

P A P E R S
IN
COLONIES AND TRADE.

No. I.

PLANTATION OF CLOVES IN THE COLONY
OF TRINIDAD.

The sum of FIFTY GUINEAS was this session presented to M. LE CADRE, of the Island of Trinidad, for his Plantation of Clove Trees. Samples of the Cloves were produced to the Society, and have been placed in the repository.

SIR,

Trinidad, May 12, 1824.

AN advertisement having appeared in the Gazette of this Island, stating certain premiums offered by the Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures, and Commerce, and particularly some for the advantage of British colonies, as follows,—

“ To the person who shall grow the greatest quantity

of merchantable cinnamon or cloves, not less than twenty pounds weight, in any part of his majesty's dominions in the West Indies, and equal to those imported from the islands of the East Indies;—the *Gold Medal*, or *Fifty Guineas*.

“ Satisfactory certificates from the governor or commander-in-chief of the place of growth, with an account of the number of trees, their age, nearly the quantity of fruit on each tree, and the manner of culture; together with samples, to be produced on or before the first Tuesday in January, 1825:”

And having made, a few years past, some plantations of that description upon my estate here, I have the honour to address to you, as Secretary of the said Society, the certificates from the governor of this island, as required; and also of sending twenty pounds weight of cloves, the growth of the said estate (conformably to the said advertisement), to William Vaughan, Esq., with the bills of lading.

I am, Sir,

A. Aikin, Esq.
Secretary, &c. &c.

&c. &c. &c.

FS. LE CADRE.

CERTIFICATES.

TRINIDAD.

By his Excellency Sir Ralph James Woodford, Bart.
Governor and Commander in Chief, in and over the
said Island and its dependencies, &c. &c. &c.

RALPH JAMES WOODFORD.

THIS is to certify to all whom it may concern, that
Francis le Cadre, Esq. is a resident planter of this
Island, and that Edmonstone Hodgkinson Esq. is com-
missary of population, and acting surveyor-general.

Given under my hand and seal of office, at Govern-
ment House, in Port of Spain, this 6th day of
May, in the year 1824.

FREDERICK HAMMET,
Assistant Secretary.

SIR,

Trinidad March 17, 1824.

HAVING observed that *the Society for the encourage-
ment of Arts* has offered premiums for the cultivation of
cloves and cinnamon in the West Indies, agreeable to an
advertisement, as follows:

“To the person who shall grow the greatest quantity of
cinnamon or cloves, not less than twenty pounds weight,
in any part of his majesty’s dominions in the West Indies,
equal to those imported from the islands of the East
Indies;—*the Gold Medal, or Fifty Guineas.*”

“Satisfactory certificates from the governor of the

place of growth, with an account of the number of trees, their age, nearly the quantity of fruit on each tree, and the manner of culture, together with samples, to be produced on or before the first Tuesday of January, 1825."

I beg leave to address your excellency on the subject, and to lay before you the enclosed statement, in the hope that your excellency, after having ordered the examination of my spice plantations, will be pleased to grant to me the certificates required by the Society, so as to enable me to make application for the premiums offered.

I have the honour to be,

&c. &c.

FRANCIS LE CADRE.

To His Excellency Sir Ralph Woodford, Bart.

Governor, and Commander in Chief, &c. &c.

THE commissary of population is directed to make the examination requested, taking to assist him Mr. E. Davis, assistant-gardener of the colony, (in the absence of Mr. D. Lockhart), and Mr. J. Wilson, gardener to the Cabildo.

RALPH WOODFORD, *Governor.*

Trinidad, March 17, 1824.

STATEMENT of certain spice plantations made by, and belonging to, the subscriber, a planter in the quarter of Diego Martin, in the said island of Trinidad, drawn up

for the purpose of applying to the Society for the encouragement of Arts, for the premiums offered as follows :

“ To the person who shall grow the greatest quantity of cinnamon or cloves, not less than twenty pounds weight, in any part of his majesty’s dominions in the West Indies, equal to those imported from the islands of the East Indies;—*the Gold Medal, or Fifty Guineas.*”

“ Satisfactory certificates from the governor of the place of growth, with an account of the number of trees, their age, nearly the quantity of fruit on each tree, and the manner of culture, together with samples, to be produced on or before the first Tuesday of January, 1825.”

