

COMMERCIAL VALUE.

Samples of the kernels were submitted to wholesale and retail firms in London and Liverpool, for opinion as to their quality and value. The reports indicated that kernels in the condition of the consignment, i.e. dusty and not completely blanched, would not be readily saleable, and in any case would realise only a comparatively low price, probably not more than £50 to £53 per ton, c.i.f. Liverpool (October, 1925). In order to render them suitable for food purposes they would have to be washed and dried, but this operation would not be undertaken by buyers in this country as supplies from other sources do not require this treatment. The intrinsic quality of the kernels was however considered to be excellent, and it was stated that if properly blanched and in clean condition they would be worth about £85 per ton c.i.f. Liverpool at the present time.

REMARKS.

These cashew kernels from Ceylon are of good quality but have not been completely blanched and are in a dusty condition. If these defects can be remedied the kernels should find a ready market in the United Kingdom at good prices.

A sample of cashew kernels as marketed in London is forwarded with this report for reference.

ROSELLE FIBRE.

The following report dated 30th October, 1925, on some Roselle Fibre forwarded by the Department of Agriculture Ceylon, has been received from Messrs. Wigglesworth & Co., Ltd., through the Crown Agents for the Colonies.

1. *Kuala Lumpur*.—The sample indicates a specimen of Jute, probably *Hibiscus cannibinus*, approximately 5 ft. long, indifferently prepared, which would be saleable at about £3 per ton below the price of Bimlipatam Jute as shipped from the Coast of Madras. The present inflated values of Jute would make this value, we think, at to-day's price about £50 per ton. On the average price for a series of years, we should not value it above £30 per ton. It would be quite saleable in large quantities on the Dundee market.

2. *Ceylon Fibre*.—This is a much better quality of fibre, approximately 6 ft. long, fairly well prepared, but barky in places, colour below the usual standard of Calcutta Jute, which it closely resembles, and we think approximately the price of so-called Bombay marks. At to-day's value this Jute would be worth £58 per ton, but to-day's prices are exorbitant on account of the scarcity of Jute. The quality would be saleable in large quantities to Jute spinners.

3. *Peradeniya*.—This is a sample of the class of fibre which is similar in appearance to China Jute *abutilon avicennae*. The fibre is rather stringy and insufficiently prepared. The value of similar material shipped in China is to-day £49 per ton.

In all the above valuations, prices should be discounted at least £20 per ton, to make adjustment for the present inflated values, which are not expected to continue.

The latter is rather less saleable than the two former varieties, but a market could be found for fair quantities of this running into several hundred tons.

We shall be glad to undertake the sale of any material of this nature sent forward.

Note.—The cost per acre of producing the last crop grown on the Experiment Station, Peradeniya, of 912 lbs. per acre was estimated at Rs. 190-52. The value of this crop at £49 per ton at Rs. 13-00 to £1 would be Rs. 259-00. The crop was a poor one.