

1929

Kenya

No. 15506

SUBJECT

C.O. 533/383.

1. Cost of Living Commission.

Sugar Enquiry.

2. Sugar cane growing.

Previous

X 15426/28

Su 10412/27

Subsequent

15749/29
(Aty. rates)

1.

G.R. MAYERS.

27 DECEMBER, 1928.

Encloses a copy of his reply to a letter from the Secretary of the Cost of Living Commission, containing a series of further questions submitted by Mr. Walter, the Govt. Statistician and a member of the Commission and also of a letter sent to the Chairman of the Commission.

ack: recd MB

(G. Easton)

7/1/29

2/2/29

2. To Mayers (No 1 ^{ackd} ~~sent~~) 7 JAN 1929

No further action seems required on this. ? put by.

(Mr. Baskinley wishes to see as Mr. Mayo called on him some weeks ago.)

(G. Easton)

7/1/29

3.

G.R. MAYERS.

5 JANUARY, 1929.

Forwards copy report by the Victoria Nyanza Sugar Co.'s Chief Chemist sent to the Cost of Living Commission regarding the working of the Co.'s Mill at Niwani.

See also in No 2. State if it is not necessary back into Commission

J. H. Mace

7/1/29

See also letter from Col.

REGISTERED UNDER STATUTE

Franklin coached.
The pp 'apt' here by no means
appear to be the 2 which
I have tapped together here -

? These could be sent
in a letter to Col. Franklin
together with 1 & 2 in this
file complete, in original,
for personal & return -

and same time send
one each of 1 & 2 with
thanks of short off rather
(than 2)

All Parkinson

So please.

When Mr. Mayers & Mr. Gray
called they represented that the
production duty had been in force
long enough to establish the position of
capital and the amount of it, and the
result of taking off the duty would be to
bring in a certain (Java) sugar

Col. Franklin 11.1.29

To Col. Franklin (in 20192) 15/2
also summary of 24/9/28 (in my possession
& being recorded in 21/1/28)

REGISTERED UNDER STATUTE

COL. W. H. FRANKLIN TO MR. BUTTOLLEY. 1 FEBRUARY 29.
RETURNS PAPERS ABOUT THE VICTORIA NYANZA SUGAR COY.

Partly acct
above

7. MANBRE ESTATES LTD. 16 APRIL, 1929.
Asks as to obtaining a copy of a Uganda pamphlet
regarding sugar cane and of any similar Kenya copy,
and for assistance in obtaining samples of a new
Java cane to send to Kenya for development.

Mr. Prochaska

Unfortunately this has been delayed
in the post.

I am having enquiry made
of the Uganda Dept. circles
but could you please advise
us of the reply to the last
part of the letter about
samples of the new Java cane?

All Parkinson
28. 4. 29

A copy of Circular No. 19, entitled
"Sugar Cane in Uganda", will be found in
File X. 20300/29 Uganda. It is possible
that the library may have a duplicate copy
which could be sent to the Manbre Estates
Limited.

The Java seedling P.O.S. 2878 has done
extraordinarily well in Java, and Mr. Grashy
Gore in his Report on Java states that in
1928 66% of the total sugar crop was produced

from

He shall
already get
this one!

from this case and that it is probable that during 1929 it will produce 95% of the crop. Cuttings of this variety have already been sent to Mauritius and are being grown there in quarantine, and it is possible that the correspondent could secure supplies from there. This is the nearest source of supply to Kenya but it might be possible to obtain supplies from the West Indies, should it be desired.

J. H. Stockdale

29.4.29.

Dr. H. H. ...

all

19.6.29

at once

on draft

6. To Kenya (I send in copy ...)

2 MAY 1929

9 To Gov. H.O. 2. W. 7 & 8 - A/11

30 MAY 1929

A.E. BERRY.

14 JUNE, 1929

Grateful to be furnished with name and address of a firm who would be able to supply their requirements.

UNDER STATUTE

W. H. ...

... ..

all

19.6.29

*I am informed that supplies of this case could be secured from the firm of
... ..
... ..
... ..*

790

From this case and that it is probable that during 1929 it will produce 25% of the crop. Cuttings of this variety have already been sent to Mauritius and are being grown there in quarantine, and it is possible that the correspondent could secure supplies from there. This is the nearest source of supply to Kenya but it might be possible to obtain supplies from the West Indies, should it be desired.

J. A. Stockdale
19.4.29.

W. W. W.
cccl
W. W. W.
at once

To Berry (I send in copy of *Lagerhaus in type*) 2 MAY 1929

To Gov. H.O. 2. *Wesley* 7 & 8 - A/1 - 80 MAY 1929

A. E. BERRY, 14 JUNE, 1929
Grateful to be furnished with name and address of a firm who would be able to supply their requirements.

W. W. W.
W. W. W.
cccl
19.6.29

I am informed that supplies of this cane could be secured from the West Indies, Trinidad, Guadeloupe, French Guiana, etc. The London agents are Messrs. H. G. Nicholls, 10, Abchurch Lane, E.C. 4. J. A. Stockdale

If these supplies are to be sent from the West Indies to Kenya it would be advisable for the firm to secure permission from the Director of Agriculture, Kenya, the plant pathologist & disease regulations in Kenya are strict & require importation to secure previous authority of the Director of Agriculture & to be subject to the inspection of plant inspectors.

W. W. W.

If correct according
cccl
21.6.29
at once

Copies of 788 must be
sent to Berry
& 4 more copies of
2 & 11 also.

To Berry (10 and 11) 2 JUL 1929

W. W. W.
Copies of 10 and 11 to Berry of 10/11 suggested by Mr. Nicholls.

W. W. W.
17.6.29

To Gov. 563. *Wesley* 10 & 11 - A/1 - 2 JUL 1929

LANDRE ESTATES LIMITED, 11 July 1929.
Acknowledges receipt of No. 11.
UNDER STATUTE
Mr. Nicholls.

No. 13 put by

A. J. Jordan.
28.7.29
W. W. W.
at once

although I suppose that in fact
it is just such a matter
that dealt with in (14) that
they will have to consider

So far as substitute
and that in the case of J.G. does
not think that he can do more
than forward to the Gov. a
copy of (14) - & that this will
be done

Alb. Parkman
24. 10. 29

J. J. W. S. 24. 10. 29

DESTROYED UNDER STATUTE

To Manbre Estates Ltd - 28 OCT 1929
(14 Annul)

To Gov. 861 - W/Comy 14 w/par and 15 - 28 OCT 1929

17. Gov. 160. 15th March, 1930.
Trans. copy letter from the Dir. of Agric. in reply to
the complaint lodged by the Manbre Estates Ltd.

The counterblast of the Director of
Agriculture seems entirely
adequate. Mr. Aronson's
reply is ~~too~~ it appears open
to doubt

Manbre's were not
present another letter in no 15
& I see no reason to end
them anything. The controversy
is a letter in the year 1929

P.T.O.

W. S. ...
Have you any views
please?

Although we need not
write further to Mauritian
States, the Gov.
wants a reply -
see para 2. Do you
agree that we should say
that the sugar concern
in the view that
there is no good ground
for complaint against
the Agric. Dept. in this
matter?

Alfred ...
G. C. 30

There is no doubt that the
introduction of new diseases with
importations of planting material is a real one
and the Kenya Department of Agriculture is
justified in taking the utmost precautions
to guard against the introduction of diseases
of sugar-cane into the Colony.

Severe losses have been sustained
by sugar-growers of various countries in
comparatively recent years owing to the
introduction, with imported planting material,

of

of one or more serious diseases. The Fiji cane
disease was introduced there from New Guinea.
Gummosis was probably translated from Mauritius
to Australia and later found its way to Porto
Rico and some other islands in the West Indies.
Mosaic is now a widely spread disease, and there
are a number of other diseases existent which
have been obscure but are becoming better known as
investigations into their causes are being carried
out.

Mauritius has set up a special quarantine
station for the receipt of all introductions, and
the British West Indies have recently recommended
that all imports, except interchanges between the
several West Indies and British Guiana, shall only
be permitted if they are passed through the
Quarantine Station at Washington. This
recommendation has been transmitted to the several
West Indian Governments for consideration and the
special West Indian Standing Committee on Plant
Importation Regulations has further recommended
that:

- (1) Imports shall be limited to quantities
that can be readily examined;
- (2) All imports shall be accompanied by a
certificate from the country of
origin to the effect that:
 - (a) the fields from which the
material was taken were, on
inspection, found to be free
of serious pests and diseases;
 - (b) individual examination of the
specimens for export failed
to reveal the presence of
serious pests and diseases;

(c)

not alien.

7

Mr Parkinson spoke to me &
asked me to look up a few
enclodging (1) to (4) of Mr Stoddard's
minutes of 10-4.

Will you return this file
back to him please

J. J. [Signature]

16-4-30

W. H. [Signature]
1944

18. 1/2. Co. 329 - 19. Award - 22 APR 1930

25

15506/29/Kenya.

8

18

Mr. Eastwood. 16/14

Mr. Allen 16/14

Mr.

Mr. Bottomley

Mr. A. Skelton

Mr. G. Brindley

Form. U.S. of S.

Parly. U.S. of S.

Secretary of State.

Downing Street,

22 April 1936

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 160 of the 15th March, on the subject of a complaint lodged by the Manbré Estates, Limited, against the Agricultural Department of the Colony.

DRAFT.

KENYA

NO. 329

Govr.

2. I concur in your opinion that there is no good ground for complaint against the Agricultural Department in the matter. There is no doubt that the introduction of cane diseases with the importation of planting material is a real danger, and in these circumstances I agree that the Department is justified in taking precautions.

