

farm for testing Egyptian cotton growing. This Gaziera country between the two Niles is an ancient flood plain or delta formed by the two rivers at flood before the Shabluka Gorge was cut down to the present level.

The Sudan government is allowed to divert "flood water" July 15 to February 15 onto this land. They have a big steam plant now, but appropriations for a weir up the Blue Nile that will give the head for the whole region. A few years of experiment shows 500 to 800 pounds lint cotton to the acre produced at very low labor cost. The crop is planted *after* July 15 and as I saw it made a fine showing over very large tracts. With a great development, whether the same low priced labor conditions will prevail is, of course, the vital question. With the immense grazing areas in the back country, it looks as though stock feeding and cotton producing rotations might be developed that would keep up the quality of land and make this, as Khartum people claim, a second Nile delta, with cheap transit via Port Sudan and the Suez. If this proves true this country will become an enormous factor in the fine cotton problem of the world.

The Dongola province is the great date-producing region of Sudan, but they claim that all their important varieties come from the Succote country, a rather small section below Kerma, now in Halfa province for administration; that is the source for offshoots for purchase as the Dongola people will not sell but are increasing their area as fast as they can.

They have four important kinds: (1) Barakawa, a long, slender, very hard, dry date which comprises nine-tenths of all their trees. The fruit is said to keep two years and is largely sold to the desert tribes. (2) The Gondala is a smaller and softer date, yellow before ripening, which dries well, but is rich and softer, and sometimes sold in Cairo by special contract, a date well worth planting. (3) The Kulma or Kosha, a large brown date, soft and rich, reminding one of the Tafilelt, but with a good deal of tough rag, the most rare variety. (4) The Bentamouda, the prize of the lot, which will take place with the Deglet Noor and ahead of Menakher. Only men of consequence have a few trees of this variety and the fruit is kept for special festivities and for distinguished guests. These men do not sell their offshoots but they are highly esteemed gifts, though a few can be bought in Succote country, and a very reliable Shiek promises to get me a supply in February. I did not try getting in there, in fact, it is doubtful if they would have put me in, as a Camel Corps is being sent out now to form near Dongola to repel raiders from the back country armed with rifles