought up to the standard that obtains on the natives' own holdings on Kilimanjaro the trees must be uprooted.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble Servant,

John A. ...

G O V E R N O R.

MEMORANDUM BY THE ENTOMOLOGISTEAST AFRICAN COMMISSION REPORT

Certain remarks in the report call for criticism, e.g.

1. "The growing of arabica coffee is a continual fight etc., or whole plantations will be wiped out"

"Easy prey to disease of all kinds".

I do not think coffee is more liable to insect and disease attack than many and other crops. Compare the apple or the citrus grower in U.S.A. where from three to five systematic and costly sprays a year are necessary for the making of a marketable crop. It must be recalled that when any plant is grown on a plantation scale, pests and diseases are certain to rise and require careful attention.

2. "Careful Pruning"

Paragraph B.7 page 15 Rept. 21/2 "I have endeavoured but without success to interpret system into such pruning so-called as I have seen going on in Kilimanjaro and Meru ... etc."

My experience in Jamaica was that the small settler became most adept in pruning and would treatment of cocoa and coffee. He was able to give on his small holding individual attention to his trees which was impossible in the case of coffee and cocoa grown on a plantation scale.

3. "Skilled cultivation"

The remarks in my initial report show that such ^{was} must ~~still~~ left to be desired in the field management of coffee of Europeans (just as pruning, above).

4. "Yield varies from year to year"

Coffee is no exception to other crops in this respect. It is purely contingent on weather-satisfactory small rains in November and December for set of blossom and reasonable big rains

rains for swelling of berry in March, April and May.

5. "Essentially a crop for the European"

It has not been found so in the West Indies. I have seen most excellent arabica coffee on the small settlers fields in Jamaica.

6. "Special factories have been installed"

Paragraph B.10 page 18, Rept. No.21/2 "The existing factories are undoubtedly the worst feature of the Kilimanjaro and Meru coffee industry! It is almost inconceivable that a crop of the nature of coffee depending as it is upon clean and careful handling for the realization of its price, should be treated in the primitive fashion it is etc.,".

7. "Ceylon industry was wiped out in a single year"

The decline of the Ceylon industry was not an event of a year but of several years (1881 452,000 cwts; 1891..... 88,780 cwts.) and was not attributable to pests alone. Green in his "Coccidae of Ceylon" states after reviewing the question of Green Scale and the weakening of the plant by Hemileia "Moreover, the prevailing system of cultivation resulted in the loss of the surface soil so essential to the health of the coffee plant in all but the most favoured situations (etc.,)". Coffee, too, was being replaced by tea a crop which was being found more suitable to the conditions and gradually established to the elimination of coffee.

Such dying out of coffee as I have observed in Tanganyika has been more due to overcropping in poor seasons than to pests. Hemileia or borer may have been ultimately blamed but neither was the primary cause.

Drew Jan 13

for 05483/25

Ed
Fang

Machtig 19/12

REC 15 JAN 1926

323

C. S. Hamilton

rooney

Blackburn

Triggle

Davis

Wilson

Waby-Gore

Clarendon

Wary

20 Jan 1926

Sir

... to look the ...

DRAFT

of your despatch No. 715 of the

27th of Oct^r, regarding the

relative cultivation of

Coffee, which I have read

with much interest

(Signed) L. S. AMERY

For Cameron

(is not attached)

2 papers