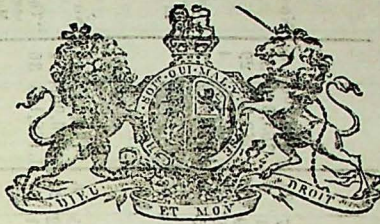


THE



Bombay Government Gazette.

Published by Authority.

MONDAY, 22ND NOVEMBER 1869.

Separate Paging is given to this Part, in order that it may be filed as a separate Compilation.

PART III.—Supplements.

RETURN OF COTTON CULTIVATION

IN THE

COLLECTORATES OF THE BOMBAY PRESIDENCY

For the year 1869-70,

COMPARED WITH THAT OF THE PRECEDING SEASON OF 1868-69.

RETURN of COTTON CULTIVATION in the Bombay Presidency for the year 1869-70, compared with that of the preceding Season, 1868-69.

COTTON CROP FOR SEASON

ZILLAH.	COTTON CROP FOR SEASON																				Remarks by the Collectors.
	1868-69.						1869-70.						Total Increase in 1869-70.	Total Decrease in 1869-70.	Total amount of arable land.		Total amount of land capable of producing cotton.				
	Extent of Cultivation in Acres.						Extent of Cultivation in Acres.														
	Exotic Cotton.		Native Cotton.		Total.		Exotic Cotton.		Native Cotton.		Total.										
Acres.	Gts.	Acres.	Gts.	Acres.	Gts.	Acres.	Gts.	Acres.	Gts.	Acres.	Gts.	Acres.	Gts.	Acres.	Gts.	Acres.	Gts.	Acres.	Gts.		
<i>Northern Division</i>																					
Ahmedabad...	168	21	140,937	27	141,105	8	74	35	223,313	23	223,388	18	82,282	10	...	..	1,731,907	24	808,200	8	No Remarks.
Kaira .....	....	..	11,738	18	11,738	18	....	..	10,641	0	10,641	0	....	..	1,097	18	827,111	9	365,320	37	Ditto.
Broach	86	27	152,992	31	153,079	18	216	27	223,643	29	223,860	16	79,780	38	....	..	697,269	20	583,360	29	Ditto.
Surat	205	25	46,366	21	46,572	6	225	14	56,119	30	56,345	4	9,772	38	....	..	656,419	13	262,138	4	Ditto.
Khandeish	426,639	34	....	..	426,639	34	540,808	19	....	..	540,808	19	114,168	25	....	..	3,608,925	1	2,336,649	1	"Only Hingunghat Cotton is now sown in Khandeish."
<i>Southern Division</i>																					
Ahmednuggur..	25	1	9,869	11	9,894	12	6	1	23,763	9	23,769	10	13,874	38	....	..	2,442,395	6	109,232	28	No Remarks.
Belgaum	3,097	25	120,677	0	123,774	25	6,439	20	197,244	19	203,683	39	79,909	14	....	..	1,194,422	24	616,066	2	Ditto.
Dharwar	317,310	10	194,585	33	511,896	3	425,098	27	222,115	37	647,214	24	135,318	21	....	..	2,433,201	24	1,168,153	36	"The prospects of the season are very good. More land has been cultivated with cotton this year, and the plants are reported as being very healthy."
Kulladghee	10,475	31	383,017	38	393,493	29	25,543	8	572,279	3	597,822	11	204,328	22	....	..	2,852,224	3	1,197,137	16	No Remarks.
Poona	174	11	13,916	7	14,090	18	200	20	41,537	5	41,737	25	27,647	7	....	..	1,220,175	8	137,642	27	Ditto.
Sattara	81	14	45,872	1	45,953	15	173	32	68,033	29	68,207	21	22,254	6	....	..	2,038,273	5	194,440	24	"The season of 1869-70 was till recently expected to be very favourable, but the fall of rain during the last week of October has, it is feared, proved injurious: to what extent is not as yet known."

