M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-22

# MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

## Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 436 — Press / ~~Mis.~~

5268-5269

Dated 28-2-1862

**Not to be folded or roughly handled**

## *Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 28th February 1862.*

No. 548. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 23rd January 1862, No. 556 A:—

Read the following Abstract of the Replies of the several Collectors to the Board's Circular, No. 708, dated 8th February 1861, requesting to be informed whether Flax is grown to any material extent in any of the Districts, and what measures the Collectors would recommend for its encouragement, with reference to the Government Order in the Revenue Department,

In Cons. 2nd February 1861, No. 673.

No. 257, dated 1st February 1861, directing the Board to take such action as they may consider fitting, in respect of Mr. Cope's suggestion regarding the cultivation of Flax on the high lands of this Presidency.

GANJAM.
No. 61, dated 1st March 1861.

1. No Flax is grown in this District, but the Collector believes that it might be successfully cultivated in Goomsur, Sooradah, Purla Kimedy, and the Hill Zamíndárís, where experiments on a small scale might be made, if good foreign seed be procured. Any experiments for the present should, however, be postponed, as great efforts may be expected on the part of the Manchester Association for the cultivation of Cotton in India.

VIZAGAPATAM.
No. 237, dated 25th March 1861.

2. Flax is not grown in the low country, but is largely cultivated above the ghâts for its seed. The use of its fibre is also more or less known as the Gudabahs (a hill tribe) clothe their females in petticoats made of linen yarn. Beyond Galikondah there are plains 3,000 feet above the sea, very similar to the Mysore country, where it could be grown to any extent. Promises to report further on the subject, after his visit to Jeypoor and the hill tracts.

GODAVERY DISTRICT.
No. 33, dated 13th April 1861.

3. Flax is not grown in this District, but the Collector requests to be furnished with a small supply for experiment.

KISTNA DISTRICT.
No. 163, dated 28th June 1861.

4. In Fasli 1270, 385 acres of land paying an aggregate Sist of Rupees 780 were cultivated with Flax by the Ryots solely for feeding their cattle; oil is seldom extracted from the seed, and the value of the fibre does not appear to be known at all. The cultivation is so limited and the profit on it as now grown so much smaller than the profit derivable from the cultivation of wet or other dry grains, that the Collector does not see how it can be encouraged until it shown by actual experiment that it would be more profitable as grown for its fibre than as now for its seed.

NELLORE.
No. 168, dated 15th July 1861.

5. Flax is not grown to any extent in this District, nor has the Collector any measures to suggest for its encouragement, likely to be attended with success.

CUDDAPAH.
No. 50, dated 27th April 1861.

6. Flax is only cultivated to a small extent, along with other produce on account of its seed, which is generally used for feeding cattle, and sometimes for making oil. To encourage its growth a demand for it should be established, and such a price offered, as would make it more profitable for the cultivator to grow it rather than other crops.

BELLARY.
No. 106, dated 10th June 1861.

7. Flax is cultivated in about 98 acres of land in a few villages in the Táluq of Hindapur adjoining the territory of Mysore, and is used for the manufacture of gunnies. To encourage its growth it must be made clear to the Ryots that there would be a steady and profitable demand for it.

KURNOOL.
No. 80, dated 10th July 1861.

8. Neither the true Flax nor the San plant is grown anywhere in the District.

MADRAS.
No. 48, dated 22nd February 1861.

9. Flax is not grown in this District, the temperature of which being so much higher than that of Mysore would seem unsuited for that product.

NORTH ARCOT.
No. 133, dated 28th June 1861.

10. The culture of Flax is wholly unknown in this District, and the Collector thinks the climate is unsuited for its production; but,

as Mr. Cope seems to think that it can be successfully cultivated in the Mysore plateau, it might be worth while to try it on the Palmanair up-lands, which are however from 700 to 1,000 feet lower in elevation, and much more sparingly visited by the south-west monsoon, than the country further inland. Requests to be supplied with a small quantity of seed for experiment.

