Revenue Department

No 318

Dated 14—3—1859

No. 53. Read the following Extract from the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 24th February 1859, No. 689.

Read letter from the Collector of Canara, dated 20th January 1859, No. 6, reporting on the Hemp collected in his District under the recent orders of Government.

(In Con. 31st January 1859, No. 379.)

Resolved that the foregoing letter from the Collector of Canara, be submitted for the information and orders of Government, with reference to Extract Minutes Consultation, Nos. 333 and 663 in the Revenue Department, dated respectively 7th April and 30th June 1857.

In Consultation 20th April 1857.
In Consultation 17th July 1857.

2. In the above recorded communication Mr. Fisher states that, notwithstanding the prices offered (as communicated to Government in Board's Proceedings, No. 2071, dated 17th June 1857,) for 10 tons of Hemp for exportation to the Home Government who had ordered the experiment on the suggestion of Dr. Royle, he has failed to obtain more than 104½ Maunds (or about 1¾ tons) of it from the various talooks in which it was grown—a loss of 60 Maunds more having been occasioned in the Soopah talook by the late disturbances in that part of the District. Out of the whole quantity collected, only 10 Maunds, 5½ lbs. are stated to be of the first sort.

1st sort..... *Rs.* 6 *per Md.*
2d do...... ,, 5 *do.*
3d do...... ,, 4 *do.*

3. The failure is attributed to the experiment having been made under the misapprehension that the extensive and unoccupied uplands in the Coast talooks were naturally suited to the cultivation of Hemp, and that the Ryots would engage largely in it if a steady demand for the fibre were but created.

4. It appears that fishermen are the only class who in these talooks grow Hemp, and their cultivation is limited merely to the supply of the fibre required for their nets and lines and is carried on in vegetable gardens highly manured and rented at exorbitant rates for this purpose. The Ryots generally are averse to the culture of Hemp; in some cases from caste prejudices, and in others from the belief that it not only impoverishes the soil on which it is grown, (which is known to be the case) but that it also injures the crops on adjoining fields.

5. Under these circumstances the Board fear that it will be useless to continue the experiment in the Coast talooks.

6. In the Soopah talook, however, from which the greater part of the 104½ Maunds was obtained notwithstanding the recent disturbances, Mr. Fisher states that the experiment is more likely to succeed, and he requests permission to purchase the whole of the 10 tons required from there alone.

7. The Board recommend that this course be adopted and that the Collector be further authorized to sell by public auction, as proposed, the produce already purchased and which is stated to be for the most part of inferior quality.

(A true Extract.)

(Signed) J. D. SIM, *Secretary.*

No. 54. ORDER THEREON, No. 318; dated 14th March 1859.

1. The course proposed in paras. 6 and 7 of these Proceedings, is sanctioned.

2. The Government believe that it has been found in England that if the waste matter is restored to the land as manure, the soil is not injured by the cultivation of hemp. The same will probably be found to be the case in this country.

3. Ordered that the circumstances now brought to notice by the Board of Revenue be communicated to the Home Authorities in reply to Despatch No. 1 of 1859; and in continuation of para. 1 of General Letter to England dated 3d August 1857, No. 28, R. D.

Dated 4th February, R. D.

(Signed) J. D. BOURDILLON,
Secretary to Government.

In Con. 31st January 1859, No. 379.

From W. FISHER, Esq., Collector of CANARA,

dated Mangalore 20th January 1859, No. 6.

With reference to Extract Proceedings Board of Revenue dated 20th April 1857, communicating Extract Minutes Consultation No. 333 under date 7th April 1857, I have the honor to report for their information, on the hemp fibre grown by the Ryots of this District for Government, in consequence of the offers made to purchase any quantity up to 10 tons weight, that might be brought in.

2. It seems to have been believed, that a steady demand for the hemp (Sunn) usually grown in this District would soon make it one of our staple products, though the plant was known to be cultivated for the most part by fishermen only, in order to obtain the fibre for their nets and lines.