3. In this connection I think it desirable to wish attention to the following recommendations, which have

been

been made by the special West Indian
Standing Committee on Plant Importation
Regulations, may be of interest :-

- (1) Imports shall be limited to quantities that can be readily examined.
- (2) All imports shall be accompanied by a certificate from the country of origin to the effect that:-

- (a) The fields from which the material was taken were on inspection found to be free of serious pests and diseases;

- (b) Individual examination of the specimens for export failed to reveal the presence of serious pests and diseases;

- (c) The consignments are packed in sealed containers.

- (3) Imports on arrival shall be:-

- (a) opened in an insect-proof room,

- (b) Disinfected,

(c) Individually examined, at least 20% being cut open.

(4) All plantings shall be kept under careful observation, preferably in an isolated area.

I have,

etc.

(Signed) PASSFIELD.

17/10



KENYA.

No. 160.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
NAIROBI,
KENYA.

March, 1930.

RECEIVED
- 7 APR 1930
COL. OFFICE

My Lord,

20/16

With reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 861 of the 28th October, 1929 on the subject of a complaint lodged by the Manbre Estates Limited against the Agricultural Department of this Colony, I have the honour to enclose a copy of a reply by the Director of Agriculture to the charges formulated therein. I would add that the Director of Agriculture has further reported that, in the consignment imported in October, 1928, mealy bug and a species of thrips were found on the foliage and the tops were discovered to be harbouring lepidopterous borers.

22 APR 1930

Answered - 3/10

2. The remarks of the Agricultural Commission in regard to the complaints lodged with them, of which Mr. Aronson's was one, are recorded in paragraph 20 of the Report of the Commission. I trust Your Lordship will agree that in this case the charges against the Department are unfounded.

I have the honour to be,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient, humble servant,

Edward Gigg

GOVERNOR.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE LORD PASSFIELD, P.C.,
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,
DOWNING STREET,
LONDON, S.W.

COPY/

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
P.O. BOX 323,
NAIROBI. 27th January, 1930.
No. SUGAR/3/116.

The Hon'ble the Colonial Secretary,
NAIROBI.

SUGAR CULTIVATION.

Ref: Your No. S/C.AGR.36/1/7 of 23rd December,
covering Secretary of State's Despatch No. 861
of 28th October, 1929.

The Chairman of Manbre' Estates Ltd (Mr. Berry) evidently bases his information on the report of the Company's Secretary, Mr. Aronson, who has been in charge of the introduction into Kenya of sugar cane varieties from other countries for the two associated Companies, Messrs. Manbre' Estates Ltd. and Messrs Sukari Ltd. Judging from Mr. Aronson's letter to the Agricultural Commission, referred to by Mr. Berry in his letter to the Secretary of State, a thoroughly erroneous impression on a number of points has been conveyed to Mr. Berry by Mr. Aronson.

2. In his complaint about the 1924 importation, Mr. Aronson states that the reason for the order to remove the imported cane to a new site was that it had been "planted too close to growing cane". The true reason was precisely the reverse of this, namely, that although the imported cane had been planted in nursery chosen by the Mycologist over half a mile from the nearest growing cane, on reinspection it was found that cane had in fact been planted up to within

a few yards of the nursery, in flagrant disregard of one of the clearly stated conditions on which their importation was originally permitted, which was that they were to be grown in an isolated area approved by the Director of Agriculture.

3. Between the 1924 importation and that of October 1928 (the first consignment planted at the Scott Laboratories) M Aronson states that two other importations were found to be dead on arrival. In addition there was a further small importation of about half a dozen varieties which, to meet their wishes, Messrs. Sukari Ltd. were permitted to plant at Manbre' Estates. These canes after producing a few shoots, completely died out.

4. Somewhat later, in view of the unhappy experiences of certain other countries where sugar importations had been inadequately supervised, it was decided to inaugurate a system of quarantine of all cane introductions at the Scott Agricultural Laboratories, where they could be grown under continuous and close supervision. Under this new arrangement, Messrs. Sukari Ltd's importation of 9 varieties in October 1928 and 7 varieties in August 1929 were planted in the quarantine cage. All the nine varieties of the first consignment have made excellent growth and in October 1929, at the end of 12 months, were released in time for planting in the short rains. These are now long over but no attempt has been made to remove the canes. Of the 7 varieties, five were P.O.J. canes although they did not include any P.O.J. 2878 as supposed by Messrs

a few yards of the nursery, in flagrant disregard of one of the clearly stated conditions on which their importation was originally permitted, which was that they were to be grown in an isolated area approved by the Director of Agriculture.

3. Between the 1924 importation and that of October 1928 (the first consignment planted at the Scott Laboratories) Mr. Aronson states that two other importations were found to be bad on arrival. In addition there was a further small importation of about half a dozen varieties which, to meet their wishes, Messrs. Sukari Ltd. were permitted to plant at Manbre' Estates. These canes after producing a few shoots, completely died out.

4. Somewhat later, in view of the unhappy experiences of certain other countries where sugar importations had been inadequately supervised, it was decided to inaugurate a system of quarantine of all cane introductions at the Scott Agricultural Laboratories, where they could be grown under continuous and close supervision. Under this new arrangement, Messrs. Sukari Ltd's importation of 9 varieties in October 1928 and 7 varieties in August 1929 were planted in the quarantine cage. All the nine varieties of the first consignment have made excellent growth and in October 1929, at the end of 12 months, were released in time for planting in the short rains. These are now long over but no attempt has been made to remove the canes. Of the 7 varieties, five were P.O.J. canes although they did not include any P.O.J. 2878 as supposed by Messrs

Berry and Aronson. All five P.O.J. varieties are showing good growth and every promise of success. Mr. Schwikard (Messrs. Sukari Ltd's farm manager) during a very recent visit, expressed his satisfaction with the obvious care and attention which these canes had received during their period of growth at the Scott Agricultural Laboratories.

5. The statement that the tops infested with mealy bug in the October, 1928 introduction were left lying about is incorrect. The bulk of the tops were burned immediately after the setts were planted out, a few tops only being retained in cages for observation purposes. With regard to the 1929 importation, no such arrangement as that alleged by Mr. Aronson was made. The canes were placed in boxes pending the return of the Mycologist from South Africa and he, on his arrival in Nairobi, stated that he would not be satisfied with less than 12 months' quarantine. The canes obviously could not be grown for such a period in boxes and were consequently planted out in the quarantine cage.

6. Sugar cane is a crop particularly liable to serious diseases, several of which can be carried in seed pieces. Sugar pathologists throughout the world are therefore unanimous in the opinion that new importations into any country should only be permitted under the closest supervision. The conditions imposed on introductions into Kenya are designed in the best interests of the industry and with a view to maintaining the comparatively high degree of freedom from disease under which sugar

14

is at present grown in Kenya. These conditions have been decided on after consultation with authorities in different parts of the world and are considered to be the minimum possible having due regard to the future safety of the industry. In this connection I would quote from a resolution passed at a recent meeting of the International Society of Sugar Technologists held in Java :-

"Resolved that the assembled delegates of the Java meeting of the International Society of Sugar Cane Technologists recommend that new importations be allowed only in small quantities and through recognised institutions".

7. From its dealings with him, it is clear to this Department that Mr. Aronson is not well informed with regard to diseases of Sugar Cane and the necessity in the interests of the industry to control importations and I trust that the Secretary of State may be informed as to the facts of the case as a wholly unwarranted complaint has been made against this Department

ALEX HOLM.

DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE.

Mr. Clegg 25 x 29

Mr. [unclear]

Mr.

Mr. Bottomley

Sir E. Harding

Sir J. Shandburgh

Sir G. Grudis

Sir C. Davis

Sir S. Wilson

Mr. Ormsby-Gore

Lord Lovat

Mr. Amery

Amery

28 October 1949

DRAFT.

Kenya, No. 861
General Enquiry

Sir
I have the pleasure to transmit to you the enclosed copies of correspondence with HAMBRE Estates Ltd regarding an application by them of certain types of sugar cane which they have been growing since the letter of 13th July 1949 which was answered with the reply letter of the 17th October was re-addressed by Mr. G. H. ARNOLD on the 18th September to the Director

For Hambre Estates (Kenya) Ltd
(District Enquiries)
To Hambre Estates (Kenya) Ltd

Agricultural Commission,
Nairobi © ~~the letters~~
not enclosed with this Dispatch,
~~the letters~~
available locally

(Signed) PASSFIELD.

16
14

MANBRÉ ESTATES, LIMITED.

TELEGRAMS: MANBRÉ LONDON.
A B C CODE (4th & 5th Editions)
TELEPHONES RIVERSIDE 3221
3222
3223

AEB/LA.

Winstow Road,
Fulham Palace Road,
Hammer-smeth,
London, W.14.

30/10/29
October 17th 1929.

The Secretary,
Colonial Office,
WHITEHALL, S.W.

18 OCT 1929
COL. OFFICE

Dear Sir,

My Company and friends have invested between £3,400,000 in Estates in Kenya for the growing of sugar cane and the erection of a refinery, and, as you will realise, it is essential for the success of that undertaking that the growing of the cane should be established upon an efficient and satisfactory basis.

When visiting your Department some time ago I expressed the desire and anxiety to introduce into Kenya different types of Sugar Cane - such types as would produce the same satisfactory results that were being obtained in other parts of the world - and your Department recognised the desirability of this attitude.

I have been disgusted at the manner in which our efforts in this respect have been frustrated by the Agricultural Department in Nairobi and have just heard from the Secretary of one of our Companies there of the appointment of a Commission to investigate the complaints that have been made generally against the department in charge of agricultural work in connection with the Colony. Our Secretary has addressed a letter to the Secretary of this Commission, copy of which I attach hereto, and as we and others at home are investing very large sums in the Colony I think you will agree that those in charge of agricultural staffs should assist in every possible way - and not put obstacles in the way, as referred to in Mr. Arsenau's letter.