SOUTH ARCOT.
No. 159, dated 7th December 1861.

11. In Fasli 1270, 23 acres of land, bearing an aggregate assessment of 120 Rupees, were cultivated with flax, which is entirely used in the District for making gunny. Doubts that any encouragement from Government would lead to extended cultivation.

TANJORE.
No. 163, dated 19th June 1861

12. In Fasli 1270 about 223 acres of land assessed in the aggregate at 1,219 Rupees were cultivated with Flax, 155 acres of this extent being in the Kadarambam part of the Tritrapandi Táluq, where the soil being very poor the Flax is cultivated principally for the excellent manure its withered leaves and roots afford. The soil of the District generally is not particularly well adapted for the culture, the expenses attending which, together with the labour involved in the separation and preparation of the fibre, leave but a small margin of profit. Is not sanguine that there is much prospect of the cultivation being extended.

TRICHINOPOLY.
No. 43, dated 26th March 1861.

13. Is not grown in the District, and until some experiments shall have been made, the Collector can offer no opinion as to how its cultivation might be encouraged.

MADURA.
No. 61, dated 23rd February 1861.

14. Is not grown in the District, but if supplied with seed the Collector will try it in the upper and lower Palnis, and on the Serumalai Hills; the only places in the District where it would be likely to succeed.

TINNEVELLY.
No. 127, dated 1st May 1861.

15. In Fasli 1270, 263 acres were cultivated with Flax. The Collector is not prepared to propose any measure for its more extensive cultivation, as the supply is at present strictly limited to the demand for it from the gunny weavers resident in the District, for the manufacture of gunny and ropes.

COIMBATORE.
No. 117, dated 12th June 1861.

16. Is not grown, nor is it likely to succeed in any part of the District, excepting the Neilgherries, where it thrives, on good land. Forwards copy of a letter from Mr. McIvor in which it is stated that some of the specimens grown by him were forwarded to the late Doctor Royle in England, and where there valued at 28£ per ton, or nearly equal to the best Russian Flax. The high charge of carriage, the ignorance of the natives in the preparation of the fibre, and the difficulty of inducing them to cultivate a plant so little known to them as Flax, are mentioned by Mr. McIvor as drawbacks to its profitable cultivation on the Hills, where, he thinks, it will never be fully entered into as a branch of agriculture.

17. Mr. McIvor alludes to the superior quality of the fibre of the Neilgherry Nettle as commanding the high price of 45 to 50£ per ton in the rough state, and well worth the encouragement of Government for its cultivation. The Collector accordingly suggests that Government should offer a prize or premium of 100 Rupees for 1 cwt. of good Nettle fibre.

SALEM.
No. 113, dated 29th June 1861.

18. In Fasli 1270, 106 acres were cultivated with Flax. The demand for it is confined to the District, and the profit derived from its cultivation is 4 Rupees per acre, which is considerably below the profit usually derived from the cultivation of Raggi or Paddy. If higher prices could be given in the local market more Flax would be brought to it. There are no special impediments in the District tending to discourage the cultivation of the plant.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,*
*28th February* 1862.

NORTH CANARA.
No. 33, dated 8th April 1861.

19. Is not grown to any material extent, the soil being unsuitable for its culture.

SOUTH CANARA.
No 47, dated 15th April 1861.

20. Cast prejudices, and the exhausting nature of the crop prevent its cultivation by others than a few fishermen who use hemp for making their fishing nets and lines. The probable quantity of Flax produced in Fasli 1270 is estimated at 40½ maunds.

MALABAR.
No. 80, dated 17th April 1861.

21. Is not grown in any part of the District, but the Collector infers from the hemp being cultivated to a large extent in Shernad, Ernad, and Betutnad, that the Flax would thrive in well selected localities in the District, and requests that a supply of seed be forwarded to him for experiment.