3. The prices* offered for this article would apparently have proved sufficiently remunerative, under ordinary circumstances, to induce cultivators to produce the quantity of hemp called for; but it has been found, that along the coast all the cultivators of the soil have a great prejudice against this plant, and they could not be induced to grow it. Those who are not influenced by caste prejudices, think that growing Sunnub would impoverish their land, and even injure the crops growing in the neighbouring fields, and there is no instance of any portion of the small quantity of this fibre obtained from the coast talooks, being grown by any but Fishermen. It is I think a mistake to suppose that there are thousands of acres in this District suited to this plant, as has been before stated; for although it is undoubtedly grown by fishermen on uplands, of which there are thousands of acres unoccupied, the sites selected by these people for their little patches of Sunn, are always in the monsoon, vegetable gardens, to be found outside all large villages and coast towns. These patches are very highly manured, and the fishermen pay exorbitant rents for them, because the soil is so completely exhausted when one crop is taken, that it is useless for a year to come, during which period it must be fallow.

*1st sort Rupees 6 per maund.
2nd do. do. 5 do.
3rd do. do. 4 do,

4. As no Ryots, Christians, Hindoos, or Mahomedans, are willing to cultivate the Sunn plant in the coast talooks, and the fishermen do so under disadvantages, which make it very doubtful whether the prices paid to them are remunerative; and the quantity offered, notwithstanding the efforts made to obtain a supply of hemp, is so small, I think that in future I must look to Soopah alone, where there is no prejudice against this cultivation, and the prices offered for the fibre are more likely to be appreciated than in other localities, where a supply for domestic use is obtained under every disadvantage, as regards cheap culture.

5. The quantity of hemp received from the various Talooks only aggregates 104½ maunds. Of this, only 10 maunds 5½ lb. is first Class, and indeed the greater part of the investment is very inferior.

6. This is owing however to particular circumstances. As I have already observed, the greater part of the hemp bought up has been furnished by Soopah Ryots, but the late disturbances in that part of the District, made it impossible to collect it from them, and led to the loss and destruction of a considerable *portion of the investment.

*60 Maunds.

7. The experiment now made, has certainly failed, partly from its being made under the mistaken idea that the Pyenghat land-owners would take up the cultivation of Sunn, and partly from difficulties in Soopah which had no connexion whatever with the cultivation of the plant, and will not operate against a second experiment, if made.

8. I would propose therefore, that permission be accorded me to purchase Soopah fibre to the extent of ten tons weight, and that I be authorized to dispose of what has been already collected, by public auction, the quantity being insignificant, and the quality of the greater part of the fibre inferior.

No 53454 — Govt 16th March 1859

D 318/59

Rev Dept 3

No 318.

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation
Under date the 14th March 1859.

Read the following Extract from
the Proceedings of the Board of
Revenue.

Revenue 24 Feb 1859 No 689

1 The course proposed in Paras.
6. and 7 of these Proceedings is
sanctioned

2. The Govt believe that it has
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3. Ordered that the circum-
stances now brought to notice
by the Board of Revenue
be communicated to the
Home Authorities in reply
to Dep No 1 of 1859; and

4/4 Feb. R.D

in continuation of P. 1

P Genl. Letter D England 87

3 Aug 1852. No 28. R.D.

W.R

March 5.

Rec'd to the Sec'y of War

March 15

Revenue 1859 Dept.
Dy. to Cons: 15th March

No. 318.
Extract Minis: of Cons
Dy 14th March 59.

Authorizing the Coll.r of Canara to purchase the whole of the 10 tons of Hemp required from Soopah Talook only and also to sell by public auction the Canty produce already purchased. and observing that it has been found im-

Po. of the Bd. of Rev. Dy.
2d Feby 1860. Cw. 270 in Cons.

48-9
30-6-57
46
7-4-57

No 53 & 54.