It was on my instructions that the special types of Java Cane Sugar

Copy Recd. 8th 28/10/29. (L.P. 1000)
Answered 2

were brought to the Colony, and I am dreadfully disappointed at the manner in which they have been handled. I feel that our efforts in this respect have been frustrated, and shall be glad to know if your Department can help us with regard to the same. What should have been established - particularly in regard to the same?

Yours faithfully,

W. H. H. H.

Chairman.

18th September 1929.

The Secretary,
Agricultural Commission,
NAIROBI.

Sir,

I am in receipt of your letter of the 14th inst; and in response to your request I have pleasure in submitting a report on our endeavours to experiment on imported canes for the purpose of establishing such cane which, in the opinion of our Farm Manager, is suitable for planting in our Swamp lands.

It should be explained that Sukari Limited and Manbre Estates Ltd. are both subsidiary Companies of Manbre & Carton Limited, London, a concern which consumes a considerable quantity of sugar in the process of its business.

The functions of Manbre Estates Ltd. are to grow cane to feed the factory of Sukari Limited who in turn will also grow cane on land it owns, and Manbre & Carton Limited, London, will absorb all surplus sugar produced which cannot be marketed in East Africa.

Manbre Estates Ltd. and Sukari Ltd. jointly own an area of over 20,000 acres which includes approximately 1,500 acres of Swamp, a very fertile and highly productive soil. Our past experience has definitely proved to us that UBA, through its resistance to drought and disease, is ideal for the highland portion of the two estates, but owing to the moisture in the swamp it loses a high percentage of sucrose and though practically the whole of the two estates has been planted with UBA my Board realise the importance of introducing a cane which will still yield a high percentage of sucrose even though it may be planted in the swamp.

In view of the Agricultural Department not being in a position to carry out the necessary tests, we applied for permission to import a variety of canes into the country from Mauritius. Permission was duly granted, and in October 1924 we received 20 patrol boxes containing 14 varieties of the best sugar yielding canes in Mauritius. These were planted up on our farm with great success. About eight months after planting and when the cane was approximately three feet high, we received a visit from the Government Mycologist, who, though he fully admitted that the cane was at the time perfectly healthy, insisted on the whole area (approximately half an acre) being dug up and replanted

elsewhere on the grounds of it having been planted too close to growing cane, with the result that we lost every stick. We would emphasize that according to Mrs. H. Storey an acknowledged authority on cane diseases, various diseases have been found in cane other than UBA on Estates where such canes have grown alongside of UBA and where UBA, through its strong resistance to disease, has been found to be immune from such diseases, and we contend that the action of the Government Mycologist was either due to ignorance or it was arbitrary.

At further expense we again imported seed canes from the Agricultural Department of Mauritius but on two consecutive occasions the canes were found to be dead on arrival.

The writer then got into communication with a personal friend in Phoenix, Mauritius, who at great inconvenience shipped us a further variety of canes. Permission to import these seed canes was granted only on condition that they were planted at the Government Experimental Farm at Kabete. In view of our previous two experiences where seed canes had arrived dead, we arranged with our agents at the coast to notify us by wire of their arrival at Kilindini and the despatch to Nairobi of these canes, in order that no time would be lost in having them planted. With the consent of the Agricultural Officer at Kabete we arranged with our Farm Manager to supervise the planting of these canes. It was also arranged with this gentleman that the cases would not be opened up until our Manager arrived at Kabete, which would be not more than two hours after the canes had been received at Kabete. We explained to this gentleman that the lid of each case would be clearly marked with the variety of the cane it contained, and that under the circumstances we were anxious for our Manager to take careful records of the order in which they would be planted, as the whole value of the experiment would be lost if the canes got mixed. The Agricultural Officer assured the writer that the cases would not be touched pending the arrival of our Manager. The cane was actually delivered to the Experimental Farm late on the afternoon of the 19th October, and we were informed by phone that it was too late that day for our Manager to go out but that if he arrived before 10 the following morning everything would be ready for him to plant up. Our Manager actually arrived at Kabete at 9.30 the following morning only to find that the cases had been opened up with the lids missing. It was some considerable time before the lids could be traced and it was then necessary for the Manager to fit the nail holes to ascertain the variety of each case. He was then informed that instructions had been received to burn the lot as mealy bug had been found among the foliage. The Manager at once got into telephonic communication with the writer and informed him that the cane was perfectly healthy and that had it been affected by mealy bug on the voyage there would have been distinct signs which he declared were not apparent though he fully admitted seeing the bug on the foliage. He also pointed out that by immersing the cane in a solution of Bordeaux it would have the effect of eliminating all germs.

Eventually the following compromise was arrived at -

As mealy bug had been located in the foliage, all tops were to be cut off and would be burnt and the balance planted. This meant a loss of over 50% but was accepted by our Manager on the principle of half a loaf being better than none.

Two weeks later our Manager visited the Experimental Farm to see whether the cane was shooting and to his amazement he found all the cane tops which had been cut off and which were supposed to be affected by mealy bug lying about the fields where they had been cut. On his return to Nairobi he advised the writer who at once took the matter up with the Deputy Director whose reply was that necessary action would be taken. Our Manager again visited Kabete a fortnight later when he again saw the cane tops lying in the fields.

It is no concern of ours how the Agricultural Department choose to run their Experimental Farm, but we do submit if they are so very particular about allowing cane in their fields which they say is infected with disease, then the least they can do is to take the necessary precaution of having the infected parts destroyed.

Our third experience of the methods adopted by the Department occurred quite recently. In July last the writer was in Durban on a visit and whilst there he received a message from his Managing Director in London to procure, if possible, some cuttings of a cane which is giving such extraordinarily fine results in Java, the variety known as P.O.J.2878. As it was impossible for him to get this at such short notice he deputed Mr. V.C.Schwikkard to do so. It should be explained that Mr. Schwikkard had been engaged by the writer to proceed by the first available steamer to take over the duties of Farm Manager to his Company, Mr. Schwikkard having previously been Assistant Manager of the Sugar Experimental Farm at Mount Edgecombe. Immediately on the writer's return to Nairobi he applied for permission to allow the cane into this country. This was granted on condition that it was delivered to the Agricultural Department on arrival. A few days later Mr. Schwikkard arrived in Nairobi, and he proceeded, with the writer, to the Agricultural Department where Mr. Holm explained that owing to the absence of the Mycologist the cane would have to be planted at Kabete until his return. Mr. Schwikkard explained the very great difficulty he had had in getting these cuttings, and in view of their great value, he would appreciate it if Mr. Holm could release the canes as it was his intention of introducing forced propagation. Mr. Holm expressed himself as being agreeable to release the canes directly foliage appeared and it was proved that the cane was free from disease. Mr. Schwikkard explained the danger of removing canes from the

fields at this stage and it was eventually agreed that the canes be planted in boxes and directly the Mycologist was satisfied that they were free from disease he would release the boxes which could be taken to our farm and then transplanted. The canes were then sent to Kabete and planted into boxes to the satisfaction of Mr. Schwikkard. Two weeks later Mr. Schwikkard visited Kabete and to his astonishment found that the canes had been removed from the boxes and planted into the fields.

Apart from the danger there is of losing all the canes through transplanting at a critical time, through the action of the Department, it is now not possible for us to remove this cane until it reaches a stage when it can be cut, which entirely defeats our object in introducing forced propagation, thereby losing most valuable time in establishing a cane which is likely to revolutionise the industry in this country.

A letter has been written to the Director of Agriculture asking for his explanation, but up to time of writing this report no reply has been received.

We do submit that in view of the importance of the industry to the country (considerably over £1,000,000 has been sunk in the industry) it should be the duty of the Government to employ an expert in the Department who has some knowledge of cane diseases and that until this time we feel that instead of the Government hindering us in our endeavours to establish a cane which is likely to bring down production costs it should afford us every assistance.

The writer will be pleased to meet the Commission and elaborate on the above memorandum provided he can do so before the 24th inst: as he is leaving for a trip to Uganda and is likely to be away from Nairobi for a matter of two weeks.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

(Signed) J.G. ARDNSON (Secretary).

P.S. I attach extract from a letter received from F.A. Nichols of Highland Estate, Phoenix, Mauritius, the gentleman who dispatched the consignment of seed canes which are now planted at Kabete and which were the cause of all the trouble through alleged infection with mealy bug.

X.15006/28 Kenya

22
11

- Mr. Lee 19/6/29
- Mr. [unclear] 26/6
- Mr. [unclear] 27/6
- Mr. Bottomley
- Sir E. Harding
- Sir J. Sturges
- Sir G. Grindle
- Sir C. Davis
- Sir S. Wilson
- Mr. Ormsby-Gore
- Lord Lugard
- Mr. Amory



Downing Street,

June 1929.

2 JUL 1929

30

Dr

DRAFT.

copy

A.E. BERRY ESQ.
(Mandré Estates Ltd.)

Copy Gen 563. M- 24 JUL 1929

Sir,

I am etc. to ^{refer to} ~~ack~~ the
 receipt of your letter of the 14th
 June, and to inform you that it is
 understood that supplies of "Jaye
 Seedling P.C. 2878" can be secured
 from the Usine Ste. Madelaine,

Trinidad, whose London agents are
 Messrs Henckell, Du Bois & Co.,
 18, Laurence Pountney Lane, E.C.4.

2. I am to add that if it is
 desired to make arrangements for a
 supply of ^{the planting material} this seed to be sent from
 the West Indies to Kenya, it would
 be advisable for the firm making the

*I am not quite certain
 that there are several
 Henckell & Kingston etc
 according to telephone country
 list*

1576 / 24 / 11 / 1922

- Mr. *accept*
- Mr.
- Mr.
- Mr. Bottomley.
- Sir E. Harding.
- Sir J. Shuckburgh
- Sir G. Grindle.
- Sir C. Davis.
- Sir S. Wilson.
- Mr. Ormsby-Gore.
- Lord Lovat.
- Mr. Amery.



2 MAY 1922

C.O. 1922

DRAFT.