22. Some seeds received by the Collector in March 1843 from the Secretary to the Agri-Horticultural Society was distributed in the District to Messrs. Brown, Baber, and Lancaster, for trial, but the only gentleman from whom Mr. Grant is now able to glean any information is Mr. Brown, who states that the seed did not germinate owing to its indifferent quality.

---

* Vizagapatam.
Godavery District.
Cuddapah.
Bellary.
South Arcot.
Tanjore.
Tinnevelly.
Salem.
North Canara.
South Canara.

1. It thus appears that Flax is cultivated in only ten Districts* of this Presidency, and but to a very limited extent in them.

2. In Vizagapatam it is cultivated chiefly as an oil seed, which is also the case to some extent in Cuddapah, where, as well as in Godavery District, it is used for feeding Cattle. In Vizagapatam, however, the use of its fibre in the manufacture of fabrics is not unknown, as the Collector states that the Gudabah females (a hill tribe) are clothed with a coarse linen of their own making.

3. In Bellary, South Arcot, and Tinnevelly gunnies are manufactured from its fibres.

4. In Tanjore it is prized for the excellent manure which it leaves and roots supply.

5. In South Canara its fibres are used for making fishing nets and lines, and probably the same use is made of it in the adjoining District of North Canara.

6. The Collector of Salem does not state the purposes to which it is applied in his District.

7. As regards suitability of soil for its production, the Collectors of Ganjam, Vizagapatam, North Arcot, Madura, Coimbatore, Salem and Malabar, are of opinion that the plant would grow well in parts of their District, but in this as in every other case, to induce the Ryots to engage in its cultivation, there must be a steady demand at remunerative rates in the local market.

8. As stated in the Abstract some specimens of Flax grown on the Neilgherries by Mr. McIvor were forwarded to England where they were valued "at 28£ per ton or nearly equal to the best Russian Flax," but certain drawbacks were anticipated by Mr. McIvor to its profitable cultivation by the natives. In Salem also the Collector states that there are no special impediments to the cultivation, but that the profit now derived from it is only 4 Rupees per acre, which is less than that obtained by the cultivation of other products.

Board's Proceedings, No. 3,230, dated 21st June 1861.
Collector's letter, „ 146, „ 9th July „
Board's Proceedings, „ 3,775, „ 16th „ „
Collr. of Salem's letter, „ 5, „ 4th in Cons: 11th January 1862, No. 90.
Board's letter to Mr. Shubrick, No. 144, dated 8th Jan. 1862.

9. With reference to the Neilgherry Nettle, alluded to by the Collector of Coimbatore, the Board have caused a specimen of the fibre to be prepared under the supervision of Mr. McIvor, which they have forwarded to the Local Committee for the Great Exhibition of 1862.

From Collector, No. 247, dated 30th September 1861.

10. The Collector of Madura was requested to report on the Nettle, which the Board understood grew luxuriantly on the Palni Hills, but from his reply it appears that it grows in only one small village, and that as the fibre has never been prepared in the District, he is unable to state what its cost would be.

## *Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 28th February* 1862.

Board's Official Memorandum, 29th April 1861.
From Secretary Agri-Horticultural Society, No. 2,803, 2nd May 1861.
Board's Proceedngs No. 2,927, 5th June 1861.
From Secy. Agri-Horticultural Society, No. 140, 8th October 1861,
Board's Proceedings, No. 5,858, 24th October 1861.

11. The Secretary to the Agri-Horticultural Society at Madras has offered to procure a supply of good English or Continental Flax seed for distribution in the Districts, and on receipt of his reply as to the probable cost, the Board will apply to Government for sanction to incur the expense. In the meantime a small quantity of Neilgherry, Bangalore, Irish and Punjaub grown seed has been received from the Society, and been distributed to the Collectors of Coimbatore, Salem and Madura for trial on the Hill ranges of their Districts; they will in due time report the res

From Secretary Agri-Horticultural Society, 10th July 1861.
Board's Proceedings, No. 3,658, 11th July 1861.
From Secretary Agri-Horticultural Society, 18th November 1861.
Board's Proceedings, 6th December 1861.
From Secretary Agri-Horticultural Society, 21st December 1861
Board's Proceedings, 24th December 1861.