Cloves.

ONE hundred and nine trees, nine years growth, 15 inches in circumference.

Average produce of each tree, two pounds dried, which is the result of six pounds green.

And large nurseries of young plants from one to six and a half feet high.

This plantation having been commenced with no other view than the disposal of its produce in this island, was not planted with the regularity observed in the East Indies, cinnamon trees having been intermixed at five feet distance, with the clove, and the former being much larger than the latter, of course their growth was checked, and the produce lessened : but as this species of culture is now encouraged to the mother country, with views no doubt advantageous to the planter, the mode of planting pursued in the Moluccas will be adopted in this part of his majesty’s dominions.

Cinnamon.

ONE thousand trees, nine years growth, and large nurseries of young plants.

The former are planted as the clove trees, they are thirty-six inches in circumference, but they grow larger when planted separately, the subscriber having a few above forty inches in girth.

The cinnamon is thicker than that from Ceylon, but that which is made from the sprouts of the trees after they have been cut down at twelve or fifteen inches from the ground, is much thinner, and of a superior quality, as the subscriber has been convinced of, from a few trees he cut down about four years past; so that he has no doubt that the Trinidad cinnamon will be soon much improved.

The cinnamon now in this island is the produce of six young trees imported; three from the botanical garden of Martinico, and three from that of St. Vincent, sent to Governor Picton, as Ceylon cinnamon. Several thousand pounds weight of it have been already imported from Trinidad, and a few days past 3018 pounds weight were shipped for Gibraltar, for consumption in the Mediterranean.

The subscriber, agreeably to the advertisement of the Society for the encouragement of Arts, sends twenty pounds of his clove, and an equal quantity of cinnamon, in the hope that the Society will give him the premiums offered.

F. LE CADRE.

Trinidad, Commissary of Population's Office,

SIR,

April 14, 1824.

IN obedience to your excellency's commands upon the application of M. le Cadre, concerning the premium offered by the Society of Arts in London, for the cultivation of cinnamon and cloves in these parts of his majesty's dominions, I have the honour to report to your excellency that I repaired to the plantation of that gentleman, situated in the quarter of Diego Martin, accompanied by the colonial gardener and the gardener of the Board of Cabildo, and having particularly examined the same, we respectfully submit the following observations.

There are 109 clove trees in bearing, and upwards of 1000 cinnamon trees, with large nurseries of both, particularly of the former; those which are in bearing are about nine years old; they are both hard woods.

The clove almost produces its own nurseries, as the seeds take root merely by falling on the ground; if planted deeper it will perish. The clove at all times requires some, but while young it needs a very thick natural shade. M. le Cadre frequently tried artificial shade, but the seedlings always died under it. The plant is altogether the most delicate and difficult to raise that is known in this country. When ground is destined for a nursery, it should be carefully prepared by freeing it of roots and stones, and the bed should be raised a few inches to prevent the rains from washing away the earth from the roots of the young plants.

The transplantation may take place when the seedling is about nine months old, and about a foot or eighteen inches high; those I speak of are about ten feet asunder, having

a cinnamon tree between each, and shaded, as the cocoa is, with bois-immortel.

The cloves at M. le Cadre's having been partly planted on flat, and partly on rising ground, afford a strong proof that the latter situation best suits the plant, probably from its superior dryness, and the quick drainage of the rain water. The two plantations are not distant from each other; the soil is the same, about three parts strong loam and one part sand. The shade on the low land is closer, those on the hill are rather exposed to a northern aspect, not the most favourable in this country; the trees are all of the same age, about nine years, and yet the latter are nearly a fourth larger than the former, besides having foliage of a deeper green hue, and possessing altogether a more healthy appearance, being about twenty inches in girth at six feet from the ground, while those growing on the low land are about fifteen to sixteen inches round at the same height; they are about twenty feet high. Manure has not been used to any part of this plantation, nor would it perhaps be advantageous at any time, on the generality of soil in this new country, where, having been good when first put in cultivation, it is preserved from wearing out by the shade and the droppings of the leaves.