A. E. Berry, Esq.
 Membre Secrete, 2nd BOHAI 1922

Copy this to G. for 102. 11- BOHAI 1922

Sir.

I am directed to refer to
 G. C. of the 16th April
 (A 20/VS) & to transmit
 to you the enclosed
 copy of the pamphlet
 on "Sugar Cane in
 Uganda" published
 by the Dept. of
 Agriculture, in Uganda
 (Circular No 19)
 Paper as is known,
 no similar publication
 has been issued by
 the Dept. of
 Agriculture in

(insert)

Copy of 2 a clear (without
 any) to be kept here
 by Mr. [unclear]

Kenya.

(2) Inquiry has been made in regard to the Java seedling P.O.J. 2078, to which you refer, & it has been ascertained that the nearest ~~source~~ source of supply to Kenya is Mauritius; cuttings of this variety are now being grown in quarantine in that island, & it is thought desirable that you might obtain samples from there. Alternatively, it is suggested ~~that~~ a supply might be obtained from the ~~at. studies~~ studies.

(Signed) A. C. O. PARKINSON.

Please Address all Communications to the Firm

24
4

MANBRE ESTATES, LIMITED.

*Winstan Road,
Fulham Palace Road,
Hammer-smith
London, W.6.*

TELEGRAMS: MANBRE LONDON.
A. S. C. CODE (4th & 5th Editions)
TELEPHONES: RIVERSIDE 3221.
3222
3223

AEB/VB.

RECEIVED
17 APR 1929 April 16th. 1929.
COL. OFFICE

The Secretary-
The Colonial Office,
Downing Street,
London, S.W.

And. 2 May 1929.

Copy No. 402. H. 80 MAY 1929

Sir,

I recently saw a pamphlet entitled Uganda Protectorate, Department of Agriculture, Circular No. 19. "SUGAR CANE IN UGANDA", and as I am interested in the growing of Sugar Cane in Kenya Colony, I should be glad to know if it is possible to obtain a copy of this pamphlet, also if any similar printed matter is issued by the Department of Agriculture in connection with the growing of Sugar Cane in Kenya Colony?

We have just erected a large Sugar Refinery about 13 miles from Nairobi and are developing the growing of Sugar Cane on an extensive scale, so that I am most anxious to secure the literature above referred to, and trust you can assist me.

At present we are growing what is known as UBA Cane, and we have to concentrate on this because at present it is immune from diseases that give so much trouble in Kenya. However, it is not an economical Cane having several defects which make the extraction of sucrose more difficult and also - costly.

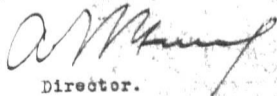
I understand that one of the best Sugar Cane that have yet been developed is now being grown almost exclusively by the Java Planters, and is known as "New Java Seedling P.O.J. 2878". It is claimed that

(2)

this new type of Cane is immune to most diseases, especially mosaic, and it would appear to be equally satisfactory for our purpose in Kenya, as the UBA Cane.

I recognise that I am putting you to a good deal of trouble with these questions, but I should much appreciate assistance in obtaining samples of this new Java Cane, which I could send to Kenya for development.

Yours faithfully,



Director.

A. E. BARRY

The Colonial Under Secretary,
28a Downing Street,
London.

16
2
Heritage Hotel,
Rue Cixous,
Paris.

15th January 1929.

Dear Sir,

At the request of Mr. Walter, Kenya Government
Statistician, and a member of the Cost of Living Commission
held at Nairobi; we sent to the same Commission a report,
written by our sales manager, on the working of the Victoria
Nyansa Sugar Company's Mill at Nivani, Kenya.

I have much pleasure in forwarding a copy for
your information.

Yours faithfully,


Managing Director,

Victoria Nyansa Sugar Company Ltd.

1st December 1928.

The Manager,
The Victoria Nyanza Sugar Company, Ltd.,
Miwani.

Dear Sir,

Answers to queries Nos. S.I., P.I.,
and F.I., raised by Mr. Walter, a
Member of the Cost of Living Com-
mission.

Query No. S.I. Two of the figures for Season
1926-27 are correct, viz., 12.05 showing the amount of
sugarcane in cane, and 16.41 indicating the percentage
of fibre.

During the Season 1926-27 the Company manipulated
96,349,8750 tons of cane and manufactured 8,018.3 tons
of sugar, or an average of 12,016 tons of cane for a ton of
sugar, instead of 12,82 as quoted.

On the correct figure of 12,816, the amount of a
sugar produced from every 100 tons of cane grown would
read 8.32.

The actual loss would be 3.73 or 30.95% of the
sugar contained in a 100 tons of cane, and this, in
comparison with other countries, I consider good.

For purposes of comparison, countries such as
Queensland, The Philippines, Mauritius, etc., should be
eliminated because they cultivate and crush soft canes
which are totally different in structure and quality of
juice, from the Uba cane.

The only other countries which have our class of
cane, viz., Uba, are Natal and Portuguese East Africa, and
any comparison to be drawn must be made with any of these
countries.

Continuation 2.

In comparing our figures for the past two seasons with those of Natal, the purity of the sugar manufactured should be taken into consideration. It is only when two countries are brought on the same basis that a proper comparison can be made, as the following will show :-

	<i>Drumthyscor</i>		
	MIWANI. <u>1926/7</u>	MIWANI. <u>1927/8</u>	NATAL. <u>1926.</u>
Cane % Sucrose... ..	12.05	12.47	12.55
Cane % Fibre... ..	16.41	18.38	15.88
Tons cane to ton Sugar... ..	12.01	13.25	10.77
Purity Sugar Manufactured .	99.70	99.67	98.89

The figures for Natal were taken from an authoritative Sugar Annual for 1927/8 and these figures represent the weighted average of all the sugar mills in the country concerned. Most of the mills manufacture a raw sugar for a refinery. Three factories manufacture a high grade white sugar by the double carbonation process, Bach process and Suchar process. These processes help towards a high overall efficiency.

Bringing Miwani sugar to the same standard, viz., 98.89 purity, we would have manufactured approximately 8,084 tons of sugar instead of 8,018 tons. The comparison would then read as follows:-

	MIWANI. <u>1926/7.</u>	NATAL. <u>1926.</u>
Sucrose % Cane... ..	12.05	12.55
Fibre % Cane.	16.41	15.88
Tons cane to ton Sugar... ..	11.92	10.77
Purity of Sugar... ..	98.89	98.89
Sucrose extracted % Cane.	8.30	9.18
Sucrose lost % cane.	3.75	3.37

A sugar having a purity of 98.89 is considered in the industry as good raw sugar for refinery purposes.

It will at once be seen that on the same basis and although Miwani canes are slightly poorer in sucrose content, and have a higher fibre content (which means less juice) our results result favourably with those of Natal; our losses on a given weight of cane being 0.38 higher.

19

Continuation 3.

The figure showing the percentage of fibre in the cane is not exceptional. The year 1926/7 was a normal year and the cane harvested during the season can be favorably compared with the cane of Natal. The lowest percentage of fibre recorded in that year was 13.30 and the highest 17.52 and it fluctuated in that year between those two figures.

The percentage of 1927/8 might seem exceptional. It must be remembered that during the later part of that season the drought had already started and that for more than three months the cane crushed suffered heavily.

As the factory has been kept crushing at full capacity and as the Native cannot cut and strip sufficient green cane to keep the mill fully supplied, it has become a practice to burn cane before crushing. This procedure was adopted in Natal for the same economic reason. Provided the fire is not too intense, the burning of the cane does not affect its composition and burnt canes are as good as fresh canes if crushed within twenty four hours of burning. It has been definitely proved that burnt Uba cane will keep its good quality for a few days, provided it is kept thoroughly dry. The opinion of experts in this regard is as follows:-

"It has been apparent to us that burnt cane as a rule gives a higher crusher juice purity than trashed, when the cane is in good condition, but if for any reason fermentation sets in, burnt cane deteriorates more rapidly with a noticeable drop in purity, and even when good burnt cane is subject to a shower of rain, a decided drop in purity is apparent in the crusher juice, while trashed cane remains practically unaffected.

We have found that most of our difficulties in the factory have been the result of bad cane supplied by neighbouring cane farmers. The cane supplied to the mill is derived from two sources - Estate-owned cane and cane from farmers. The cane from this latter source has, in some instances, been of poor quality, badly burnt, badly topped and in some cases, fermented.

Owing to the farmers being reluctant to adopt a proper system as is done on the Estate, and of burning sufficient cane to supply their daily quota to the mill, they sometimes burn more than is required, with the result that in some instances, the cane lies several days in their farms and reaches the mill deteriorated and dried out.

Continuation 4.

In a dried and deteriorated cane such as this, the fibre is anything above 25% and the juice extraction is necessarily very low. I might add here that every effort is made to help the farmers and incidentally, the mill in this respect, by frequent visits of one of the Company's staff.

As is generally known, one bad fish contaminates the rest. The same applies to the milling of the cane and of the manufacture of sugar from such cane. A ton of bad cane mixed with twenty tons of good cane and crushed in a mill will throw the whole operation of crushing out of balance and reduce the extraction. The juice from that one ton of cane when mixed with the juice from the good canes, will as it is well known, cause the comparative purities of the two sugars to drop, thereby increasing the impurities, an increase in impurities results in increased difficulties at the clarifications and press stations, increased viscosity, increased by-products and less sugar to be recovered.

The refractory nature of Uba juice is well known, and its clarification requires the use of extra chemicals and machinery which other sugar producing countries crushing soft canes, do not require.

The Uba juice requires heavier sulphuring and liming, and I wish to point out that the proper clarification of the Uba juice is largely dependant on the quality of the chemicals used and that lime (the most important clarifying agent) as is obtained in the Colony, cannot be compared with that used in other sugar producing countries.

tried

The Company has repeatedly from all possible sources in the Colony, to produce a suitable lime and up to the present, has not succeeded. Steps were taken for our lime to be imported from London but the duty and railage charges proved so prohibitive that the proposal had to be postponed pending the visit to there by the Managing Director. Enquiries are being made in other countries of supply.

