

these being entered to 1875. A considerable quantity of rum was also distilled at the four factories of Abouxa, Magagah, Minieh, Mattai, and Erment, but as this was all consumed in the country, none of it figures in the Customs returns.

The export of *Natron* (muriate of soda) reached 16,485,296 okes (of 2½ pounds each) in the ten years, ranging from 1,684,190 okes in 1866 to 2,177,440 okes in 1875, with wide fluctuations in the interval. Italy and Austria were the chief markets for this article, the mean price of the two qualities of which averaged in Alexandria about 8 piastres per 60 okes. No *Salt* appears in the returns of the latter port, but about 4,000,000 quintals (worth roundly 40,000*l.*) are annually exported from Suez to Djedda, for the Hedjaz, Aden, and Bombay, with a ready market in all three for a much larger quantity, if the vast deposits of rock salt below Suez were adequately worked.

Up to 1872 the shipment of *Bones* had formed a considerable feature of this branch of Egyptian trade,—mummy bones contributing nearly as much as those of modern cattle to the yearly total of 10,000 tons sent chiefly to England. Since then, however, the pillage of tombs for this purpose has been prohibited, and the sugar refineries of the Daïra now consume as much of this article as can be legitimately collected. *Horns* have also dropped out of the list since 1871, during which and the preceding five years 830 bundles had been shipped, mostly to Italy, England, and France; but *Hides* yielded a steady annual supply of nearly 7,000 bales, for which Italy, Austria, France, and England were the chief customers in the order mentioned. Since 1869, *Flour* and *Bran* figure respectively for 98,320 and 108,297 sacks, most of the former of which was shipped to Syria and England, and the greater part of the latter to Italy. *Wool* was steadily exported

during the decade at a mean annual total of 5,334 bales, more than three-fourths of which went to England; and *Rags*, over and above the consumption of the Boulak paper mill, to the yearly extent of 16,036 bales, also for the greater part to the all-absorbing market of Great Britain. The export of *Dates*—with a total of 50,477 cases* for the ten years—increased from 1,285 cases in 1867 to 10,634 in 1874, the shipments of 1875 however falling off to 5,794. *Henna* similarly contributed 18,357 parcels, for which France was the principal customer, only forty parcels of the whole being taken by English buyers; and *wax* 5,907 cases—with an increase of from 561 in 1866 to 1,027 in 1875—nearly one-half of which went to Italy, and most of the remainder to Austria. *Saffron*, chiefly sent to Trieste, furnished an average yearly quota of 300 parcels, and *Opium* the small total of 101 (in very fluctuating annual quantities), divided almost equally between the English, French, and Austrian markets.

These and some minor articles constitute, as has been said, above nine-tenths of the whole exports from Egypt, what remains being shipped from the smaller ports of Damietta, Port Saïd, Suez, and Cossier, or sent through the land custom-house at El-Arish into Palestine. Souakim and Massowah also do a considerable share of the trade with Djedda and Yemen, but chiefly for produce of the Soudan and Abyssinia, and not much for that of Egypt proper. The principal exports from Damietta—whose returns rank next, at a vast distance, after those of Alexandria—are rice, dried fish, beans, dates, and linseed, which are mostly shipped coastwise to the Levant and the Greek

* As already remarked, from the imperfect manner in which the official returns of the whole of these articles have been made out, it is impossible to ascertain either their exact weight or their separate values, although the duty is supposed to be *ad valorem*.

Islands, to a round yearly total value of 550,000*l.* Cossier follows with an average of about 400,000*l.* Suez (since the virtual extinction of the transit trade) with less than half this amount; and Port Saïd with about as much, but promising rapidly to attain the second place.

