M.R.O. 1—77,006—8-6-37.

(1) Number of pages

(2) Date of repair

(3) Initials of the Referencer

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1625 Press / Mis.
112, 113

Dated 5-7- 1872

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, 5th July 1872.

No. 112. Read the following letter from the Assistant Secretary to the Government of India, Public Works Department, (Railway,) to the Secretary to the Government of Madras, Public Works Department, (Railway,) dated Simla, 13th June 1872, No. 794 G. R. :—

"I AM directed to forward, for information, copy of a communication from the Department of Agriculture, Revenue, and Commerce on the subject of the freight charged at present for the transport of Rhea fibre by rail, and to state that the Government of India will be glad if the Railway Companies will aid the development of the culture of Rhea by making the reduction of rate asked for.

2. I am to request that the rates agreed to by the Railway Companies may be reported to this office for communication to the Department of Agriculture, Revenue, and Commerce.

From Lieutenant-Colonel J. THELWALL, Staff Corps, to the Secretary to Government, Agricultural and Horticultural Department, dated Mussoorie, 1st June 1872.

I HAVE the honour to bring to your notice the very heavy, I may say prohibitory, rates at present charged by the Railway Companies for freight on Rhea fibre, and trust that you will kindly bring the same to the notice of Government, with a view to some arrangement being made by which the freight on Rhea fibre may be assimilated to that on cotton, jute, and other fibres.

2. The Railway Companies at present charge freight on Rhea fibre under Class No. 3, while jute and hemp in screwed bales are charged under Class No. 1.

3. There are special rates for cotton according to measurement, about 6-16ths of a pie per maund per mile being charged. Last month I forwarded to Messrs. Begg, Dunlop and Company, Calcutta, per rail from Saharanpoor to Howrah a consignment of 27 bales of screwed Rhea fibre, weighing 111 Maunds and 20 Seers, the freight charged on the above consignment by the Railway Company was Rupees 382-13-6 over £10 per ton. The rate for freight on a consignment of jute of same weight would be about Rupees 191.

4. The rate for a consignment of cotton of same weight would be Rupees 147-8-0.

5. The rate of freight of Rhea fibre per Steamer, *via* Suez Canal, from Calcutta to port of London, is only £3 per ton, so that at present the cost of sending Rhea fibre from Saharanpoor to Calcutta is three times the rate charged from Calcutta to London.

6. It would be impossible for the planter to ship Rhea fibre at a profit, while the present prohibitory rates for inland freight are charged, and I would respectfully suggest that similar rates be charged per ton on Rhea fibre irrespective of measurement as are at present charged on cotton. Trusting that Government will kindly give the subject their favourable consideration.

No. 116.

COPY forwarded to the Public Works Department with the request that if that Department sees no objection Indian Railway Companies may be moved to reduce the freight on Rhea to the same rates as those demanded for cotton.

By order,

(Signed) J. GEOGHEGAN,
Under Secy. to the Govt. of India.

SIMLA,
8th June 1872.

No. 113. ORDER THEREON, 5th July 1872, No. 1,625.

RAILWAY, No. 27.

COMMUNICATED to the Consulting Engineer who will move the Agents of the Madras Railways to agree to the conveyance of Rhea fibre over their lines on the same terms at which cotton is now carried.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, 5th July 1372.

2. Although "Rhea Stem" is rated in the 1st class in the Goods Classification of the Madras Railway, it is believed that no particular rate is provided by the Companies of this Presidency for the carriage of the *fibre*, owing no doubt to the undeveloped character of the traffic, but with the interest at present taken in the production of the plant, it is highly probable that its cultivation will become rapidly extended, and the Railway Companies are requested to aid the Government in the attainment of this desirable result.

2. The Consulting Engineer will report, for the information of the Government of India, the rate which the Railway Companies may decide on adopting.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) G. W. WALKER, Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Consulting Engineer for Railways.

Mussoorie 1st June 1871.

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To,

Allan Hume Esquire C.B.
Secretary to Government
Agricultural and Horticultural
Department.

Sir,

I have the honor to bring to your notice, the very heavy, I may say prohibitory rates, at present charged by the Railway Companies for freight on Rhea fibre, and trust that you will kindly bring the same to the notice of Government, with a view to some arrangement being made, by which the freight on Rhea fibre may be assimilated to that on Cotton, Jute, and other fibres.-

The Railway Companies at present charge freight on Rhea fibre under class No. 3 while Jute, and hemp in screwed bales are charged under class No. 1.-

There are special rates for cotton according to measurement, about 6/16 of a pie per maund per mile being charged. Last month I forwarded to Messrs. Begg Dunlop and Co., Calcutta per rail from Saharanpur to Howrah, a consign-

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of 27 bales of screwed Rhea fibre, weighing Mds 111 seers 20 the freight charged on the above consignment by the Railway Company was Rs 582--13--6 over £10 per ton. The rate for freight on a consignment of Jute of same weight would be about Rs 191-

The rate for a consignment of cotton of same weight would be Rs 147--8--0-

The rate of freight of Rhea fibre, per Steamer, via Suez Canal, from Calcutta to port of London is only £3 per ton, so that at present the cost of sending Rhea fibre from Saharanpur to Calcutta is three times the rate charged from Calcutta to London.

It would be impossible for the planter to ship Rhea fibre at a profit, while the present prohibitory rates for inland freight are charged, and I would respectfully suggest, that similar rates be charged per ton, on Rhea fibre irrespective of measurement as are at present charged on cotton. Trusting that Government will kindly give the subject their favorable consideration.

I have &c.
(Sd) J. Thelwall
Dt Colonel Staff corps
No

No 1625

Communicated to the Consulting Engineer who will move the Agents of the Madras Railways to agree to the conveyance of Rhea fibre over their lines on the same terms at which Cotton is now carried.

Although Rhea Stem is rated in the

1st Class in the Goods Classification of the Madras Railway it is believed that no particular rate is provided by the Companies of this Presidency for the carriage of the fibre, owing no doubt to the undeveloped character of the traffic, but with the interest at present taken in the production of the plant it is highly probable that its cultivation will become rapidly extended, and the Railway Companies are requested to aid the Government in the attainment

attainment of this desirable result.

The Consulting Engineer will report for the information of the Government of India the rate which the Railway Companies may decide on adopting.

To
The Consulting Engr
for Railways

Recd 10/7/72

C/4 3079

Govt. of {1872} Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS. ✓

To The Consulting Engr for Railways

Dated

Recd. Encl 1 ✓

G. O. 5th July 1872, No 1625.

Nos. 112 & 113

Rhea fibre - Letter from the Govt of India forwarding with remarks, copy of a communication on the subject of the freight charged at present for the transport of Rhea fibre by rail, Comd. to the Cons. Engr. ~~for~~ with instructions.