Our experience has been in analysing the large quantities of local lime received by us, is that it contains at its best, about 40% of CaO, or pure lime. Dr. Frinsen Geerling emphatically states that no lime containing less than 85% of CaO should be used in the clarification of cane juice. Improper lime means imperfect clarification and an imperfect subsidation of the impurities means increased final molasses, lower yield and poor final product.

31

Continuation 5.

Query No. D.I. I take it that the statement "The double turbinage system in Mauritius lowered the quality of what is known as vesous sugar" means that before the installation of the double turbinage system in Mauritius, the vesous sugar produced there was a better quality, and that the quality dropped since the system was adopted. If what I deduced is right, I wish to point out that the idea is emphatically wrong.

The double turbinage system is what is termed in English speaking sugar producing countries "double curing" and is the latest system adopted in all sugar factories producing a white sugar for direct consumption. It is an integral part of the white sugar factories in Mauritius, Java, Natal, Portuguese East Africa and elsewhere, and is an approved and recognized practise.

Double turbinage or double curing helps to slightly improve the quality of the product but the fundamental idea of the system is to allow the complete separation of the low runnings from the rich ones, and thereby contribute to exhaust in as few bollings as possible. A marked improvement by using that system is to be found in the quality of low grades only.

When the double curing or double turbinage is not in use, the massecuites are dried raw, i.e., firstly spinned until dry and the running pumped as Molasses. The dry raw sugar is then properly steamed, washed and blued, the washings and rich runnings flowing in another "gutter" and pumped to the factory.

There is very little difference between the double cured and single cured high grade sugar, but a marked difference shows itself when low grades are dealt with.

With natives manipulating machinery and responsible for the quality of the product, we believe double curing to be the safest and best.

Our procedure of manufacture is as follows :-

The raw juice for the crushing plant is firstly warmed to 100°F, sulphured to 2.5 grams of SO₂ per litre, limed, corrected to an Hydrogen ion concentration of between 6.2 to 6.6, heated to 212°F, and allowed to settle.

The clarified juice is then concentrated into a syrup. Phosphoric Acid is added to it and the liquor

The syrup is then turned into a massecuite first and dried. The resulting sugar which is slightly brown in appearance is mixed with purging liquer, made into a magma and again dried. The resulting sugar is white and ready to be bagged.

The runnig or molasses from the curing of that massecuite is clarified, settled and boiled into a final massecuite which on drying, gives a brown sugar and exhausted molasses.

Having no available market in the Colony for a brown sugar, we found ourselves compelled to reselt that sugar and convert it into a better grade.

There is not in this country the facilities other countries have of disposing of their low grade products to a refinery, and there is not a market for two grades, as hitherto the Company has experienced difficulty in selling a low grade sugar. It is for those reasons that we adopted the policy of curing our first two massecuites raw, mix them and double cure the mixture into one grade. This system has up till now produced a grade polarising 99.70°.

Our system of manufacture differs very little from the recognised practice elsewhere, and in view of local conditions I consider it a modern and economic one, particularly as the market demands a first class sugar.

The careful mixing of the two sugars turns approximately 95% of our yearly output into a good white one grade sugar.

Query No. F.I. Miwani factory is a fourteen roller plant, size 26" X 54", each roller weighing approx. 86 cwt., supplied by a well known and long experienced sugar machinery manufacturing Company, and it is rated to crush, provided the cane does not contain more than 16% of fibre, about 20 tons per hour and extract between 86% and 88% of the sucrose in the cane.

The crushing plant, and power generating plant, are equipped with the latest engineering appliances to suit modern practice. At the end of the 1926/7 season it was considered desirable to order a set of twelve new rollers at a cost of £4,840:844. These rollers which were ordered from England were the last word in milling practice and of a new pattern reputed to help to a greater extraction of sucrose. They were installed last year and have not been at all satisfactory, being incapable of sustaining the required pressures essential to better extraction.

In order to improve extraction, the Company has placed an order for another set of rollers to be installed during the forthcoming off-season. The other part of the factory dealing with the juice is equipped and properly balanced to deal with a steady crushing.

Signed. L.M. Seillier. Chief Chemist.

Milling and Manufacture

Sucrose Profit and Loss Account.

	THIS WEEK		TO DATE		Per cent Cane		% Sucrose in Cane		% Sucrose in Juice	
					Week	To Date	Week	To Date	Week	To Date
Tons Cane Crushed	2383.4358		25155.379							
Tons Cane per hour	30.69		18.40		Sucrose in cane	10.85	10.71			
Tons Sugar Manufactured	400.00		1820.43		" " Bagasse	1.72	2.10	25.83	19.83	
Tons cane per ton sugar	11.92		14.10		" " Juice	9.13	9.61	84.11	86.37	
Tons mixed juice	1650.2439		10579.004		" " Press cake	0.35	0.37	5.27	3.42	3.90
Evaporator mixed juice	22.14		12.885		Unknown Losses	-	0.00	-	0.45	-
Tons Normal Juice	1540.5175		15485.072		Sucrose in Molasses	0.40	1.22	3.73	11.45	4.48
Normal juice per cent cane	64.64		57.19		Sucrose Recovered	0.58	6.97	77.11	68.07	92.67
Tons Sucrose in Juice	177.5027		2282.1667		Sucrose lost in Manufacture	0.75	1.64	7.00	14.20	6.30
Tons Sucrose in Bagasse	47.1000		320.9210		Total Loss	2.47	3.74	22.03	34.93	6.33
Tons Sucrose in Cane	250.4027		2803.1577		Press cake & Cane	-	1.33	-	-	-
Tons Sucrose Recovered	199.4000		1824.1100		Bagasse & cane	41.98	47.77	-	-	-
Tons Sucrose lost	16.1027		179.0477		Exhausted Molasses & Cane	3.13	-	-	-	-
Water added % Cane	29.99		34.27							

	THIS WEEK				TO DATE			
	Brix	% Sucrose	Purity	Greena Ratio	Brix	% Sucrose	Purity	Greena Ratio
Crusher Juice	16.64	14.52	87.86		77.1376	16.0835	87.51	
Lat Mill Juice	5.94	4.85	82.22		7.7349	6.8624	81.74	
Mixed Juice	13.85	11.76	84.91		14.8112	12.1311	84.78	2.74
Clarified Juice	20.02	17.42	87.01		19.0795	16.5280	85.59	3.47
Syrup	46.52	40.53	87.34		47.5461	40.9927	86.64	3.69
Masscutte No. 1	90.60	78.30	87.00		90.09	77.52	86.16	
Masscutte No. 2	92.55	69.38	74.32		92.32	58.18	73.69	
Masscutte No. 3	90.77	85.70	82.47		90.32	56.81	61.23	
Molasses No. 1	50.00	34.11	68.22		50.00	26.75	57.50	
Molasses No. 2	50.00	28.80	57.60		50.00	25.84	57.68	
Exhausted Molasses	65.00	37.85	44.53		65.00	39.11	46.01	

	THIS WEEK				TO DATE			
	Tons	% Sucrose	% Fibre	% Moisture	Tons	% Sucrose	% Fibre	% Moisture
Cane	2383.4358	10.85	19.50	-	25155.4879	10.71	20.86	-
Bagasse	1000.0000	4.11	44.10	-	12900.00	4.40	43.67	50.95
Presscake	100.00	6.45	-	67.00	1130.00	8.49	-	55.00
Exhausted Molasses		27.85	-	-	820.94	39.11	-	-

Time Crushing	Hours		Stoppages	Hours		Fuel and Chemicals		This Week	To Date
	Hours	Mins.		Hours	Mins.	Lbs. wood per ton cane	Lbs. Sulphur per ton cane		
Started 23:10:20 at 6.45 P.M.	-	-	Stops at Mills	7	10			-	-
Stopped 2:11:28 at 2.00 P.M.	-	-	Low Steam	3	00			-	-
Available Hours	139	15	Sundry Stoppages	1	35			27.28	19.53
Actual	-	127	Total time lost	11	45			3.95	3.50
Lost per 100 available	8.44%								0.32

Remarks

Handwritten signature

Hermitage
Nice-Cimic

27th. December 1928.

The Under Secretary of State,
Colonial Office,
London, S.W.1.

RECEIVED
13 JAN 1929
COL. OFFICE

Dear Sir,

Re Cost of Living Commission Inquiry held during the month of October 1928 at Nairobi, Kenya.

The day, on which I embarked for England, I received a letter from the Secretary of the Cost of Living Commission, containing a series of further questions submitted by Mr. Walter the government statistician, a member of the Commission. My replies to these questions were sent to the Secretary of the Victoria Nyanza Sugar Co. Ltd from Aden, with instructions to forward them to the Chairman of the Cost of Living Commission.

As I considered, that it would be consistant, that you should be in touch with the whole of the evidence submitted by my company to the Cost of Living Commission, I enclose, for your information, my reply together with a copy of the letter sent to the Chairman of this Commission.

Yours Faithfully,

J. H. Williams
Managing Director.

London address,
c/o Barclays Bank,
Circus Place,
London Wall.

7 JAN 1929

Aden,

31st October 1928.

The Chairman,

The Cost of Living Commission,

Nairobi.

Dear Sir,

re Sugar Inquiry

I beg to hand you herewith replies to questions raised by Mr. Walter. I have dealt with them at length because I gather from some of the queries that Mr. Walter appears to be under the impression that we are keeping something back. So far as my company is concerned all our cards are on the table.

I have endeavoured to prove to the commission, and I hope successfully, that we have not taken advantage of our monopoly to charge high prices for our product.

Since 1925, from Nairobi westwards where approximately 95 per cent of our product is sold, we have consistently kept prices from £6 to £17 per ton below imported rates.

