N I N D I.

Planting 5 feet by 5 feet one would get 2800 plants to the acre.

2800 plants, judging by a small experiment I made, should yield ½ ton of flowers.

Half a ton of flowers should give, say, IO lbs of oil. @60/- = £30.

40,000 lbs of flowers would be required to fill a 44 gall drum and that would be worth £I200..

Extracting the oil from 40,000 lbs of flowers would require 80 stillings.

Cost would not be more than IO/- a still, or £40.
Packing, transport and insurance would cost roughly £20 per drum.

To get half a ton of oil would require about 35 acres, but there is reason to believe that yields may be considerably heavier after, say, 5 years.

The above figures seem to me to rule out any idea, in any case at present, of Europeans being able to supply the market, but it could be done if we could get the Africans to take it up. If they were to supply large quantities we could afford to pay them 3d, or even 4d, per lb for flowers and take delivery at central village places.

The snag is to get the quantity, for we could not get 60/- per lb unless we could supply two, or more, tons of oil. For grain they do not get more than 2½d per lb and there is far more work in growing grain for the market than growing flowers for which they would get a sale on the spot.

There is an African Show arranged for the 24th May. It might be worth while giving a talk on the subject of NINDI.

Comparisons.

Grain - mealies or male - yields, Native grown, not more than 6 bags to the acre. That is worth about £I2.
The work to produce grain if heavier than to produce nindi flowers.

Coffee. The yield should be not less than 600 lbs to the acre and that should be worth about £I20. BUT - coffee, to be grown successfully, requires careful cultivation, pest control and fertilisers, also irrigation. Coffee growing keeps one continually occupied and even so crop failures are frequent through a variety of causes. Whereas Nindi only requires to be kept more or less weeded and free from fire. It can be propagated by seed or cuttings. It is very hardy and, so far as I know, does not suffer from disease. It yie;ds regularly with very little attention.

J. H. VENNING.
19/4/57

Nindi oil sent in May 1956.

We sent 22 lbs 10 ozs. @ 45/- = 50-18-1d
Less 5% (London charge) 2-10-10
48- 7- 3

Less other charges as in the previous year 10- 3
We should have received. £47-17- 0

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They say they received 21.9 lbs @ 45/- ∅ 49- 5- 6
less 5% 2- 9- 3
46-16- 3

Other charges must have been 16- 0
For the amount received was ~~£46-04-7/16ss~~ 46- 0- 3 local value £45-15-6

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Chilongolwelo sent 166 ozs
Chisungu sent 196
362 ozs.

Costs on consignment 362 ozs was
Freight Mbeya to London 5-9-0
Abercorn - Mbeya 5-6
Total costs 5-14-6

Costs on 362 ozs were 5-14- 6
so on 166 ozs are 2-12- 6) 5-14- 6
on 196 ozs : 3- 2- 0)

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362 ozs realosed 45-15- 6
on 166 : would be 20-19- 7)
: 196 : ; : 24-15-11) 45-15- 6

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Chilongolwelo share 20-19-7
less 2-12-6
£18- 7-1

Chisungu share 24-15-11
less 3- 2- 0
21-13-11

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Cheque A.H.G 18-7-1

: J.H.V 21-13-11
plus 2-12-6 which I paid
24- 5- 5

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What with the loss of 14 ozs and local and London costs all we got for the 22 lbs 10 ozs we sent was £45-15- 6
less 5 -14- 6
£40- 1- 0 Or 35/4 per lb.

The year before it worked out at 37/7