Besides the commodities exported from these various outlets—which are nearly all products of Egypt proper—large quantities of other merchandise are brought by caravan, or by way of the Red Sea, from Nubia, the Soudan, Abyssinia, the Hedjaz, and Yemen, which are in great part exported to Europe, and so swell the gross trade returns of the year. The most important of these are coffee, ivory, mother-of-pearl, gum, skins, incense, wax, ostrich-feathers, tortoise-shell, senna, tamarinds, and other drugs. Cairo is the chief *entrepôt* for the whole of these—the delivery-port, so to speak, at which the fleets of the desert from Sennaar, Kordofan, Darfour, and the other remote southern provinces land their camel-borne cargoes. Already there has been a great development in this trade during the past dozen years, which cannot fail to be further largely stimulated by the Soudan railway and the effective opening of navigation on the Upper Nile. The present caravan traffic alone with these sub-tropical regions brings more than 1,000,000*l.* worth of various goods to Cairo annually, exclusive of the considerable quantities imported through Suez from Souakim and Massowah. Of the whole, 94,488 fards of *Coffee* were re-exported from Alexandria during the decennial period under notice, with a marked annual decline, however, since 1871, when the quantity was 13,428 fards against only 3,763 in 1875. For this article France and Austria were the chief markets, Great Britain ranking a low third. *Ivory* figures for 7,018 parcels (roundly worth £350,000), nine-tenths of which was taken by England; *Mother-of-pearl* for a mean an-

nual quota of 5,346 parcels, two-thirds of which went to Austria, and most of the remainder to England and France; *Gum-arabic* for 31,662 fards a year, taken chiefly by Great Britain, with Austria, France, and Italy ranking next as customers; *Incense* for a mean of 1,289 fards a year, with a great decline in the quantity since 1872; *Ostrich-feathers* for a similar average of 544 cases, of which France and England were the largest buyers; and *Senna* for a decennial total of 17,357 packages, shipped chiefly to Austria and Great Britain.

The sum of the whole export movement during each of the ten years ending 1875 may be thus tabulated:—

1866	£9,723,564	1871	£10,192,021
1867	8,623,974	1872	13,317,825
1868	8,094,974	1873	14,208,882
1869	9,089,866	1874	14,801,148
1870	8,680,702	1875	12,730,195

The significance of these returns is all the greater that they comprise little or none of the old transit trade, which now passes almost exclusively through the Suez Canal. Thus, raw silk fell from 5,147,770*l.* in 1871, to 48,572*l.* in 1875; Indian manufactured silk from 112,317*l.* to 20*l.*; tea from 157,342*l.* to 5,565*l.*; and indigo from 148,000*l.* to 50*l.* within the same period, and so with nearly all the Indian and Chinese produce formerly landed at Suez, and re-shipped at Alexandria, which added roundly 5,000,000*l.* a year to this side of the Egyptian Customs returns, without however paying anything but the cost of railway transport and the light transit dues.

Passing to *Imports*, we meet with similar evidence of a steadily improving trade during the period under review. But while the ratio of expansion on this side has been so much less as to leave a large and yearly growing balance of trade in favour of Egypt, the increase has still indi-

cated a greatly augmented consumption of articles of comfort and even luxury during the term, as is, in fact, shown by the appearance of a class of commodities in the later returns which had no place in those of fifteen or twenty years ago. The contrast between this side of the account and its figures formerly will be still more striking if the whole reign of the Khedive be compared with the preceding thirteen years;* but the movement of the decade ending September 10, 1875, will suffice to show practically the present condition of this branch of Egyptian trade. The figures, as before, exclude the transit traffic:

1866 ...	...£4,662,210	1871 ...	...£4,512,143
1867 ...	... 4,399,097	1872 ...	... 5,005,995
1868 ...	... 3,582,969	1873 ...	... 6,127,564
1869 ...	... 4,021,601	1874 ...	... 5,322,400
1870 ...	... 4,502,969	1875 ...	... 5,694,820

The chief articles for which Egypt thus pays to foreign markets roundly 5,500,000*l.* a year are manufactured cotton goods, silk, coal, charcoal, building materials, oil, wine, spirits, and machinery. Great Britain stands first as a source of supply for about 45 per cent. of the whole, Turkey and Syria next for about one-fifth, France for rather more than one-tenth, Austria for about a fifteenth, Italy for an eighteenth, and Barbary, Greece, Belgium, Russia, and Sweden for the small remainder in the order mentioned. Most of the madapolams, long cloths, grey T cloths, and cotton yarn are of course from Manchester, although both France and Austria now compete with us in price, if not in quality, for these articles. Nearly the whole of the large annual average of 500,000 tons of coal and coke is also furnished by England, while Turkey and Syria supply most of the considerable domestic consump-

* See Appendix No. 5 to Mr. Cave's Report.