From what is above observed it is evident that the clove thrives best in a dry soil, and requires little more moisture than its shade furnishes and keeps up. For transplantation, in common with other plants, a moist season should be chosen; and of aspects, it is well known that in this country all vegetation thrives best upon that which is to the westward, and is sheltered from the trade wind.

Those clove-trees began to bear at seven years of age,

and produced the fruit in the month of February: it is picked in the month of March; but any left for seed remains, and continues to grow till the month of June, when it has greatly increased in size, and falls off ripe. It is so very delicate a germ that it should be sown as soon as possible, and not later than thirty-six hours after separation from the tree.

The produce of those trees is now about six pounds of green cloves, which dry up to about two pounds of merchantable cloves per tree per annum; but the quantity of fruit would probably be greater were it not for the closeness of the cinnamon tree, which likewise, by causing it to grow tall, puts much of the fruit out of sight, and renders the gathering difficult; that which is beyond the hand is snapped off in the cleft of a long stick.

I am unacquainted with the treatment of this plant in the Spice Islands, but from comparison with the cultivation of others under our daily inspection, as cocoa, coffee, &c. it does not appear that those here are under the most judicious system of propagation; in all countries we observe fruits are so trained as to grow as little as possible beyond the reach of the hand, and except in the greater degree of delicacy in the clove plant, it is highly probable its cultivation could be very much assimilated to that of coffee, which, when its vertical growth is checked, extends horizontally, and is in every part within reach for any purpose.

This remark cannot be applied to M. le Cadre, who had not the advantage of any precedent to guide his exertions, who, in the perseverance which was requisite in saving 109 out of above 4000 plants, has accomplished a very

important colonial object, and one which may be a leading feature in its future history.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Yours, &c.

EDMONSTONE HODGKINSON,

Commissary of Population,

Acting Surveyor-General.

His Excellency the Governor, &c. &c. &c.

THE Committee of Colonies and Trade having requested the opinions of dealers in spices, and of others conversant with the article, on the samples sent by M. le Cadre, were favoured with the following letters from Messrs. Tucker and Hunter, spice-brokers, and Mr. Jarman, warehouse-keeper of spices to the East India Company.

DEAR SIR,

39, Lime-street, March 11, 1825.

THE cloves, of which you sent us a sample, are very fine. We do not hesitate to say that they are superior to Bourbon, and, indeed, equal to Amboyna cloves in flavour, and nearly so in size. We have had many parcels through our hands of a similar description, the produce of Cayenne.

We never before saw a sample of cloves, the growth of a British colony in the West Indies; but, from the specimens now sent, we think that every encouragement ought to be held out for their extensive cultivation.

We are, Sir,

Yours, &c.

TUCKER and HUNTER.

Charles Copland, Esq.

2, James-street, Adelphi.

MY DEAR SIR, Leadenhall-street, April 12, 1825.

THE cloves you sent for my inspection are very fine. They are not so large nor so strong in flavour as Amboyna cloves (the best sort known), but are superior to the Bourbon clove, of which considerable quantities are annually sold in London.

I am, Sir,
&c. &c. &c.

WM. JARMAN.

W. Evans, Esq.

Chairman of the Committee of Colonies and Trade.

No. II.

EXTRACT OF MIMOSA BARK.

The GOLD CERES MEDAL was this session presented to Messrs. PETCHEY and WOOD, of Hobart Town, Van Dieman's Land, for making and importing five tons of Extract of Mimosa Bark, the growth of that colony.

CERTIFICATE.

I HEREBY certify to all whom it may concern that a certain liquid or extract, called the mimosa extract, made from the bark of the mimosa tree, the production of Van Dieman's Land, New South Wales, (fifteen hogsheads of which have been shipped by the manufacturers on board