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INDIAN  
CENTRAL COTTON  
COMMITTEE

FIRST CONFERENCE  
OF  
SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH WORKERS  
ON  
COTTON IN INDIA

MARCH 1937

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PAPERS READ

AND

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

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BOMBAY

1938

*Price : Inland—Rupees Four.*

*Foreign—6s. 6d.*

PUBLISHED BY THE SECRETARY,  
INDIAN CENTRAL COTTON COMMITTEE.  
MADE AND PRINTED AT THE  
EXAMINER PRESS, BOMBAY

J781.2, 8P .  
98  
22770

J 781.2, § 1

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## INDIAN CENTRAL COTTON COMMITTEE.

First Conference of Scientific Research Workers on  
Cotton in India.

March 4th, 5th and 6th, 1937.

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**Present:—**

**Members of Indian Central Cotton Committee.**

Sir Bryce Burt, C.I.E., M.B.E., I.A.S., (*President*)—*Chairman on the first day,*  
 Dr. W. Burns, D.Sc., I.A.S., Agricultural Expert, Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, *Chairman on the second and third days,*  
 Mr. V. Ramanatha Ayyar, Cotton Specialist, Coimbatore,  
 Mr. T. R. Low, I.A.S., Director, Institute of Plant Industry, Indore,  
 Dr. V. K. Badami, Deputy Director of Agriculture, Mysore, Bangalore,  
 Mr. P. B. Richards, I.A.S., Offg. Director of Agriculture, United Provinces,  
 Rao Bahadur S. S. Salimath, Deputy Director of Agriculture, Southern Division,  
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 Mr. M. Mohammad Afzal, Cotton Research Botanist, Lyallpur,  
 Khan Bahadur M. Afzal Husain, Entomologist to Government, Punjab,  
 Mr. R. H. Dastur, Plant Physiologist, Lyallpur,  
 Rao Bahadur M. Vaidyanathan, Statistician, Imperial Council of Agricultural Research,  
 Mr. B. M. Dabral, Cotton Physiologist, Sakrand,  
 Rao Saheb S. H. Prayag, Cotton Breeder, Jalgaon,  
 Mr. M. L. Patel, Cotton Breeder, South Gujarat, Surat,  
 Mr. G. B. Patel, ,, ,, North Gujarat, Viramgam,  
 Mr. P. L. Patel, ,, ,, Broach,  
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 Dr. B. N. Uppal, Plant Pathologist to Bombay Government, Poona,  
 Mr. B. P. Deshpande, Assistant Marketing Officer, Poona,  
 Prof. L. S. S. Kumar, Economic Botanist to Bombay Government, Poona,  
 Dr. V. N. Likhite, Plant Physiologist, Baroda State,  
 Mr. A. F. Patel, Economic Botanist, Baroda State,  
 Rai Sahib Thakur Ram Prasad Singh, Economic Botanist for cotton, United Provinces, Cawnpore,  
 Mr. K. V. Joshi, Deputy Director of Agriculture, N. C. D., Nasik,  
 Mr. Mazhar Husain, Director of Statistics, Hyderabad State,

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Prof. R. E. Cooper, Royal Institute of Science, Bombay,

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Mr. G. K. Govande,		
Mr. Maya Prakash Singh,	}	Mysore State.
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Mr. Amar Nath Gulati,

Mr. C. Nanjundayya,

Dr. K. R. Sen,

Mr. V. Venkataraman,

Mr. V. V. Gupte,

Mr. G. Rama Rao,

Mr. M. U. Parmar,

**Visitor**, Mr. F. W. Andrews, Plant Pathologist, Anglo-Sudan Government,

**Secretary** ( Mr. P. H. Rama Reddi, I. A. S. ), and

**Director**, Technological Laboratory, Matunga, (Dr. Nazir Ahmad).



**Subject 1—President's (Sir Bryce Burt's) Speech.**

Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure to me to welcome this large and distinguished gathering to the first Conference of Scientific Workers on cotton problems. Though it has an Agricultural Research Sub-Committee which meets regularly at least twice a year, the Indian Central Cotton Committee has felt for sometime past that there should be an opportunity for the discussion of purely scientific and technical matters in an atmosphere free from those administrative and financial considerations which are always in our minds at Central Cotton Committee meetings. It is obvious that the many technical and scientific questions connected with cotton improvement should from time to time be discussed in a purely objective manner and from the scientific aspect. This meeting also gives us an opportunity of bringing together many of the junior cotton research workers who would otherwise have no opportunity of meeting each other. We are also glad to see amongst us professors from local Colleges and I trust that they will find some matters of interest in the Central Cotton Committee's work. Conferences such as this do much to defeat distance and to mitigate that intellectual isolation which unfortunately is so often the lot of the scientific worker in India.

Though we owe allegiance to several different branches of science we all have this in common that we are all interested in the application of science to the improvement of cotton production. Indeed one may safely say that there is more scientific work in progress on cotton in India than on any other commodity. As we are all workers in applied science it may be as well to remind ourselves that the distinction between pure and applied science is purely one of objective. There are not two kinds of research; much less is there any room for slipshod methods in applied science. Where applied research does perhaps differ from a more academic research is in the wider outlook and more all-round equipment which is demanded of the worker in applied science. We need the help of all branches of science in the solving of most problems of economic importance. In pure science very intense specialisation is becoming the custom—not always to the advantage of either the worker or his science. In applied science team work by specialists is demanded but every team needs a leader. One of the objects of this Conference is to bring specialists together to discuss their own subjects with their confreres. Another of equal importance is to broaden the outlook of a very cotton research worker by bringing him in touch with those working in other branches of science. One need go no further than our agenda for evidence of the number of sciences contributing to cotton improvement.

Recent developments in pure science should constantly enable us to attack agricultural problems from a new angle. But it is no small task in the present to

keep up even a nodding acquaintance with the important literature in even a single science. I should like to take this opportunity of drawing your attention to the abstracts and technical communications issued by the various Imperial agricultural Bureaux particularly those of Plant Genetics and Soil Science and to the fact that those bureaux will gladly answer enquiries regarding recent work in special subjects. They have also been able to lend us translations or full summaries of many important papers in other languages which are not readily accessible. I will not burden you with details but the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research will at all times be glad to help in this matter.

The arrangements for our business are shown in the papers before you. We shall devote to-day to papers and a discussion on pests and diseases. To-morrow we shall discuss Cotton Technology and visit the Laboratory at Matunga. The third day will be devoted to Botany, Genetics and Plant Breeding.

#### **Subject 2—Reading of Scientific Papers.**

The President suggested that in order to go through the agenda according to the programme, scientific papers should not be read but the respective authors should give the gist of their papers within a period of 5 to 7 minutes. This would allow more time for discussion and replies to questions.