tion of charcoal. Wood for building purposes comes from Italy, Austria, Sweden, and Turkey for a total annual value of about 350,000*l.*; stone of various kinds from Italy and Austria for about 150,000*l.* a year; oil—the better qualities from Italy, and the inferior from Barbary, Syria, and Greece—for about 160,000*l.* annually; wine and liquors from France, Italy, and Greece; silk, raw and manufactured, from France and Italy, for 220,000*l.*; and machinery from England and France for about 170,000*l.* Of other articles, tobacco and cigars reckon for about 130,000*l.* a year; various fruits for 160,000*l.*; provisions for 170,000*l.*; iron and other metals for 250,000*l.*; candles (nearly all from France and Belgium) for 60,000*l.*; hardware for 100,000*l.*; broadcloths for about 50,000*l.*; carpets for 70,000*l.*; paper for 60,000*l.*; and flour, strange to say, for nearly 30,000*l.** a year, from Trieste, Odessa, and Marseilles.

While, therefore, the imports of the decade ending 1875 exceeded those of the previous ten years by more than 15,600,000*l.*, they were 61,631,506*l.* less than the exports of the same period, which from 59,122,659*l.* in 1856–65, rose to 109,462,674*l.* in 1866–75, leaving, as has been said, a balance of trade in favour of Egypt which, during the latter half of the decade, exceeded an average of 7,500,000*l.* a year, or *more than twice the value of the whole exports from the country* during any but two years of the reign of Saïd Pasha. Of this, no doubt, a considerable portion returned to Europe in payment of the debt annuities, but the residue still represents an addition to the national wealth larger than half the entire revenue at the accession of the Khedive. Such a result supplies its own comment, and abundantly justifies the averment with

* These various amounts are, of course, merely approximate annual averages of the ten years' trade.

which this chapter opened—that whatever may be the temporary financial embarrassments of Egypt, they have had no part of their origin in any decline of her trade. The resources of the country were never in modern times more abundant, nor its commercial movements more healthily active than at this moment, when the market price of its unified debt is yielding an interest of 14 per cent.

As regards the Customs duties on this large aggregate of trade, these are regulated by the existing commercial treaties between the Porte and the foreign Powers, which fix the import duty at 8 per cent., and the export rate at 1 per cent. ; but under his new prerogative the Khedive can now negotiate his own tariffs ; and it is expected that those at present in force will shortly be readjusted in a manner which, while advantageous to revenue, will also benefit trade by a more equitable system of valuation than is now applied. Certain it is, too, that if the Egyptian Government is to keep faith with its creditors, it must be permitted to enforce the collection of its Customs revenue without the vexatious restrictions with which not a few of the foreign Consuls at present practically assist fraud at Alexandria.

CHAPTER IX.

AGRICULTURE.

This has always been the Staple Industry of Egypt—Its Present Principal Conditions—Land Tenure—Its Varieties and Chief Incidents—Extent of Land held under each—Their Respective Rent Charges—Large Taxable Reserve in the Tithe Lands—Labour Supply—Sufficient with certain Reforms—Wages—Water-supply wholly dependent on the Nile—"Good" and "Bad" Niles—How the Inundation is controlled—Sakkias, Shadoofs, and Taboots—Their Antiquity—Great Economy of Labor if they were replaced by Cheap Machinery—Methods of Cultivation still Rude—Cotton Culture—Capability of its Expansion—Cereals—Their Varieties and Yield—Non-Cereal Crops—Average Gross Value of Produce—With Improved Irrigation, Area of Cultivation may be Largely Increased.

ALTHOUGH anciently as famous for her manufactures as for her husbandry, in all modern time the latter alone has been the staple industry of Egypt. Her old skill in the productive arts, which once surpassed that of Sidon and Tyre, has long been forgotten, and in the almost complete absence of mineral resources, for more than three thousand years agriculture has been the chief support of her people and the main source of revenue to her Government. Before describing the methods and results of this great industry as at present carried on, it will be convenient to notice some of the principal conditions under which it is worked. These vary to some extent in different parts of the country, but they may be generally grouped under the four heads of—land tenure, rent, labour, and water-supply.

The first of these underwent but little change from the settlement made at the Arab conquest, which was the ordinary Moslem division of the conquered territory into