

Crop and Trade Reports.

Statistics—Cotton—1948—'49—Second Forecast Report.

The average area under cotton in the Madras Province during the five years ending 1944-'45 represents 10·7 per cent of the total area under cotton in India. The area under cotton upto 25th September 1948 is estimated at 3,76,000 acres. When compared with the area of 3,72,400 acres estimated for the corresponding period of last year, it reveals an increase of 1·0 per cent.

Central Districts and the South—Mainly Cambodia Tract: The area in the Central districts and the South relates partly to the last year's crop and partly to the current year's sowings which have commenced in parts. The area in this tract fell from 68,500 acres to 5,57,000 acres i.e., by 18·7 percent, mainly due to want of adequate rains at the time of sowings.

Westerns Tract: The area under Westerns increased from 2,21,900 acres to 2,41,300 acres i.e., by 8·7 per cent. The increase is due mainly to an increase in the area under Hingari Cotton in Bellary District (21,000 acres).

White and Red Northern: The area under white and Red Northern increased from 27,100 acres to 27,700 acres i.e., by 2·2 per cent.

Warangal and Cocanadas: The area under Warangal and Cocanadas fell from 51,900 acres to 48,800 acres i.e., by 6 per cent, as the sowings were delayed due to late receipt of rains.

The condition of the Crop is reported to be generally satisfactory except in the districts of Bellary and Anantapur where the yield is expected to be below the normal due to delayed and inadequate rains. The crop in the Bellary District is also reported to have suffered from an attack of hairy caterpillar pest in the early stages.

The average wholesale price of Cotton lint per Imperial Maund of 82,2/7 lbs. (equivalent to 3,200 tolas) as reported from important markets on 16th October 1948 was Rs. 44-1-0 for Cocanadas, Rs. 41-15-0 for Westerns (Mungari), Rs. 81-13-0 for Coimbatore Cambodia, Rs. 71-3-0 for Coimbatore Karunganni, Rs. 69-5-0 for Virudhunagar Karunganni, Rs. 57-12-0 for Tinnevelly and Rs. 52-8-0 for Nadam Cotton. When compared with the prices published in the last report i.e., those which prevailed on 11th September 1948, those prices reveal a rise of approximately 5% in the case of Cocanadas and Coimbatore Karunganni and 8% in the case of Coimbatore Cambodia, and a fall of 6% in the case of Virudhunagar Karunganni and 5% in the case of Nadam Cotton. The price remained stationary in the case of Westerns (Mungari).

Statistics—Crop—Sugarcane—1948—Third or Final Report:

The average area under sugarcane in the Madras Province during the five years ending 1944-'45 represents 3·4 per cent of the total area under sugarcane in India.

2. The area planted with sugarcane in 1948 is estimated at 2,08,840 acres. When compared with the corresponding estimate of 2,47,430 acres for the previous year and the actual area of 2,72,680 acres according to the Season and crop report for 1947-'48, the present estimate reveals a decrease of 15·6 per cent and 23·4 per cent respectively. The estimate of the previous year was below the actual area by about 9·3 per cent.

3. 42,190 acres have been reported as sown since the last forecast was issued in October 1948, made up of 6,760 acres in the Cicans, 5,800 acres in Deccan, 6,060 acres in the Carnatic, 19,800 acres in the Central districts, 3,100 acres in the South and 670 acres in the West Coast.

4. The estimated area is the same as that of last year in Guntur. An increase in area is estimated in Krishna and Malabar and a decrease in all the other districts of the Province due mainly to a general fall in the price of jaggery at the time of planting. The decrease is marked in Bellary (-4,820 acres), South Arcot (-10,080 acres), Central districts (-32,790 acres) and Mathurai (-7,650 acres).

5. The present estimate includes an area of 20,750 acres under ratoon sugarcane in the districts of Vizagapatam (200 acres), West Godavari (5,400 acres), Krishna (1,000 acres), Bellary (3,500 acres), Anantapur (800 acres), South Arcot (2,100 acres), Chittoor (4,000 acres), North Arcot (200 acres), Tiruchirapalli (1,500 acres), Mathurai (1,900 acres) and Malabar (150 acres).

6. The harvest of the crop has commenced. The yield per acre is expected to be normal in Tirunelveli, Malabar and South Kanara and below the normal in the other districts of the Province due mainly to the fact that the crop has been affected adversely by want of adequate rains during the growing period.

The seasonal factor for the Province as a whole is estimated at 89 per cent of the normal as against the estimate of 90 per cent in the Season and Crop report of 1947-'48 and 89 per cent in the final forecast of the previous year. On this basis, the yield is estimated at 5,253,890 tons of cane, the gur equivalent of which is 579,490 tons, as against an estimate of 680,770 tons in the final forecast report of the previous year and 6,818,380 tons of cane with a gur equivalent of 753,430 tons according to the Season and Crop Report of 1947-'48. The present estimate reveals a decrease of 23.0 per cent in case of cane and 23.1 per cent in the case of gur as compared with the figures in the Season and crop report of the previous year.

7. The wholesale price of Jaggery per Imperial Maund of 82 2/7 lb. (equivalent to 3,200 tolas) as reported from important market centres on 12th February 1949 was Rs. 17-13-0 in Erode, Rs. 16-3-0 in Tiruchirapalli, Rs. 15-10-0 in Salem, Rs. 13-3-0 in Vellore, Rs. 12-8-0 in Mangalore, Rs. 11-2-0 in Bellary, Rs. 10-13-0 in Adoni, Rs. 10-5-0 in Chittoor, Rs. 10-1-0 in Vizianagaram, Rs. 9-14-0 in Rajahmundry, Rs. 9-1-0 in Kakinada, Rs. 8-14-0 in Vizagapatam. When compared with the prices published in the last report, i.e., those which prevailed on 18th December 1948, these prices reveal a rise of approximately 29 per cent in Bellary, 10 per cent in Kakinada, 9 per cent in Chittoor and 7 per cent in Vellore and a fall of approximately 39 per cent in Vizagapatam, 8 per cent in Vizianagaram, Rajahmundry and Tiruchirapalli and 1 per cent in Salem, the prices remaining stationary in Adoni, Erode and Mangalore. (From Public and Economics Statistics Dept.)

Cotton Raw, in the Madras Province: The receipts of loose cotton at presses and spinning mills in the Madras Presidency from 1st February, 1949 to 4th March, 1949 amounted to 4,311 bales of 400 lb lint as against an estimate of—bales of the total crop of 1948-'49. The receipts in the corresponding period of the previous year were 18,350 bales. 38,077 bales mainly of pressed cotton were received at spinning mills and 959 bales were exported by sea while 22,665 bales were imported by sea mainly from Karachi and Bombay. (From Director of Agriculture, Madras).



Division

Orissa & Circars.

Ceded Districts.

Carnatic.

Central.

Note:—