

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 976

Press
~~Mis.~~

508.509

Dated

30. 4. 18 61.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
30th April 1861.*

No. 508. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 17th April 1861, No. 1,991.

Read the following letter from B. CUNLIFFE, Esq., Collector of Madras, to J. D. SIM, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Chepauk, dated Saidapet, 6th April 1861, No. 90.

SIR,

1. I have the honor to forward, for submission to Government, if the Board approve, copy of a letter together with original enclosure from Captain Templer at Chingleput, on the subject of the cultivation of Egyptian Cotton, which by his account has been taken up in a slight degree by certain Ryots in the neighbourhood of that town.

To Board, 2nd March 1860, No. 62.	2. An experiment of the same kind by Mr. Shubrick
From do. 9th do. " " 1,214.	in the Rosham Bhag was discussed in the letters noted
From do. 23rd April " " 1,978.	marginally.
To do. 11th July " " 249.	
From do. 20th Sept. " " 4,271.	

3. Further than advising, Captain Templer to impound cattle found trespassing on his land at Vendalur, I fear that nothing can be done to render him assistance, though I will write to the Monigar on the subject, as Captain Templer's endeavours to extend the growth of the Cotton, deserve every encouragement.

4. Nothing is said in his letter on the point of the crop requiring irrigation, a question which, the Board will remember, I thought it right to bring to their notice, and from the Rosham Bhag experiment to decide in the affirmative. Captain Templer himself told me subsequently that the plants, from which his exhibition Cotton was obtained, were watered every other day. The trial, however, which he proposes to make will settle that matter satisfactorily.

From Captain F. TEMPLER, European Veterans, to B. CUNLIFFE, Esq., Collector of Madras, dated Chingleput, 1st April 1861.

SIR,

1. As some notice was taken of the specimen of Egyptian* Cotton grown by me in the Chingleput District from Cairo seed, and as I have been asked by Doctor Montgomery to give some account of the plant (information which, from my slight knowledge of its culture, I am myself unable to furnish), perhaps the accompanying Extract from the *Evening Mail*, dated January 21st to January 23rd 1861, sent me by a friend to whom I forwarded some of the pods of the Egyptian Cotton, may prove interesting.

2. In forwarding this extract, I have much pleasure in being able to state that the natives of the District are commencing to cultivate it in small quantities.

3. Assistant Surgeon Shortt, who as well as myself, has visited the topos in which this Cotton is cultivated, says in a letter to the *Madras Times*, dated 27th March 1861:—

“There are in Chingleput ten or twelve Betel gardens each on an average containing upwards of 500 plants, so that within an area of two miles there are at present from 5,000 to 6,000 Cotton plants growing in health and vigour.”

4. These trees are the produce of seed which I, two years ago, freely distributed.

5. The seed was given me by Monsieur Brün of Pondicherri, who got it direct from Cairo.

6. At Vendalur in this District, I planted upwards of 200 trees on trial, all of which were, in my absence, destroyed by village cattle. This prevented my extending the cultivation, as I had gone to some expense and was afraid to risk money and labour on what, under the circumstances, was likely to prove a fruitless attempt.

7. Seeing, however, that there is some little interest taken in the cultivation by the native cultivators, I intend making another trial; planting three or four cawnies, watering one portion well, another portion moderately, giving little or no assistance to a third.

8. All shall be planted in natural soil free from manure.

* Exhibited through the Collector of Chingleput at the Madras Exhibition, 1858, 100 Rupees reward.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
30th April 1861.*

9. From the quality of plants now thriving in the District, I hope to succeed, and as there is, at some distant period, a fair chance of the Cotton becoming an article of commerce, I trust you will, with all respect, lay this my letter before Government, together with *Evening Mail* extract, attached, and in so doing, I trust that Vendalur villagers may be instructed to keep their cattle off the ground and in every manner to respect the property more than they have done.

10. Next year I hope to be enabled to report favorably.

11. I will distribute seed to the cultivators round Vendalur and endeavour to persuade them to make a trial.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) B. CUNLIFFE, *Collector.*

1. Submitted to Government as requested by Captain Templer.

2. The Board beg to be made acquainted with the result of Captain Templer's present experiment.

(True Copies and Extract.)

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

No. 509.

ORDER THEREON, 30th April 1861, No. 976.

Ordered to be recorded.

(Signed) J. D. BOURDILLON,

Secretary to Government.

