M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-32.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 420 — Press ~~Mis.~~

578 579

Dated 26-2-1862

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 26th February 1862.

No. 518. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 5th February 1862, No. 788:—

Read the following letter from A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., Collector of Cuddapah, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Chepauk, dated Budwail, 18th January 1862, No. 6.

SIR,

With reference to the Proceedings of the Madras Government, under date 29th October 1861, No. 2,069, and order of the Board, dated 1st November 1861, No. 5,995, I have the honor to inform you that I made local inquiry in the chief Cotton Táluqs of the District, with regard to the proposal to give a certain portion of land, rent free for five years, on the condition of Cotton being grown exclusively upon it, and I have ascertained that Cotton grown continuously on the same land for five years, would by no means prove a favorable experiment. The experienced cultivators allege that the produce of land sown continuously with Cotton would be much deteriorated, and that they consider it necessary to alternate the cultivation with a grain crop; even as it is, the indigenous Cotton, cultivated in land which yields a luxuriant grain crop, is a stunted and apparently degenerated plant, and that it would become more so if perennially cultivated on the same land and extracting the same constituent parts of the soil from it, can hardly be doubted; even in America, which has a climate and soil far better fitted than Cuddapah for Cotton cultivation, a rotation of crops, in which Cotton is cultivated only every second or third year, is found the most advantageous course in poorer soils and less favorable climates. I would beg to suggest, therefore, a modification of the rule which requires that the Cotton should be raised perennially from the same land, or else that a local prize should be granted to the exhibitor of a candy or 500 lbs. of the best seed Cotton grown in one field. A prize of Rupee 200 or Rupees 300 adjudged on the spot will have a greater effect in stimulating care in the cultivation and clean picking of the Cotton crop, than the knowledge of a larger prize to be adjudged elsewhere, in which the Cotton cultivators appear to take no interest, and for which they are unlikely to compete.

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1. The Collector has misinterpreted the orders of Government and the Board.

2. There is nothing in either that requires the cultivation to be pursued for five consecutive years on actually the same identical plot of land, if the Ryot has the means of shifting it, and thus securing a rotation of crops. All that is required is that the same individual shall cultivate the same extent of land with Cotton annually with due attention to the selection of the seed, and to the other conditions of the experiment laid down by Government.

3. The Collector will please to submit his matured views on the question of the prizes in a separate letter in due course.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON, *Secretary.*

No. 519. ORDER THEREON, 26th February 1862, No. 420.

Ordered to be recorded.

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,
Deputy Secretary to Government.

No. 788.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 5th February 1862.

Read the following letter from A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., Collector of Cuddapah, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Chepauk, dated Budwail, 18th January 1862, No. 6:—

With reference to the Proceedings of the Madras Government, under date 29th October 1861, No. 2,069, and order of the Board, dated 1st November 1861, No. 5,995, I have the honor to inform you that I made local inquiry in the chief Cotton Taluks of the District, with regard to the proposal to give a certain portion of land, rent free for 5 years, on the condition of Cotton being grown exclusively upon it, and I have ascertained that Cotton grown continuously on the same land for five years, would by no means prove a favorable experiment. The experienced cultivators allege that the produce of land sown continuously with Cotton would be much deteriorated, and that they consider it necessary to alternate the cultivation with a grain crop; even as it is, the indigenous Cotton, cultivated in land which yields a luxuriant grain crop, is a stunted and apparently degenerated plant, and that it would become more so if perennially cultivated on the same land and extracting the same constituent parts of the soil from it, can hardly be doubted; even in America, which has a climate and soil far better fitted than Cuddapah for Cotton cultivation, a rotation of crops, in which Cotton is cultivated only every second or third year, is found the most advantageous course in poorer soils and less favorable climates. I would beg to suggest, therefore, a modification of the rule which requires that the Cotton should be raised perennially from the same land, or else that a local prize should be granted to the exhibitor of a candy or 500 lbs. of the best seed Cotton, grown in one field. A prize of Rupees 200 or Rupees 300 adjudged on the spot will have a greater effect in stimulating care in the cultivation and clean picking of the Cotton crop, than the knowledge of a larger prize to be adjudged elsewhere, in which the Cotton cultivators appear to take no interest, and for which they are unlikely to compete.

1. The Collector has misinterpreted the orders of Government and the Board.

2. There is nothing in either that requires the cultivation to be pursued for five consecutive years on actually the same identical plot of land, if the Ryot has the means of shifting it, and thus securing a rotation of crops. All that is required is that the same individual shall cultivate the same extent of land with Cotton annually with due attention to the selection of the seed, and to the other conditions of the experiment laid down by Government.

3. The Collector will please to submit his matured views on the question of the prizes in a separate letter in due course.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

Secretary.

To A. Wedderburn, Esq., Collector of Cuddapah.

Copy to J. D. Sim, Esq., Secretary to Government, R. D.

Exd. J. Wright.

Pro. 29 Octr/61 nos 356. 357.

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Revr 1862. Department.
Pros of Govt for Febr

No. 1405.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

Dated 5th February 1862.
Dispd 11th Do
Rect 12th

No. 788.

Recording the Board's views on a letter from the Collector of Cuddapah regarding the proposal to give land rent free for 5 years on the condition of Cotton being grown exclusively upon it and calling on him to submit his matured views on the question of the prizes to be given to the Cotton Cultivators.

Vr. 518 & 519.

Nr. 420

Copies to Collr & Revenue Board 26th Feby 1862.

Collr 15th February Recd