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THE LEADER, CROWLEY, LA.

## Rice Raising in Trinidad.

Interesting Address on Growth of the Cereal in West Indies.

Address delivered before the 1905 Agricultural Conference of the Imperial Department of Agriculture of the West Indies, by Rev. Dr. Morton.

Upland rice was more extensively cultivated, in proportion to the population, thirty five years ago than it is to-day; indeed it cannot now be regarded as much more than a catch crop. The reasons are simple. It can only be grown on lands on which more profitable crops can be cultivated it gives a smaller return than swamp rice, and there being usually but one invitation to the birds of the neighborhood they all accept it, and feast at the expense of the cultivator. The cultivation of swamp rice has grown rapidly in recent years. The first favorite is a long-grained rice called by the East Indians "Joyiya," which seems identical with "Nagra" rice. It is usual to plant all swamp rice in nurseries early in June, and to plant out into the field early in July. But this variety has a tendency in good land to grow very tall and suffer from lodging. To prevent this it is sown more widely in the nursery and kept longer there before replanting. This dwarfs the straw and thus prevents loss of crop by lodging. The next favorite is called "Mutmuriya" which is short-grained like "Chitigong." It is less prolific than "Nagra." These two are reaped in October and spoken of as five months' rice. A third variety ("Jaraha") takes six months to mature. This has a longer grain than "Nagra." It is very prolific; but the top leaf almost surrounds the heavy ear which it helps to support, and being necessarily cut cleaning the rice. Other varieties are sweet rice which smells sweet in the field, in the bag, and on the table; black rice, red rice (two varieties large upland rice, twelve weeks' rice, and bearded rice. This last has a long awn, somewhat like bearded barley, which is very useful in defending the grain from the attacks of birds. Thirty barrels of "Nagra" rice in the husk per acre may be taken as a good crop; 24 of "Chitigong" and 15 of upland rice, which is equal to about half that number of bags when cleaned. In Trinidad native rice is generally sold in the husk. The price at present is \$2.00 per barrel, but it varies with the price of imported rice. Milling has been tried, and is one instance, on the Caroni savanna, with both skill and capital, but the effort is at present in abeyance. The reasons are not far to seek. Rice keeps best in the husk. From October to December bad roads and the moist atmosphere make both transport to the mill and milling difficult. A very large proportion of the cultivators do the savanna, and cannot store their rice there till the dry season to be milled. The family of the East Indian can clean the rice as it is needed, or others can be hired to do it. All these make the mill a secondary consideration so long as the whole crop is consumed by the native

population. Rice is often soaked over night in cold water and steamed till the husk cracks. It is then dried after which it is easily husked and when again thoroughly dried it will keep for a long time. It has then the appearance of "Ballam" rice. Rice is reaped above the upper joint. In favorable soils and seasons when cut it at once sends out collateral ears and produces a second crop which may be from 40 to 50 per cent, of the first. A small third crop may at times be secured, but this is generally discarded. After the crop is reaped the cattle are allowed to roam over the savanna, tramping down the straw in grazing upon herbage which has grown among the rice. When the dry season sets in, the land cracks in all directions and to a considerable depth. This is nature's substitute for man's plow or fork. Low forms of vegetation cover the soil and provide, for half the year, a rotation of crops. With the first showers weeding begins, and the cracks are partially filled with green foliage and vegetable mould. A second weeding completes the process. This is all the manure that is applied. In some of the small swamps, the outlet can be opened or closed to regulate the water supply. These seldom suffer from either flooding, or drouth. On the Caroni savanna there are places that greatly need large arteries to prevent flooding, and all over the rice lands more attention should be given to empowering the fields and holding in reserve a supply of water. The crop just reaped was reduced by dry weather to less than 50 per cent. of an average crop. The seed used in Trinidad has become greatly mixed, different varieties being very commonly grown together. Something should be done to help this industry by drainage of lands that flood, by improved seed, and by devices for the conservation of the surplus water against a time of drouth.

