M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-23

ADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 2147	Press Mis.
120 – 121	
Dated 11 – 11 –	18 61.

ot to be folded or roughly handled

No. 120. Read the following letter from E. B. THOMAS, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Ootacamund, 20th August 1861 :—

SIR,

1. As the subject is of public interest and one on which all information however slight is useful, I take the liberty to offer a few remarks on Cotton, the result of some years' observation and experience.

2. There is nothing in our chief Cotton Districts to hinder a large area of Cotton cultivation ; the soils fit for it are lightly taxed, with perfect freedom of cultivation, the tax being on the soil, not on the crop. A steady market at *hand* with fair prices and permanent demand, would command any *quantity* of *native* cotton ; its cleanliness and purity on reaching the market, would depend much on European superintendence. The *quantity* of *this sort* of Cotton might be almost unlimited. The *quality*, is, I fear, a matter of more doubt. The native Cotton, even the best, is short in fibre, *strong*, but not long ; it is for the manufacturers at Home to say if *such* cotton will suit their looms. I fear not, their machinery would have to be altered for working up the short fibre, and such cotton would only do for the coarse fabrics.

3. The question is, can foreign Cotton, the American and other, be introduced. I think it can, partially, but not generally ; the fibre I suspect depends on *climate* as much as on *soil* and cultivation, the former is more difficult to command than the latter.

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So far back as 1850, I observed in writing to Government on Dr. Wight's Cotton Farm, "that speaking from some years' "experience and observation, I do not myself think that "the New Orleans or American Cotton can or ever will be "grown *extensively* or profitably apart from the aid and "influence either of the sea air, as in Tinnevelly, or the "extra moisture of the South-west monsoon."

The foreign plant requires probably some moisture in the atmosphere and some saline air to produce the long fine staple. Our sea-board Districts would probably answer best, not inland. The (black) "Cotton soil" so called, does *not* suit the foreign seed, it thrives better on the red and sandy soils. Of these there are plenty, and a large area of foreign Cotton might be grown, if *the climate* does not prevent ; but this is India's *opportunity*, and full and fair trial should be made at once, and by Government perhaps at first, to some extent, *private* capital and enterprize will soon step in, if it can be *shown* that the required *sort* can be grown.

4. To prove and test *this*, Government should and may assist by importations of fresh seeds, and by stimulating experiments in many localities to test this point, not small garden experiments, but moderately large ones, say 5 or 10 acres each, if 5 acres of *good cotton* can be produced in any locality, much more can also be. Liberal prizes to stimulate private experiment may be safely and wisely given for 5, 10, 20 *bales* (not less) of good Cotton. The microscope, without much skill or experience being necessary, will generally test its value, length *of fibre* being, I believe, *the chief* desideratum. Irrigation would not *pay* nor (happily) does it seem required, it forces leaves only, not pods on the Cotton plant ; like many other productions, the better foreign cottons may no doubt be *acclimatized*, if they don't succeed at once ; with land abundant and lightly assessed free labor, cheap rail, and good roads, India *ought* at least *to share* the Cotton market with America.

I beg also to refer to my letter to Revenue Board, 19th April 1861, No. 78.

No. 121. ORDER THEREON, 11th November 1861, No. 2,147.

Recorded with reference to G. O. 29th October 1861, No. 2,069.

(Signed) J. D. SIM,

Secretary to Government.

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4. To prove and test this Government should and may assist by importations of fresh seeds, and by stimulating experiments in many localities, to test this point- not small garden experiments, but moderately large ones- say 5 or 10 Acres each- if 5 Bales of good Cotton can be produced in any locality much more can also be- liberal prizes, to stimulate private experiments, may be usefully and wisely given, for 5. 10. 20 Bales (not less) of good Cotton- The microscope, without much skill or experience being necessary will generally test its value- length of fibre being I believe the chief desideratum- Irrigation would not pay nor (happily) does it seem required- it forces leaves only, not pods on the Cotton plant- like many other productions the better foreign Cottons may undoubtedly be acclimatized, if they dont succeed at once with land abundant, and lightly assessed- free labor cheap- Rail and good Roads, India ought at least to share the Cotton market with-

Beg a Letter for Colony to Revenue Board 7th April 1861

Mr Thomas
on Cotton

Dept 1861 Department
Bureau of Pat[ents] for November
No 2106

From the Coll[ector] of Cumberland

Date 20th Aug[ust] 1861
Received 3rd Septr [illegible]

Submitting a few
Short Petition & Regarding
the Cultivation of Cotton

No 2147.
Recorded with
reference to [illegible] &c.
29 October 1861
No 2609.
[illegible]

No 120 & 121.

C 4 Sept Rec[d]

I D S

Cumberland Pennsylvania
Sir
I have the honor to enclose
to you Petition of the Citizens
of this place
praying for the
Cultivation of
Cotton