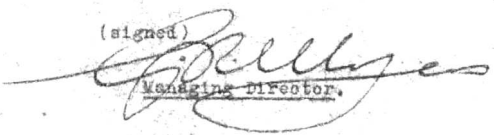
Owing to the drought, the present situation has upset all our calculations, however today we have the situation well in hand. I hope my manager will be in a position to report a further reduction at an early date.

The system of control which has been established for a few months is one that on occasion has been followed successfully in other parts of the British Empire. Briefly stated we have arranged matters so that every district of this Colony and Uganda shall have sufficient supplies of sugar to carry on until the other mills commence crushing, and thereby relieve the situation.

Before leaving Kenya I made arrangements for my Company's mill to continue crushing until the long rains set in. The engineering staff has been strengthened, and instructions issued that the annual overhaul, which usually takes five months, is not to exceed three months. If these instructions are adhered to, and I have every confidence that the management will do everything humanely possible to meet the situation, the mill will close down on or about the 31st day of March 1929 and recommence crushing the first week in July 1929 even if the Sucrose Content of the Cane is not quite up to standard.

As the result of the splendid season we have experienced since the drought broke, the Victoria Nyanza Sugar Company will have the largest crop of cane Mtwani has produced, which should produce a record crushing year.

Yours faithfully,

(signed) 
Managing Director.

COST OF LIVING COMMISSION.SUGAR ENQUIRY.Answers to Requisitions by Mr. Walter.

1. and 2. Mr. Walter has evidently not noted the fact that my Company's Financial Year ends 30th April 1928. If it is considered necessary the Company's Auditors can vouch for the accuracy of my figures.

On leaving Kenya for England in May 1927, I left instructions with the manager to sell sugar at £24 per ton. Therefore, all contracts for the financial year, 1st May 1927/ to 30th April 1928, were made out at £24 per ton.

On returning to Kenya in July 1928 I found that the drought had so affected the production of our competitors Mills that practically the only sugar on the market was Mivani. That speculators who had purchased our output on long contracts had "cornered" the market and "boosted" prices---some were selling sugar purchased from the Company at £24 per ton as high as 245 per ton. That owing to the high cost of sugar to the consumer there was an agitation for reduction of duty. In order to meet the situation, regain control of the market, and bring the price of sugar the consumer down to a reasonable level, I refused to enter any further contracts. Eventually we agreed with certain merchants in the principal towns to supply them with sugar at a low rate provided they agreed to retail at Cents -/33 per lb.

Until sufficient stocks have been accumulated to hold the market, we are charging higher rates to merchants not under agreement. In charging higher prices we had a double object in view;

A. Stop Speculation in Sugar, and

B. Recoup ourselves for losses occasioned through drought.

Today our prices range from \$24 to \$30 per ton.

I have instructed the manager that as stocks accumulate to gradually reduce prices.

Milani is not supplying the Mozambique Market. We are leaving that district for the Coastal Mill which we understand will commence operations shortly.

C.1. and D.1. I have asked the manager, Mr. Robert Andrew, to supply the technical information.

The undermentioned are factors which have been taken into consideration by the management when dealing with Mill Work, especially when considering his average returns, Tons of Cane to produce a ton of Sugar.

Weather Conditions. Most Sugar Growing Countries have two distinct Seasons--Wet and Dry. During the wet season, which is usually the hottest half of the year, the Sugar Crop is Grown. Crushing usually commences about three weeks after the rains have ceased and continues until the rains again set in. An average crushing season is about Six Months--Seven months is considered quite a long season. At the commencement of the crushing season it usually takes from 12 to 14 tons of cane to make one ton of Sugar, as the season progresses the sucrose content increases so that for several months it takes only 8 or 9 tons of cane to produce a ton of sugar. Towards the end of the season the Sucrose Content of the Cane again falls, this is due to the combined action of heat and rain. As soon

as the fall in Sucrose reaches an unprofitable point the mill is closed down.

In Kenya we have two wet seasons and practically no winter weather to bring the cane to maturity. We therefore have to rely on dry hot weather to bring up the Sucrose content in the cane and show good results.

A Mill in Kenya should commence crushing about August, continue until short rains set in--usually November-December--then close down for two months. Restart January 2nd and continue until the long rains commence about the middle of March. This would give only a five and one-half months crushing season. A mill with the Capacity of Kiwani would, during this short season, crush approximately 60,000 tons of cane, and crushing through these favourable months it should not take more than 10 1/2 tons of Cane to produce a ton of Sugar - an Ideal Crushing Season.

At the commencement of the Season 1926-1927 my Company had a crop of cane estimated at 100,000 tons. For the Season 1929-30 our estimate is 120,000 tons, now comes the problem. Shall we make it an ideal season, crushing only during the fine months, make wonderful mill returns, crush approximately half the crop? Or shall we commence early and crush right on regardless of weather conditions until the whole crop is harvested? To a Financial Manager there is only one answer-crush the crop, get the ^{extra} two or three thousand tons of sugar, and chance mill returns being on the low side.

In order to cope with our 1926-27 crop we decided to

- A. Commence Crushing as early as possible,
- B. Continue Crushing through the short rains.
- C. Open up the Mills in order to deal with a larger daily ^{marginage.}
- D. Continue until the whole crop is harvested, even if it means running into the long rains.

RESULT. Mill Produced 8,018 tons of sugar, but the tons of Cane to Produce a ton of sugar was lowered by

- A. Early Start.
- B. Opening up Mills.
- C. Crushing through short rains.
- D. Crushing through April.
- E. Broken Crusher which put the first Crusher out of commission for two months.

Mills Returns, viz.: Tons of Cane to produce a ton of Sugar suffered, but both from a financial point of view and the fact that we were able to close down with a good stock of sugar in hand. I am convinced that my policy was correct.

Our estimate of Cane for 1929-30 Season is a 120,000 tons, I wish to make it quite clear to the Commission that for 1929-30 Season we shall again follow our policy of 1926-27, starting early and continuing until all the crop is Harvested.

I should not have dealt at such length on this subject had it not been brought into prominence by a member of your Commission. Personally I think it is a matter that concerns only my Company. If my Directors are dissatisfied with the management, it is their privilege to replace me.

P.I. I have requested the manager to supply information regarding our system of manufacture, from Cane Trucks to Sugar Bags. It would be much more informative if the Commission paid a visit to our Mill. Lists of Improvements to Plant, and Cost of same, for the past five years have been forwarded to the Commission. the total sum being £113,101 : 14 : 7.

We have a further £10,000 worth of Machinery on order, which comprises Juice Super-Heater and Pump, Two Crystallizers, Set Mill Rollers, Molasses Tanks, and three miles of Heavy Tramway Rails and Sleepers.

G.I. Para. I. I cannot agree with Mr. Walter's contention that the figures I have given are misleading, 1921 was not a peak year for sugar prices. The peak year was 1918 or 1919 when the British Government purchased the whole of the Mauritius Crop at approximately £90 per ton. I have no access to a tabulated statement of the world's Prices for the years 1921-27, but for the year 1926-7 based on the world's Price of White Crystallized Sugar the approximate price of imported sugar landed at Nairobi in Bond would be in round figures £30 per ton, Duty paid £42 per ton.

During that year my Company's wholesale price for sugar was a little under £27 per ton landed Nairobi, or £3 per ton under the price of imported sugar in Bond, and £15 per ton under the price of imported sugar duty paid.

For the Financial Year 1926, 1927, and 1928, allowing for the difference in Railway Freight West of Nairobi, say 50 per cent of our production, our average wholesale price from Nairobi to Uganda was about £5 per ton under the price of imported sugar in Bond and £17 per ton on duty paid imported sugar.

At Kisumu, Eldoret, and Uganda, with additional Railway Freight the cost of a ton of imported sugar would be about £5 to £6 per ton higher.

The only point I wish to make clear to the Commission was that my Company had not taken advantage of protection afforded the Sugar Industry to obtain the highest possible prices for our output.

H.I. Mr. Walter has evidently taken the number of acres under sugar cane as shown in the table, to mean that the whole of the acreage given under cane would be crushed the following season--he is mistaken. The table states the number of acres on the Plantation actually under cane. It included mature cane for 1928-29 Season, six to twelve month old cane for 1929-30 Season, and newly planted cane which will not be cut until 1930-31 Season.

We have already informed the Commission that the average yield of cane per acre at Kiwani for the Season 1927-28, Drought Year, was 17.59 tons per acre. Judging by the present condition of cane our estimate for 1929-30 is over 30 tons per acre. That year we are looking forward to a record crop.

H.I. Para. 2. We do not think that the Commission should request us to disclose this information. Prices the Company pay for cane vary according to the services rendered. For example the Company has expended approximately £50,000 for permanent and portable rails, Trucks, Engines, Etc. for conveyance of cane to Mill. The annual charge for Tramway and Truck Maintenance is a very heavy item. Heavy cost of hauling cane to Mill. In some cases Company harvest Farmers' crops, this in cases where farmers cannot do so themselves owing to an insufficiency of labour.

It is within the knowledge of some members of the Commission that before the advent of my Company land in the vicinity of the mill had only a nominal value, today the market value of all land served by the Company's Tramway System is not less than Ten Pounds per acre.

There are three systems of purchasing cane from the farmers.

- A. Payment on Analysis.
- B. Payment by percentage of sugar.
- C. Payment per ton delivered at the Mill.

The first is best and is the system adopted by most cane producing Countries, and is also the one under which my Company prefer to purchase cane. We endeavour to adopt this system but farmers objected---in plain English, they would not trust the Company's Chemists.

Under the tonnage system they have a right to send a representative to the Mill to watch their cane weighed-in. When we first commenced operations the weigh-bridge was always crowded with farmers or their representatives waiting to see their cane weighed-in, gradually we gained their confidence and for the past three years,

during which period we have crushed approximately 70,000 tons of farmer's cane, no farmer has visited the Mill for the purpose of watching his cane weighed.