EGYPTIAN COTTON.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EVENING MAIL.

Sir,—In your paper of Wednesday last, when speaking of the rapid growth of the cotton trade in America, which now yields the United States a revenue of fully 40,000,000*l.* a-year, you remark that “seven short years sufficed to raise the produce of cotton in America from 500*lb.* to 18,000,000*lb.*—from a single bale to 36,000 bales.”

Yet this rapid growth of the American cotton trade at its commencement, however wonderful, was far surpassed by that of the Egyptian trade in Ethiopian cotton, as will be seen from the following extract from a pamphlet published 20 years ago by the late Mr. George R. Gliddon, United States' Consul at Cairo:—

“A Turkish officer named Mahd Bey, who had been Governor of Dongola and Sennaar, and who had brought down various seeds of Ethiopic plants, which he cultivated in his garden at Cairo, about the year 1820 received a friendly visit from M. Jumel (a Frenchman well known in New York, where he resided some years), and in the course of his hospitalities Mahd Bey took him round the garden. The attention of Jumel was attracted by the appearance of a tree bearing cotton pods, the growth and produce of which were equally new to him; but, without saying anything which might raise Mahd Bey's suspicions as to the value of the discovery, Jumel gleaned all the information the Bey possessed on the subject, and procured from him some seeds of the same plant. Jumel made his calculations, and presented to the Pasha a project for increasing his revenues, for which he asked 20,000 dollars. The Pasha consented, if the scheme should succeed. But after many delays Jumel was compelled to seek less brilliant but more solid results. Associating himself with a Cairo merchant, they took a small lot of ground at the village of Matereyah, near the Obed of Helopolis, and commenced a small plantation. The produce in 1820 was three bales, which were shipped to Trieste (or, according to another account, to Marseilles), and the advices were highly satisfactory. New arrangements were made. Jumel took the direction of the cotton plantations, which at this time were established, on the Pasha's account, throughout lower Egypt, and buoyed up with magnificent illusions of personal benefit, he brought large territories into cultivation, continuing for three years these operations. The time came, however, when having brought to the Pasha a mighty increase of revenue, and having thereby mainly contributed to his subsequent aggrandisement, Jumel sought to realize his long cherished hopes; but, partaking the lot of most of those Europeans who have served Mehemet Ali with fidelity, he was flattered, harassed, and deluded, till in 1824 he died insolvent, or little better. To wind up the tale, after a lapse of a couple of years, his widow presented herself to claim from the Pasha's bounty the tribute due in gratitude, as she thought, to the memory of her husband; but she was unsuccessful and returned to America. Of Jumel it has been endeavoured even to suppress the memory; for the cotton which, in homage to the discoverer, at first bore his name, was afterwards changed to that of Mahd, the person in whose garden the first plant was found; and Mehemet Ali's confidential Minister has been heard to rejoice in the spoliation with which he had thus sacrificed to Turkish conceit and consummated a new act of injustice. The year 1822 produced about 30,000 cantars of the Jumel cotton, the staple of which was remarkably fine, but more unequal and less clean than that of the ensuing years. Rude presses were constructed for packing the cotton at the villages, but as the machinery was defective some of the Alexandrian merchants brought hydraulic presses, with which they caused the bales to be pressed against the respective ships.”

Without following Mr. Gliddon into further details, I will merely add that the cultivation of Ethiopian cotton increased so rapidly in Egypt that in the year 1824 the quantity exported, being the growth of the preceding year (1823), amounted to 148,276 bales, of 219*lb.* each, which, at the Government price of that year, \$15 1-3 per cantar, represented no less a sum than 845,479*l.* sterling.

CHARLES BEKE.

Dekesburne, near Canterbury, Jan. 19.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue:—

Submitting a letter from the Collector of Madras,
 forwarding one from Captain Templer at
 Chingleput, relative to the cultivation of
 Egyptian Cotton. (Here enter 17th April 1861, No. 1,991.)

ORDER THEREON, 4th May 1861, No. 992.

Ordered to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

Secretary to Government.

