M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-22.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue—DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1928	Press / Mis.
153 · 154	
Dated 10 - 09 - 1862	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 10th September 1862.

Read the following papers:—

No. 153. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 26th August 1862.

Read Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, dated 17th June 1862, No. 1,327, stating that the letter from the Collector of Cuddapah will be sent to the Interim Secretary, Cotton Supply Association, Manchester, after it has been revised and returned by the Board.

(In Cons. 18th June 1862, No. 3,757.)

Ordered that the letter as revised, be returned to Government, for the purpose of being forwarded to the Cotton Supply Association, with the samples of Cotton and cloth, received from the Collector.

(A true Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON, *Secretary.*

From A. WEDDERBURN, Esq, Collector of Cuddapah, to S. O. SUTTON, Esq., Interim Secretary, Cotton Supply Association, 1 Newall's Buildings, Manchester, dated on circuit at Muddenpully, 31st May 1862, No. 286.

SIR,

I have the honor to append replies to the queries proposed in your printed Circular of December* 1861, forwarded with your letter dated 20th November 1861.

* No date entered

I. Indigenous Cotton is cultivated in Cuddapah District. It goes by the name of "Madras Western."

II. There is but one kind, the indigenous, at present cultivated for sale.

III. American Cotton has not been cultivated to any extent. It has been only tried as an experiment in this District.

IV. There are 26,353† acres in cultivation at the time of writing. The yield per acre is estimated on an average at lbs. 200 of seed Cotton, so the total would be about lbs. 52,70,600.

† Vide Statement of Cotton and Indigo cultivation for February 1862, published by the Board of Revenue.

V. Cannot be answered, from want of data.

VI. Soil various. In the western division 500 and 700 feet above sea level, it is an alluvial deposit of various depth, above lime-stone. Nodular lime stone near surface. Further east—ditto and iron stone. In the centre, near the Pennar river, it is a sandy loam; further from it, clay over Nodular lime stone. The southern division—table land, elevation from 1,000 to 2,000 feet above the sea, is gravelly light soil, and debris of granite and igneous rock. The eastern—vallies containing divers soils of various richness. All the best land is under cultivation. There is much waste, salt and barren, unfit for cultivation. The district is traversed by hills, and shut off from sea breeze. The climate is very hot and dry, the rain fall except in exceptional season, being under 30 inches per annum.

VII. Irrigation is employed for grain crops and Sugar Cane. It is not employed for the indigenous Cotton. If employed sparingly for indigenous, on the usual alluvium on which it is grown, it might be advantageous. The experiment has not been tried. It is expensive, and the water is required for food-yielding crops. When the Madras Irrigation Company's Canal reaches the Cotton grounds of Cuddapah, if the charge for water be moderate, it is likely that the production of Cotton would be improved, that is, if the water were sold by quantity, and not charged on acreage, for Cotton would not require full irrigation. Irrigation by wells, that is, water raised from depths by the labor of bullocks, is too expensive to be used for Cotton.

VIII. It is estimated that 50 lbs. of clean indigenous Cotton are the average produce per acre. The extension of its cultivation would depend on the price of the article.

IX. Judging by the extension of Indigo cultivation, I would expect a similar rise in prices to be attended with a similar extension of Cotton cultivation.

X I know of no obstacles to the cultivation of indigenous Cotton; but for American and Egyptian, the climate is unfavorable, unless mitigated by irrigation.

XI. There is a large consumption of Cotton for Native coarse cloths. Taking the population at 10,59,102, and allowing on an average eight cloths per annum to 7,94,326 individuals excluding children, and one lb. for each cloth, the local consumption would amount to about 63,00,000 lbs. The quantity available for export depends a good deal on the prices offered. If Cotton is dull, less will be exported, and the poorer Natives will get their cloths cheaper. The higher classes wear English long cloth; and cloth woven from English yarn is also used to a considerable extent.

XII. Native merchants only at present buy Cotton for sale at Madras. Their agency is not recommended, as they do not discriminate between the qualities or cleanness of Cotton; and it is very difficult to impress the necessity or expediency of any improvements on them. The chief sellers of Cotton are the growers themselves, who at the slack time of cultivation, cart the Cotton to Madras, and sell it there. I think the Madras mercantile houses would be the best agency for the purchase of Cotton, as they could depute persons at the sowing and packing seasons to give directions, and buy it on the spot. They would not be able to cart it as cheaply as the cultivators themselves, who drive their own carts and cattle; but when the Railway is extended to Cuddapah this objection will be removed.

XIII. The average price of indigenous Cotton at the place of growth was 3¾*d.* per lb in February last, it is now probably a little higher.

XIV. Carts conveying three loosely packed bales, weighing together about 1,500 lbs. are the means of conveyance. The average hire of a cart is £2. The distance to be traversed 200 miles more or less. The main road is in fair order and is being bridged for the Cotton traffic.

XV. If the Natives were convinced that a better seed produced a better crop, they would avail themselves of it. They do attend in some measure to the selection of good seed for sowing, the inferior being given to their cattle.

XVI. The Churka is the usual mode of cleaning; the Natives have no Cotton presses. Few cultivators could afford to buy a press. An objection is raised to carry a greater weight, the more closely packed, by the Native carters. This objection would be overcome. I have advocated pressing on the spot in this dry climate, instead of at Madras, which is damp by the sea air. There is not sufficient attention paid to picking the Cotton free of leaf. Loose packing is favorable to dust mixing with it. I do not look for improvement without the assistance of European agency buying on the spot, screwing and packing under supervision. I distributed four* Cottage Gins, which seemed to me to clean the Cotton well and expeditiously, but I await a report from Mr. Haywood and the Madras Chamber of Commerce to ascertain if the fibre has been injured or not. I found the larger Gin useless, unwieldy, and destructive.