No comparison with Mauritius would be applicable to Kenya.

H.I. Para. 4. I have never admitted, nor will admit, that conditions in Kenya are not favourable for the establishment of the Sugar Industry on a sure foundation. The fact that during the past three years Mivani alone has produced in round figures 18,400 tons of sugar is sufficient proof that sugar can be successfully grown on a big scale in Kenya. I have no intention of being drawn into a discussion of the capabilities of other Districts in Kenya as compared with the Nyanza Province. It will be time enough when Sukari, Limited or the Coastal Mill has beaten our record(so far they have only produced a few hundred tons of sugar) to determine whether their conditions are more favourable than ours.

What I do maintain is that we cannot, without protection, hold our own against the dumping of Foreign Sugar from such countries as Cuba and Java, which between them produce from Seven to Eight Million Tons of Sugar per annum, any more than can England. England although nominally a Free Trade Country, in order to protect it's newly established Beet Sugar Industry, has granted a protection of Eleven Shillings and eight pence per hundred-weight.

Today Thirty different Countries have raised protective barriers to protect their Local Sugar Industry.

I sincerely hope that your Commission will spare the time for a visit to the Victoria Nyarko Sugar Company' Plantation of Mivani, and there on the spot examine the conditions under which we are working. A wire to the Manager stating time and date of arrival is all that is necessary, the manager will provide excellent accommodation for the ladies and gentlemen composing the party, in the event of members deciding to spend the night on the Plantation Cars would be provided to enable them to inspect outside farms as well as the Company's Plantation. By staying overnight members would be given the opportunity of going through the mill on both day and night shifts and seeing the employees at both work and play.

Today Thirty different Countries have raised protective barriers to protect their Local Sugar Industry.

I sincerely hope that your Commission will spare the time for a visit to the Victoria Nyamira Sugar Company Plantation of Nivani, and there on the spot examine the conditions under which we are working. A wire to the Manager stating time and date of arrival is all that is necessary, the manager will provide excellent accommodation for the ladies and gentlemen composing the party. In the event of matters deciding to spend the night on the Plantation Cars would be provided to enable them to inspect outside farms as well as the Company's Plantation. By staying overnight members would be given the opportunity of going through the mill on both day and night shifts and seeing the employees at both work and play.

ARTICLES ON THE POSITION OF
THE SUGAR INDUSTRY.

1. Average Cane Yields in British Sugar, 1905 to 1923.

2. Methods and Costs of Harvesting on Tropical Estates with
Foreign Born Labor.

3. Yield and Distribution Efficiency.

4. Value of the Sugar Industry to the East African Colonies.

5. Future of the Sugar Industry in West Africa.

E. E. WATSON,
SUGAR.

17th September, 1926.

ARTICLES ON THE POSITION OF
THE SUGAR INDUSTRY.

1. Economic Conditions of the Sugar Industry, 1905 to 1923.
2. Methods of the Sugar Industry in the West Indies with
Particular Reference to the
Cuba Sugar Industry.
3. History and Statistics of the Industry.
4. Status of the Sugar Industry in the West Indies.
5. Status of the Sugar Industry in the West Indies.

E. E. HAYES,
Author.

1924, September, 1924.

AVERAGE SALE PRICE of NIWANI SUGAR

Years 1924 to 1928.

---000---

Year ending 31st March, 1925	837. 1. 10 ton.
" " " " 1924	- 838. 1. 1 " "
" " " " 1925	- 837. 19. 8 " "
" " " " 1926	- 829. 2. 9 " "
" " 50th April, 1927	- 495. 3. 6 " "
" " " " 1928	- 837. 19. 7 " "

For the year ending 31st March 1928 the average price of Niwani sugar was 837. 19. 7 per ton. The 50th April 1927 price was 495. 3. 6 per ton. The difference between these prices and the above average is accounted for by the fact that a large percentage of our output is sold retail.

We have endeavoured, and we think have succeeded, to sell sugar retail in small lots, but soon after commencing operations we found our business was being monopolized by a number of wholesale stores, where there was no competition, at very high prices. In order to protect the public we put on the market a small quantity of sugar which has been identified in the local Niwani Sugar Co. In February this year we issued a notice in the main paper advising the public that in the event of their being charged exorbitant prices, they could obtain their supplies direct from the Victoria Nyansa Sugar Company's Mill at the rate of Shs. 14/- for a 56 lb. bag; later the price was increased to Shs. 15/- per bag. I submit for your inspection copy of advertisement inserted in the "East African Standard" on 16th February, 1928.

"THE PRICE OF SUGAR"

"To the Editor,

Sir-

We notice a letter in the correspondence section of the "Standard" of Tuesday the 14th instant from "Enquirer", and shall be obliged if you will be good enough to print the following reply :-

"If enquirer will apply direct to the manufacturers of sugar, he can obtain a 50 lb. packet of White Sugar for Shs. 16/- (Sixteen Shillings).
Yours etc.

The Victoria Wharf Sugar Company, Ltd.

Since my return to Kenya in July last, arrangements have been made with a number of reputable merchants at Nairobi, Mombasa, Kisumu and Zanzibar to Retail Market No. 1 Sugar at 33/- per cwt., and Shs. 16/75 for packet of 56 lbs. Copy of our daily advertisements in the Press in this connection is sent you herewith.

NOTICE.

The VICTORIA WHARF SUGAR COMPANY LIMITED have set up with the undersigned stores & retail trade as follows: White Crystal Sugar at the following prices :-

- Per cwt Cents -/33.
- Per Packet of 56 lbs. Shs. 16/75.

NAIROBI

- S. Jacobs, Limited.
- R. B. Duncan, "Nairobi House",
- M. S. Elliot & Company.
- Blacklaws & Brown.
- Kanji Haranji.

NAKURU

- S. Jacobs, Limited.
- Ibrahim Karimbux.

A.S.

REDOONE

R. Jacobs, Limited.
Wm. Douglas.

RONGAI

Ruben Brothers.

To further substantiate our evidence that at no time during the recent supposed ~~...~~ has my company taken advantage of the position in ~~...~~ during period when only Miwaki ~~...~~ I submit for ~~...~~ number of 1927/1928 Contract with ~~...~~

6.1.

REASONS WHY KENYA CANNOT COMPETE ON
EQUAL TERMS WITH FOREIGN GROWN SUGAR.

No. 1. Java, Cuba, Philippines and other Tropical Countries with exception of South Africa, all grow Soft Sugar Cane which give a Higher Sucrose Content and Less Fibre. So far no district in Africa from South Africa to Kenya has been successful in establishing any Cane other than UPA which is not regarded by all Sugar Technologists to be one of the poorest varieties of Cane known.

At the Conference of Members of the International Society of Sugar Cane Technologists held last year at Cuba, the opinion of opinion of Delegate - which in 1926 was one of the most valuable contributions of the Conference - was that the Cane was not yet a desirable variety either from a farming or milling point of view, and further that its growth was only tolerated as a relief measure for Russia because in those countries that had failed to successfully cultivate a more suitable variety.

The percentage of sucrose in growing Cane Cane have over Africa is shown in the unmentioned table.

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN UPA AND SOFT CANE

	<u>U.P.A. SUGAR</u>	<u>HARD CANES</u>		<u>SOFT SUGAR</u>	<u>U.P.A. SUGAR</u>
	Miwani 1926/7	Miwani 1927/8	Natal 1926.	Philippines 1926	Queensland Mulgrave Mill 1927
Cane per Cent Sucrose.....	12.05	12.47	12.55	13.27	14.70
Cane per Cent Fibre.....	16.41	18.38	15.88	11.41	11.14
Tons of Cane per Ton of Sugar.....	12.82	13.25	10.77	8.56	7.00

C.2.

My Company imported some of the best varieties of Canes grown in both Java and Queensland, Australia. The best of these, the Queensland "Madilla" was destroyed by white ants, other samples developed Mosaic and were also destroyed. An attempt was made to cultivate the Local Variety, "MAGSILLA" or "Green Ribbon", and by the year 1926 we had approximately 700 acres of this variety with 100g. This cane will develop Mosaic Disease and under instructions from the Director of Agriculture had to be ploughed out at great expense to the Company.

Cuba, Java and other Tropical Countries have been growing Canes and Manufacturing Sugar for nearly a hundred years, as a consequence, the labour they employ is far more efficient than the East African labour.

These Canes Ripen and are Cut annually, whilst in India Canes take Two Years to Mature. If we take, for example, a Mill crushing say, 100,000 tons of cane per season, and allowing 25 tons of cane per acre, 4,000 acres seasonally under cultivation would, in either Cuba, Java or Mauritius, keep the Mill fully supplied. In Kenya, 8,000 acres must be kept continually under Cultivation to keep the same size Mill supplied with Canes from year to year.

MILL AND PLANTATION EFFICIENCY.

MILL PLANT. The fact the Planting and Cane 1926/27 Hawaii Manufactured 8,018 tons of White Sugar (roughing USA Standard) is sufficient proof that our MILL as well as Apper and will compare favorably with the average mill in other countries. With the Planting and Cane 1926/27 Hawaii, Cuba and Australia and Planting and Cane 1926/27 Hawaii only, our Plant could manufacture not less than 12,000 tons of Sugar per season.

In order to keep the Mill supplied daily with from 450 to 500 tons of Cane we have laid down the following Plant :-

- 24 Miles of Permanent Tramway Lines.
- 30 Miles of Portable Tramway Lines.
- 600 Tons per Hour Cranes.
- 3 Steam Locomotives.
- 1 Petrol Rail Motor.

PLANTING. To successfully produce good crops of Cane on the arid land from year to year intensive cultivation is necessary, as there is no crop grown which takes more out of the land than sugar cane. In the early days all our cultivation was carried on with Native Oxen. Today Powerful Motor and Steam Tractors are used. Our system of cultivation is almost equal to Hawaii and Australia, the two Premier Countries in Scientific Field Cultivation, and are superior to any other Cane Producing Country that has Published Records.

