

EAST AFR. PROT
GERMAN E. AFRICA

40993

40998

REC 2
NOV 28 1913

Foreign Office

1913

27 Nov.

Cotton growing in German E. Africa

Last previous Paper

dir. FO.

181

Sends det. of Zanzibar containing translation
of press article rel. to cultivation of cotton in
Kilimanjaro here det.

Dr. G. Fiddes

If there are any developments
the way of water passages in German
E. Africa, the S.A.B. will, no
doubt hear of them

Put by?

H. J. R.

28/11/13

Pr 29 11 13

above
28/11/13

Next subsequent Paper

36
45985

In any further communication on this subject, please refer to No. 5234
The Under-Secretary of State, Foreign Office, London.

C. U.
40999
1013

The Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs presents his compliments to the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, and, by direction of the Secretary of State, transmits herewith copy of the under-mentioned paper:

Foreign Office,

November 27, 1913.

Reference to previous letter:

Description of Inclosure:

Name and Date.

Subject.

Mr. Sinclair,
Zanzibar,
No. 13 Commercial,
October 21

batton growing
German East Africa

(Similar letter sent to

Board of Trade)

ZANZIBAR.

October 21st 1913.

40998

No 13

Sir:-

I have the honour to transmit herewith the relation of an article which appeared in a recent issue of the "Samaritan Post" published in Tanga, German East Africa, on the subject of the cultivation of cotton in the Kilimanjaro Mts. district in that Protectorate.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) John H. Sinclair.

Right Honourable,

Sir E. Grey, Bart., K.G.,

&c., &c., &c.

40105
NOV 28 1931

Cotton near Kilimandjaro.

The first attempts to cultivate cotton were made by farmer Merkel Marangu about ten years ago, but, although very many planters have taken up this crop since that time, cotton has not obtained for itself a permanent footing. Especially in the last few years it has been abandoned in favour of rubber and particularly coffee.

As catch crops maize and beans were given the preference. Maize often yields excellent results, but has the disadvantage of exhausting the soil and varying in price as the exorbitantly high freights prevent a profitable export to the coast. Beans improve the soil, but yield scanty crops which realise often unsatisfactory prices.

According to results up to the present, cotton yields from 500-700 pounds of lint per hectare - on the average about 200 lbs. Prices have varied from 60-100 shilling (7d. to 1s. approximate) which can be considered good. From the point of view of quantity, on the other hand, the crops, usually less than 200 lbs. were too poor for cotton to be

regarded as a staple crop in the existing conditions.

A Catch Crop it has certain advantages as opposed to maize, because a succession of several crops is possible and it commands a fixed price, although the profit is fairly small.

In view of the above it might appear as though cotton had no future in the Kilimandjaro district. If, however, the causes of the failures up to the present be examined, another opinion is justified.

First of all, the railway freights are too high. Although they were formerly oppressive. The rates were actually doubled when the tariff was raised about two years ago. The cost of loading amount to Rs.32.50 (£2. 3. 1. approximate) at the present time for each bale of 500 pounds, i.e. more than 43 marks as opposed to 4.25 marks in the United States. This, however, was the least of the evils for this high charge would be reduced by competition among the spinning plants if the production of cotton were increased (A proposal made in the Legislative Council this year, to support the cotton growers by paying the cost of spinning and carriage fell through owing to lack of means).

Further,

Further, cotton seed is almost valueless here owing to high rates of freight by rail and sea. In the Southern States the lint covers the planters' expenses - only the seed brings in a profit of about 50 to 70 marks per hectare.

The Egyptian cotton which has been planted in the Protectorate more than any other variety up to the present has proved here as almost all over the Protectorate of little use owing to the conditions of climate and soil. Upland demand such less care and a cotton is more able to resist diseases is not so susceptible to the effects of rain and has larger bolls which open completely. The picker can gather twice as much as from Egypt cotton.

The prices are almost the same for both sorts though the crops are as a general rule larger in the case of Upland. The picking also is easier and cheaper for the latter.

The sole cause of the hitherto small crops is the imperfect treatment of the soil.

Hoing by coloured workpeople spells ruin for

every annual crop in the existing labour conditions.

The rainy seasons again are too irregular, usually too short and terminating too suddenly, to allow the treatment of the fields and the working of the soil to prevent it drying up to take place at the proper time. The only hope lies in the introduction of ploughs. Without this, cotton would be impossible in the States and only practicable to a very modest extent in India and Egypt. By using ploughs the planter needs fewer workpeople, is more independent of them, and works the soil better more cheaply and more quickly than with the best hoe work.

If ploughs are used one can reckon on one bale per hectare in this district as has been proved, and have a good return on one's outlay.

Unfortunately there are grave difficulties in the way of introducing ploughing. The tsetse fly prevails in many parts, epidemics are to be feared, trained cattle are dear and not capable of much hard work, and natives who know how to use a plough are almost impossible to procure.

The introduction of motor ploughs promises a speedy

deliverance

deliverance from this state of affairs. These have proved so useful not only in Germany and Europe, but, specially in bye-gone days, in America, that they have gained a permanent place more quickly than any other agricultural machine. Under conditions like those here, where the use of plough oxen is almost out of the question, motor ploughs will become of the utmost importance.

European agriculture will take an upward tendency the ultimate results of which can hardly be realised at present.

Unfortunately the usual motor ploughs are too dear (15-20,000 marks) and accordingly only possible as a paying concern on the larger farms of from 300 to 1000 hectares. The small and middle planter needs a machine for treating the soil which has a working-breath of from 1 to 1½ metres, which can work 2 to 3 hectares per diem, can be used for hoeing between the rows and costs not more than 3000 to 6000 marks. Von Meyenburg guarantees such a machine for from 4000 to 5000 marks. It would be very practical if this inventor would adapt this small motor plough, on the

same

same principle as his large model, for use as a means of transport, as well as for driving stationary machines so that the planter would have a sort of universally useful machine.

It would be a praiseworthy undertaking on the part of the Colonial Wirtschaftlichen Komitee if they would set about the introduction of motor ploughs into the Colony.

Experiments would have to be made in Germany to find out the most useful type, which could then be tested at different points in the Colony. The purchase of a motor plough, which he might never have seen at work, would involve too great a risk for the individual.

One thing is certain viz. that no measure can further the cultivation of cotton more than the introduction of motor ploughs, not only in the Kilimandjaro district, where there are still 10,000's of hectares of land available for this crop, but also in the whole Colony.

same principle as his large model, for use as a means of transport, as well as for driving stationary machines so that the planter would have a sort of universally useful machine.

It would be a praiseworthy undertaking on the part of the Colonial Wirtschaftlichen Komitee if they would set about the introduction of motor ploughs into the Colony.

Experiments would have to be made in Germany to find out the most useful type, which could then be tested at different points in the Colony. The purchase of a motor plough, which he might never have seen at work, would involve too great a risk for the individual.

One thing is certain viz. that no measure can further the cultivation of cotton more than the introduction of motor ploughs, not only in the Kilimandjaro district, where there are still 10,000's of hectares of land available for this crop, but also in the whole Colony.