The sanction of Government to the cost (Rupees 69-12-0) of procuring the Punjaub seed has already been solicited in the Board's Proceedings, No. 7,186, dated 24th December 1861.

(A true Extract,)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON, *Secretary*

---

No. 549. ORDER THEREON, 28th February 1862, No. 436.

1. Ordered that a copy of this report be furnished to Mr. Henry Cope, with refere his letter, dated 24th December 1860, and that it be laid on the Editor's Table.

2. The Board of Revenue will submit to Government in due course full reports results of the experimental cultivation of Flax.

3. With reference to paragraph 17 of the abstract of the replies of the several Colle and paragraph 7 of the Board's Proceedings, Mr. McIvor will be requested to furnish a full r on the Neilgherry Nettle, giving all particulars as to the mode of cultivation, produce per and mode of treatment for production of the fibre, &c.

(Signed) J. D. SIM,

*Secretary to Governme*

" Reverend J. R. Mactarlane, M. A., Secretary to the Agri-Horticultural Society.
" All Collectors.

Rev. 1862 Department
Proc. of Govt for February.
No. 328.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

Dated 23d January 1862
Despd 5 February —
Rec'd 6th —

From Ouchterlony Esq. dd
26th April/62 C No 1240 —
6 May 987
No 556 A

Proc of the Bd of R dd
1 May/62 C No 1345
26 May — No 1156
Recording the Board's observations on the reports of Collectors regarding the cultivation of flax in this Presidency

No 549 28th Feb.

Exd. J. Wright

Ordered that the Secretary should be made to write to the Reverend Mr. Cope, as to the Neilgherry letter — stating that the Board will be glad to receive any further communication he may have to make on the subject of the cultivation of flax in the Neilgherries.

Proceedings of Government, dated 24th December 1860, No. 3-4
Proceedings of the Board, dated 24th December 1860, No. 7299-301
Copy of a Letter from Mr. Cope, dated 2nd May 1862, No. 136.

13 February/62 N. R. Collectors

No 548 & 549 X

5. In South Canara its fibres are used for making [illegible] nets and lines, and pro[illegible] use is made of it in the adjoining District of North Canara.

6. The Collector of Salem does not state the purposes to which it is applied in his District.

7. As regards suitability of soil for its production, the Collectors of Ganjam, Vizagapatam, North Arcot, Madura, Coimbatore, Salem and Malabar, are of opinion that the plant would grow well in parts of their District, but in this as in every other case, to induce the Ryots to engage in its cultivation, there must be a steady demand at remunerative rates in the local market.

8. As stated in the Abstract some specimens of Flax grown on the Nilgiris by Mr. McIvor were forwarded to England where they were valued "at 28£ per ton or nearly equal to the best Russian Flax," but certain drawbacks were anticipated by Mr. McIvor to its profitable cultivation by the natives. In Salem also the Collector states that there are no special impediments to the cultivation, but that the profit now derived from it is only 4 Rupees per acre, which is less than that obtained by the cultivation of other products.

Board's Proceedings, No 3,230, dated 21st June 1861.
Collector's letter, „ 146, „ 9th July „
Board's Proceedings, „ 3,775, „ 16th „ „
Collr. of Salem's letter „ 5, „ 4th, in Cons. 11th January 1862, No. 90.
Board's letter to Mr. Shubrick, No. 144, dated 8th Jan. 1862.

9. With reference to the Nilgiri Nettle, alluded to by the Collector of Coimbatore, the Board have caused a specimen of the fibre to be prepared under the supervision of Mr. McIvor, which they have forwarded to the Local Committee for the Great Exhibition of 1862.