Sholapore	283	30	67,270	4	67,553	34	29	4	117,659	36	117,689	0	50,135	6	..	..	1,995,091	13	239,350	38	No remarks.
<i>Native States.</i>																					
Akulakote .....	....	..	8,523	36	8,523	36	393	29	16,715	15	17,109	4	8,585	18	..	..	208,134	14	61,561	16	"The prospects of the crop are said to be fair. One-third of the exotic cotton very good, one-sixth inferior, the rest fair."
Baroda	No return or reply received.																				
Cutch .....	....	| .. |	141,866	26	141,866	26	....	..	213,333	13	213,333	13	71,466	27	....	..	1,450,666	26	597,333	26	"Exotic cotton is not sown in Cutch."
Kattyawar	No return received ..																				
Kolapore and S. M. Country ..	66,751	17	123,879	1	190,630	18	79,469	34	185,480	2	264,949	36	74,319	18	..	..	1,410,744	29	657,596	31	No remarks.
Mahee Kanta ..	....	..	2,333	25	2,333	25	....	..	2,500	0	2,500	0	163	15	..	..	* 698,182	..	† 69,818	0	* "This is the estimated amount of arable land." † "There having been no Revenue Survey of the several States in the Mahee Kanta, such information cannot be accurately given."
Pahlunpoor	No return or reply received.																				
Rewa Kanta....	No returns received																				
Total....	825,300	6	1,463,846	39	2,289,147	5	1,078,679	30	2,174,380	10	3,253,060	0	965,010	23	1,037	18	25,465,143	19	9,404,003	6	

792

G. F. FORBES,

Cotton Commissioner.

REMARKS by the Cotton Commissioner.

On comparing the returns now received with those furnished by the Collectors last year, exclusive of Ahmedabad, for which no returns were given, I find that (with the exception of those for *Belgaum*, *Dharwar*, *Kulladghee* and *Poona*, which are correct) considerable discrepancy exists in the number of acres shown to have been cultivated with Cotton in 1868-69. The differences are as follows:—

		Total number of acres as given last year, for 1868-69.	Total number of acres as given this year, for 1868-69.
NORTHERN DIVISION.	{ Kaira.....	10,420	11,738
	{ Broach.....	133,000	153,079
	{ Khandeish.....	425,100	426,639
	{ Surat.....	91,743	46,572
SOUTHERN DIVISION.	{ Ahmednuggur ..	12,130	9,894
	{ Sattara.....	46,188	45,953
	{ Sholapore.....	67,679	67,553
		786,260.	761,428.
			Difference 24,832.

It will thus be seen that in the two sets of returns, namely those furnished last year for 1868-69, and those now supplied for the same period, there is a difference amounting to upwards of 24,000 acres.

If the present returns are accepted as correct, the increase in the area of Cotton cultivation during this year, as compared with the last, would be 809,375 acres.

If, on the other hand, the former returns, or those which were received and published last season, are held to be the correct ones (and at present I am not aware of any reason why they should not be so), the actual increase would amount to 784,543 acres.

The above remarks refer only to the Collectorates. With regard to Native States, I regret the smallness of the number of returns that have been procurable, more especially as such a very large proportion of our cotton supply is grown in Native territory. This appears to be in no way due to a want of efforts on the part of Political Officers to procure and furnish me with the desired information. Major Barton, Political Agent, Rewa Kanta, in explaining his inability to supply it, expresses his "extreme regret that, owing to the vexatious apathy of the Chiefs under his superintendence," he is unable to complete the report due from his office; and the same difficulty, I have no doubt, has been experienced in most of the other States for which returns are not forthcoming. Taking those in the Dharwar Collectorate alone, the amount of Cotton cultivated in the Jaghires of Savanoor, Khoondgol, Seerhuttee, and Lukmeshwur, for which there are no returns, would, if included, have very materially increased the total cultivated area reported.

The only Native States for which I am in possession of returns, are those of Kolapore, with its outlying Jaghires of Sanglee, Meeruj, Koorundwar, Janikhundee, Moodhole, and Ramdoorg, with those of Akulkote under Major Baumgartner, and of the Mahj Kanta under Major Law.

In comparing these returns with those which were forwarded last season (which I may observe exactly correspond, with one exception, namely Cutch), I find that, in the districts to which they relate, there is an increase in the total area of cotton cultivation as follows:—

1868-69.	1869-70.	Increase.
343,354 acres.	497,892	154,538.

Adding this increase to that above shown in the Collectorates according to the Returns now published, we have a total extent of land cultivated with cotton this year, exceeding that of last season by 963,913 acres. This, as it is observed, is without reference to the many States not here represented, including Kattiawar, where there is an enormous amount of cotton cultivation.