Exd. R. H. Lee.

considerable quantity of seed wheat to be got well in on the
 lands, but the clays were not so fortunate, and we
 try to say a large breadth of land remains unsown.
 This remark applies to parts of Scotland. Farmers have
 unusual difficulty in providing themselves with seed
 ; and we fear the nature of much of it will not stand
 vicissitudes of an unpropitious winter or spring.
 We fearlessly assert our belief that the last crop of
 wheat was, all things considered, the worst we have seen
 in 25 years. It has neither colour, strength, condition,
 nor bulk, with some portion blighted and mildewed.
 The best runs are reported to make but an indifferent
 of flour, and the worst samples are only fit for cattle
 feed. The weights vary from 54lb. to 60lb. per bushel,
 and we hear of occasional samples as light as 50lb. and
 as low as 42lb. We estimate the English crop as deficient
 in average weight, as compared with an average season,
 58lb. per bushel, and with the fine harvests of '56, '57,
 about 61lb. per bushel. This difference in average
 weight represents a loss of nearly one million quarters;
 when we allow the further fair deductions for
 extra quantities of moisture and bran, as well
 as the loss breadth of land under wheat, which was the
 consequence of the wet autumn in 1859, we are of opinion we
 estimate the last crop at fully one-fourth deficient of
 average yield in flour, and which deficiency we set down
 at 4,000,000 qrs. If, then, during the last four years
 we and plenty we have had an average annual import
 into the United Kingdom of 5,000,000 qrs. of wheat
 our, and had little left at the time of the last harvest, we
 certainly now require 8,000,000 qrs. to keep us in the
 position, even bearing in mind that should our next
 crop be at the usual period we shall only have to provide
 out ten months' consumption, inasmuch as we began
 our last six weeks later than usual. 1860 opened with an
 average weekly price of 44s. 2d., and closed with
 48s. The highest was 62s. 11d., the lowest 43s. 6d. The
 aggregate average was 53s. 1d. Foreign stock on
 hand is unusually large here and at some of the outports.
 As regards barley, in England the breadth of land sown
 decidedly large, but this crop has suffered equally with
 wheat, and much of it is unfit for maltsters' use, in
 consequence of its being so dreadfully weathered, thin, and
 to the bushel, the weights varying from 46lb. to 52lb.,
 an occasional sample of 53lb. In Scotland the crop
 good, though not so fine as that of the previous year.
 Of oats there was more than the usual breadth of land
 sown in England and Scotland, while in Ireland there
 was a deficiency. Had the weather at harvest been
 as it is, we have the finest crops grown since many
 years; as it is, we have the worst in England we recollect
 to have seen, the weights varying from 23lb. to 45lb. per
 bushel, while those of Scotland and Ireland are an average
 in quality and quantity, though rather light in
 it.
 Beans and peas are both wretched crops, and some of
 the former were yet on the fields at the middle of Decem-
 ber.
 Potatoes in England are as bad as at the worst previous
 year, viz., 1846; in Scotland good, and in Ireland much
 better than was expected during the period of the continued
 drought. The French and Belgian crops decidedly bad; Ger-
 man pretty good.
 The railway-market experienced another severe
 shock this morning owing to a pressure of sales,
 very speculative. Midland, Lancashire and
 Yorkshire and South-Eastern were especially
 affected. Prices of these stocks having been for
 some time raised by withdrawals on borrowed
 money. Towards the close a rally occurred, but
 chiefly from purchases to cover previous opera-
 tions for a fall. The closing quotations of London
 North-Western, Great Western, South-Western,
 British, Caledonian, Great Northern, South-
 ern, and Eastern Counties show a decline of 1
 per cent., while other stocks remain nearly the

No. 1,991.

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2. An experiment of the same kind by Mr. Shubrick in the Rosham Bhag was discussed in the letters noted marginally.

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ENCLOSURE No. 1.

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(Signed) B. CUNLIFFE, *Collector.*

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2. The Board beg to be made acquainted with the result of Captain Templer's present experiment.

Edmund

Secretary.

Copy to B. Cunliffe, Esq., Collector of Madras.

Exd. J. Wright.

Printed / 50 No. 26-27
3 May - 40-41
W. L. Ray - 68-69
L. C. Weston - 44-45

Virginia 1861-1862
 Mary of Virginia 1860.

Proceedings of the
Board of Trustees

Dated 17th April 1851
 Decd 28th
 Recd 2nd
 11/1
 End - 1-

1899

Submitting as this
from the Editor of
Providence for our acting
one of our Camp & Temple
at Ching's Temple to relate
to the cultivation of
Egyptian Cotton.

1097.6

Order to the Secretary
of the Treasury
to pay to the order of the
Secretary of the Treasury
the sum of \$100,000
for the purchase of
the bonds of the
United States
for the year 1861