## Competitive Bidding.

Good Prices Offered for New Crop Texas Rice.

Sale of rice has just been completed under the competitive bidding system at Eagle Lake, which is instructive as to the trend of prices in Texas. The stuff was in the rough, and was offered by B. L. Vineyard, of Houston and Eagle Lake. All of the purchasers state that the purchase was made for milling, and not for seed purposes. The bids follow: The lots offered were as follows: 1, 2,500 sacks; 2, 140; 3, 90; 4, 190; 5, 100.

	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
Eagle Lake Co.	\$3.52	\$3.17	\$3.17	\$2.50	\$3.20
McFaddin Co.	3.51	.....	.....	.....	.....
National Co.	3.51	3.30	3.30	2.50	3.00
Standard M. Co.	3.47	3.40	3.35	2.62	3.10
Lakeside Co.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
J. A. Lambert.	3.43	3.30	3.30	2.60	3.00
T. Robertson.	3.35	3.30	3.05	2.50	3.00

\*Awarded to.

The big growers have generally adopted the competitive bidding system, and they find that it pays them to do it. They thus get the benefit of the real competition which may prevail, and while they are liable to be the victims of an agreement, they will more quickly find this out under the sealed bids principle than under the old "hawking"

plan. The publication of the bids is vigorously opposed by the mills and the buyers, on the ground that it is unfair to them to show what they have offered. However, the sellers in this instance would not agree to keep the price secret, though this is generally done. The sellers say that they wish to keep the market good for others who are yet to turn loose their crops. If all the sellers would make known the price they receive the farmers as a whole would be benefitted. The effort to establish a rice exchange at Houston was killed because of the refusal of the interested parties to give correct information as to actual transactions.

## Like Finding Money.

Finding health is like finding money—so think those who are sick. When you have a cough, cold, sore throat, or chest irritation, better act promptly like W. C. Barber, of Sandy Level, Va. He says: "I had a terrible chest trouble, caused by smoke and coal dust on my lungs; but after finding no relief in other remedies, I was cured by Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption, Coughs and Colds." Greatest of any cough or lung medicine in the world. At all drug stores. 50c and \$1.00; guaranteed. Trial bottle free.

## Talmage's Rice Report.

There has been an active demand during the week, both local and nearby points contributing their share to the general activity. With stocks at the minimum, prices are held firmly and more in consonance with current values at primary points. Honduras sorts are in most active request, but a renewed interest is manifested in the Japan styles, as they are relatively cheaper account of whole grain and uniform character. Advances from the South note good demand on the Atlantic Coast. Offerings are not large as planters are busily engaged in cutting and curing the crop. Latest advices note rain interfering with harvest. At New Orleans market is active and strong at figures which show an advance over previous week. Receipts compared with last year are only about sixty percent, while sales are very nearly the same as at equal date. This will naturally account for the strong position of the market. In the Interior South-west Louisiana and Texas planters are busily engaged in harvesting and are not pushing their crops forward. There is quite an active competition between buyers of Rough Rice, and full prices have been paid for the few parcels offered. The mills have been working Old Crop, which has found ready sale and but little "New" has been turned out. For the next thirty days the harvest will be the chief care and the "yield at the thresher" will be of paramount importance, as it will largely determine the quality and indicate the quality of the season's production.

## Attacked by a Mob

And beaten, in a labor riot, until covered with sores, a Chicago street conductor applied Bucklen's Arnica Salve, and was soon sound and well. "I use it in my family," writes G. J. Welce, of Tekamah, "and find it perfect." Simply great for cuts and burns. Only 25c at all drug stores.

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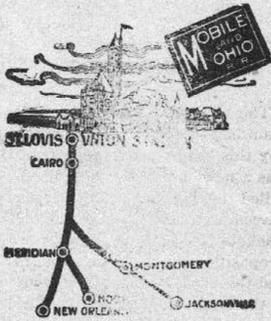
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