Though it was not the object of this report to furnish any other information than as regards the area of land devoted to cotton this year, without reference to the prospects of the crop, on which I have been ordered by Government to publish my report on the 15th of January, I may take the present opportunity of recording the following remarks from the information in my possession up to the present time:—

In Guzerat generally, the rains were late, and sowing operations deferred in consequence somewhat beyond the usual time. In the districts north of the Myhee, the continuous heavy rains in September retarded the young cotton crop, and from the irregular character of the rain-fall, which at times approached the violence of a flood, a considerable quantity of low-lying black land, extending from Veerungam in the direction of Wurdwan and Dhollera, was so long submerged, that in some places the plants were either washed out or destroyed, and the fields had to be re-sown. Later in the season, the districts suffered from one or two visitations of locusts in great numbers. They destroyed the grain of all the cereal crops which were then in ear. The cotton crop, however, I am happy to say, escaped with but little injury. Subsequently, the season proved so favourable that the retarded crops recovered, and from the periodical reports that continue to reach me, I believe that a full and abundant crop may be anticipated.

In Broach, south of the Myhee, the rain-fall is stated to have been about 30 per cent. in excess of the usual average, yet it was attended with less injury to the cotton crop, as the fall, though excessive, was milder and more regular in its character. Here also, the locusts appeared in large flights, but though other crops

suffered in the same manner as above-mentioned, I have heard of no serious injury to the cotton, and as far as I can judge both from personal observation and the reports of my subordinates which come to me regularly, I believe that the cotton crop in the Broach Collectorate will be greatly better than an average one.

In Surat, the season has not proved so favourable; the crops suffered more from the lodging of rain-water on the fields, and there was a larger amount of re-sowing, but still I believe that fully a fair average crop may be expected.

Since writing the above, I have received a communication from Mr. Stormont, Superintendent of Cotton Experiments in Surat and Broach, which forms a continuation of his reports up to yesterday's date, and in which he makes the following remarks, having promised that he had just returned from a general tour in the above districts:—

“The finest Guzerat produce of the year will no doubt come from the black-soil district lying to the north and west of Broach. Near Deygaum and some other places in that locality, the plants in some fields are yet quite small, although the majority have done flowering, and average from four to five feet in height.

“The backward state of one portion of the crop is the result of late sowing. The rain fell so continuously after the first real burst, that there was very little opportunity for successional sowing until the season was far advanced. Though late, this will yield a good crop, perhaps a trifle heavier than the early sown, as it is not quite so liable to be damaged by insects. Up the Railway line towards Pallej, the crop is not quite so far advanced as at Broach, still it is very promising.

“The farmers calculate on a cotton crop of 17 annas in the Rupee, that is about six per-cent. excess, and I think it will be quite equal to that.

“Round Surat, the crop is certainly not so promising as in the above-mentioned districts. The effects of the rain seem to have been much more severely felt. It is now pushing along, however, and those who know the district well, believe there will yet be a fair crop, though of course a little late.”

In Khandeish, the crops appeared very promising before the end of September. Continuous rain fell from the 20th of that month to the 6th October, which had the effect of injuring them slightly. They recovered under the influence of the fine weather which succeeded, but in some talooks this was followed by heavy rain at the end of October, that occasioned some damage to the cotton which, grown on the better soils, had become ready for picking. This is, however, counterbalanced by the help which the rain has given to the backward plants on the lighter soils, and on the whole there seems reason to expect a crop better than the average. I may add that the reports I have just received state that the quality of the cotton produced is considerably superior to that of last year.

In the Collectorates of Sholapoor, Ahmednuggur, Sattara and Poona, the cotton plants are in a thriving condition and give promise of a full crop.

From the Southern Mahratta Districts I am in receipt of advices up to the 15th instant. At the commencement of the season, owing to the continuation of heavy rain to a late period, the condition of the soil did not admit of the sowing of cotton seed being proceeded with as early as usual, and the crops were reported as being less advanced than at the similar dates of last year. Of late, however, they have assumed a much more forward appearance, being greatly benefited by a seasonable and much-required fall of rain in the month of October, which was pretty general throughout the country, and amounted to about four and a half inches. Last accounts state that the plants, both Native and American, continue to improve in appearance daily, and that the cultivators entertain sanguine hopes of a full and abundant crop. Mention is made of the appearance of the “Boll-worm” in one or two localities where the sowing had been earlier than elsewhere, but it had not spread to any extent, and no apprehensions of serious injury were entertained. The soil is now supplied with a sufficiency of moisture to bring the plants to maturity, and if nothing untoward occurs, it may be reasonably expected that the hopes of the cultivators will be realized.

G. F. FORBES,

Cotton Commissioner.

Town Hall, Bombay, 18th November 1869.