Whether on Virgin Soil or land which has previously been under Cane, the land before planting, receives :-

- 2 Ploughings, depth 10 to 12 inches, with motor Tractors.
- 2 Sub-soilings, depth 16 to 20 inches, with Steam Ploughing Outfit.
- 4 Harrowings with Peg and Double-Disc Harrows.
- 1 Ridging with Steam Outfit, depth 12 inches.

We are also experimenting with difference varieties of Beans for Green Manuring.

Ref.

The following is a summary of Expenditure of the Victoria Nyanza Sugar Company covering a period of ^{the year} which can be vouched for by its Chartered Accountants, Messrs. Gill & Johnson.

Wages. European	113,661	
Asiatic	22,519	
Native	<u>90,786</u>	226,966
Goods Purchased in Kenya		172,034
Purchases within the British Empire		243,598
Freight paid Kenya & Uganda Railways		62,578
Sugar Cane Purchases from Farmers		<u>67,559</u>
		<u><u>£ 772,735</u></u>

Your attention is particularly drawn to the fact that of the above amount the sum of £529,377 was paid out in Kenya.

H. 1.

FUTURE of the SUGAR INDUSTRY in EAST AFRICA.

So far I have only given evidence relating to the Victoria Nyansa Sugar Company Ltd. In order to place before the Commission a detailed report of the position of the entire Sugar Industry today, and the estimated tonnage of Sugar likely to be manufactured in the future when Mills now being erected are in commission, a circular letter was forwarded to all Mills operating in these Colonies, requesting them to supply details under the following heads :-

1. Capital Invested in the Sugar Industry.
2. Amount paid annually in Wages to Europeans, Indians & Natives.
3. Total amount expended annually in the Colony other than wages.
4. Area under Sugar Cane, including adjoining farmer's crops.
5. Rough estimate Tons of Cane expected to crush for next 2 years.
Year 1928/1929.
Year 1929/1930.
6. Rough estimate Tons of White Sugar expected to manufacture during the next 2 years -
Year 1928/1929.
Year 1929/1930.
7. Tons of Sugar your Mill is Capable of turning out annually.

From this information the following table has been tabulated.

(Tabulated particulars over leaf.)

PARTICULARS OF SUGAR MILL OPERATIONS IN KENYA

Proprietors and Shareholders Owners.	Original Capital in Pounds £	Total Wages Paid Annually £	Total Amount Expended in Operating the Mills £	Number of Acre Cultivated in 1928/29	Number of Acre Cultivated in 1929/30	Estimated Quantity of Cane for Crush- ing Season 1928/29 Tons.	Estimated Sugar Output for Season 1928/29 Tons.	Estimated Sugar Output for Season 1929/30 Tons.	Capacity of Mill in Year 1930 Tons of Sugar.
Victoria Nyman Sugar Co. Ltd.	505,000	24,100	72,000	6,300	71,000	200,000	6,000	8,000	10,000
Sukari, Limited.	125,000	26,000	40,000	5,000	50,000	80,000	2,100	8,000	12,000
Nanji Kalidas Mehta.	400,000	60,000	"	6,000	70,000	110,000	5,500	6,000	8,000
Nettidge & Allan.	50,000	5,800	11,500	2,000	10,000	24,000	600	1,700	3,000
Ramini Bhai Estate, Ltd.	50,000	10,000	20,000	1,500	4,000	10,000	200	2,600	4,000
TOTAL	1,176,000	130,000	-	19,700	155,000	344,000	12,500	26,700	37,000

277,600

From this statement it is clear there will be just sufficient sugar manufactured during the 1928/29 Season to supply the requirements of these Colonies. If Mills now in course of erection crush up to their owners' expectations, there will be a very large surplus at the end of the season, and from that date onward I do not think consumers will be able to overtake supplies.

I have no hesitation in saying - and statistics will prove my opinion correct - that there was no necessity whatever for the recent high prices of sugar in Kenya. Unfortunately the drought affected other plantations more than my Company's, thereby curtailing their production, which resulted in rather a bare market, - at this position speculators took full advantage.

That there was a very slight shortage is clearly proved by Government Statistics, which show that for the past four years there has been a gradually increasing surplus of Sugar for Export, as follows :- The Year 1924, 130 Tons; Year 1925, 363 Tons; Year 1926, 1,097 Tons; Year 1927, 1,245 tons. During the years covering this period Imports of Sugar have decreased from 3,461 Tons in the year 1922 to 486 Tons in the year 1927.

When protection was first given to the Sugar Industry, it was on the understanding that my Company, which was the only Company then operating in the Colony, would not sell Sugar for more than £38 per ton. The Policy of my Company has always been to reduce the price of sugar to a reasonable figure in order to increase consumption. I have given evidence which clearly proves that we have gradually reduced the price of our Sugar to the Public until we reached a wholesale selling price of £24 per ton during 1927/1928. For the whole of this period we had a monopoly and controlled the selling price in both Colonies.

This continual agitation by a few free traders for a revision of duties is a great handicap to progress. Speaking for the Sugar Industry generally, we should prefer to have the question of duty settled for at least Ten Years; it would be easy to protect the Public by following the policy of other parts of the Empire and fixing a price at which sugar should be sold by both the Manufacturer and the Retailer. Personally I think the production fore-shadowed will solve the problem.

One thing is quite clear, in the event of duty being reduced no Mill in these Colonies can pay the present Railway Freight to the Coast and compete with imported sugar in the Coastal Areas.

In conclusion I would point out that farmers will not place areas under cane unless they can get from a five to ten years contract with the Mill Owners. Today we have numerous applications from farmers to grow cane which we cannot accept until the question of protection is settled for a definite period.

COST OF LEVING, 1926 - 1928.

The evidence furnished by the Manager of the Mwanza Sugar Factory does not in my opinion furnish adequate reasons for the maintenance of protective duties and I feel that the Commission is entitled to some further explanations. Dealing with the type-written evidence seriatim.

A.1. The Price of £25 : 10/- quoted for 1928 is not corroborated by invoices in the possession of this office. These invoices show that as recently as August of this year sugar was being sold F.O.R. at £30. per ton.

I have also reason to believe that it was being sold for the same figure for Mombasa retailers at Mombasa in order to compete with Java Sugars which can be sold at the same price in Mombasa.

A.2. At this wholesale price, retailing it at Cents.33 can hardly be considered a remunerative selling price. This leaves only Cents .038 of a shilling as profit, part of which might well be lost in transport ^{by rail} and loss in Store.

C.1. The figures given in this evidence are more easily understood, by me at least, if the 1st and 3rd lines are made comparable to show the loss in manufacture. This can be done if the third line is shown as a percentage reciprocal. I read these figures, as follows :-

In a given weight of Cane the amount of Sucrose is 12.05%

In a given weight of cane the amount of sugar extracted is 7.80%.

The Loss amounts, in consequence, to 4.20% weight of Cane or nearly 35% of the sucrose contained in the Cane.

We have to go back to the early sixties to find corresponding figures in countries really suited to cane sugar production.

The corresponding figures in Natal where the same cane is planted are :-

In a given weight of Cane the amount of Sucrose is 12.55%

In a given weight of Cane the amount of Sugar Extracted is 9.2%.

The loss, in consequence, amounts to 26.5% weight of Cane or nearly 26% of the Sucrose contained in the Sugar Cane.

The figures showing cane per cent fibre appear to be exceptional : the suitability of the soil is not suitable for sugar cane only and if complete measures of Chemical control, week by week, for one season are available. The Miwani Factories should be asked

D.1. The "double turbinage" system in Mauritius lowered the grade of what is known there as "vesous" sugar and I have no doubt that the complaints made at times as to the inferiority of the lower grade in the colonies commanded, I believe, a much lower price than the fine white "vesous" crystals.

The Miwani factories should adopt one of the two principles :-

- (a). manufacture a one grade sugar and sell it at a low average price.
- or (b). manufacture graded sugars at different prices as is done in Mauritius.

Mr. Mirra might be asked to give us information concerning the grades manufactured by him.

F.1. A Mill may be large and efficient. Mr. Myers might be asked to give the Commission additional information concerning the efficiency of his mills and the improvements effected, with analysis of the factory work showing the improvements in extraction and working which have been effected during the past 5 years.

I have already asked him to provide the commission with yields of cane per acre.

G.1. These figures are very misleading. It is common knowledge that the year 1921 was the peak year for sugar prices and the comparison here given is merely misleading to the Commission.

If any comparison is considered necessary (on the lines of para. 5 of G.1.) the average world prices and the amount supplied by the local industry each year should be compared with the local price and the amount supplied.

Mr. Mayers' access to these world prices and could perhaps furnish the Commission with a statement.

H.1. The yield of cane indicated by the Table supplied is abnormally low for a ~~sugar-growing~~ cane-sugar producing country, about 11 tons of cane per acre. This will be made clearer when the returns asked for under F. are forthcoming.

It would be interesting to know, in relation to the last paragraph, what is the factory's share of the cane price.

Mr. Mayers might also calculate for the interest of the Commission the margin between the amount paid per ton of sugar to the farmers and the amount obtained by the millers. This can be derived from the extraction figures and the prices of cane and sugar. It would be easier to make comparisons with the existing conditions in a country like Mauritius, for instance, if this could be shown as an amount of sugar returned to the cane grower per ton of cane.

In Mauritius about 70 lbs. of cane are returned for every ton of cane.

In conclusion I think Mr. Mayers might be asked to explain why, if the conditions are so favourable, the sugar industry should be encouraged to continue by the imposition of Protective Duties. Conditions do not appear to be so unfavourable either at Sukari or at the Coast.

(signed) A. WALTERS,
Statistician Governor's
Conference.