* See plan, Dr. Forbes Royle's Book, page 540, 4 saws and brush. D. 12.

XVII. Cotton cleaning by the Churka costs about 1½*d.* per 3 lbs., by the Cottage Saw Gin 1 farthing per do.

XVIII. I forward one specimen of New Orleans saw ginned, two pods of Egyptian, one specimen of indigenous saw ginned, and one specimen of manufactured Egyptian thread.

XIX. I shall do my best to extend the cultivation of American Cotton if the cultivators agree to accept seed.

XX. I forward a specimen of coarse spun Egyptian in the shape of a Doyly, sent as a curiosity by my Native Deputy Collector and some‡ samples of Native cloths the produce of the District. I could send specimens woven of English yarn, but I suppose that they are not required Nor fancy muslins, made only to order, and at great cost, and not an article of general consumption.

‡ Will be sent hereafter, if authorized by the Board to defray the value thereof, Rupees 10-10-5.

XXI. The waste lands of Cuddapah are estimated at 25,36,747 acres, but I doubt if much of such land is suited for. Cotton. The quantity of waste land, being more guessed at than correctly measured, cannot be taken as a correct statement. My opinion is that a steadier market, higher prices, and intelligent supervision of the growth and preparation of Cotton, would lead to a considerable extension of cultivation on suitable land. If waste lands are to be reclaimed,

Irrigated *i. e.* supposed to have or have had the means of irrigation.

Acres.	Assessment.
45,726	£32,318

Unirrigated.

Acres	Assessment.
21,91,021	£1,39,502
	or 1*s* 1½*d* per acre.

the Natives will re-claim them at a cheaper rate than Europeans. A steady and profitable market will ensure cultivation and European assistance will improve the product. The manner in which Indigo cultivation and manufacture by Natives has spread over the District, and the stimulus lately given by increased prices, consequent on the disasters in the Indigo Districts of Bengal, show that the supply will follow the demand. I have distributed the eight specimens of Cotton received with your Circular to all my Native Tahsíldárs or subordinate Collectors, with directions to exhibit the same with the prices, calculated in Native money, to the Cotton growers and Native dealers, and have circulated the middling New Orleans specimen at 12*d.* with the Photographed staples. My idea is that middling New Orleans might be grown on light lime stone soil with occasional irrigation, but until further experiment I cannot say whether the article will commercially pay the cultivator. I found that Egyptian would not grow without water, but that if waterd in a rich soil it went to wood and leaf. The cultivation of foreign Cotton in this District is a matter of delicacy. I believe it will not grow even on a rich soil, without some water, owing to the aridity of the climate, but an excess of water gives a great branching tree. On a light lime-stone soil, with occasional water, I believe the plant may thrive the effect of irrigation modifying the effect of the climate. American culture is suited to that climate, but not to this. The humidity or aridity of a climate is all-important, and each District has a climate varying more or less. Thus the Areca Palm does not grow here, but its produce (what are called betel-nuts) are imported from the Western Coast, *i.e.* Malabar, a damp and rainy locality. The cocoanut never flourishes far from the sea air, though it is forced in this District by irrigation to the roots, which it does not require on the Coast. Indigo has got a start in Cuddapah, probably from the quality of the soil. It was usually grown on partially irrigated land, but now it is extending to the alluviums of the unirrigated parts of the District, where it pays on light assessed land, its produce not being equal to semi-irrigated Indigo grown on a heavier assessed land, as a rotation crop after rice. I think if the Madras Mercantile Houses were to depute an Agent to the Cotton Districts, improvement would ensue. Little can be expected from the rude, uneducated grower, or Native merchant; but before Madras Houses can be expected to embark their capital in this trade, the market must be steadier, as the long sea voyage places them at a disadvantage with the producers of better climates, with shorter transit.

Cotton Gins.—Since my exhibition of the Cottage Gins in the commencement of this year, I hear that such Gins are beginning to be appreciated, and am given to understand that 50 would be bought. I sold 4 at £2-10 each, but I dare say £3 would be given if delivered free of other charges at Cuddapah. I must decline to be responsible for the sale, but have reason to suppose that they would be purchased.

I append copies of some of my Revenue Circulars to the people regarding Cotton cultivation:—

Notice to Cotton cultivators,	District Gazette	7th December 1861.
Cottage Saw Gin,	"	February 15th 1862.
Cotton Cultivation,	"	April 5th

(Signed) A. WEDDERBURN, *Collector.*

No. 154. ORDER THEREON, 10th September 1862, No. 1,928.

1. Ordered that the letter, as now revised by the Board, be forwarded to the Interim Secretary of the Cotton Supply Association, Manchester.

2. Ordered also that 70 copies be printed for distribution.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

17 June/62 Nos 240-241.

Rev= 1862 Dept.
Pro: of Govt for Sept.
No. 2423.

Proceedings of the
Board of Trade
August 26th
" 26th
" 26th
Copies

No

Letter in favor of increased
advance to the Cotton Cultivation
Association, the letter received
from the Collector of Considerable
requesting Cotton cultivation
in his District, as required
by the Board.

No 153 & 154.

No 1928. 10 Sept
Letter and Order

C 30 Aug/62 123 Letter

No 1928.

ordered that the
~~The~~ letter, as now revised by the
Board, ~~will~~ be forwarded
to the Interim Secretary of the
Cotton Supply Association, Manc:
Chester.

Ordered also that 70 copies
be printed for distribution

Front Pt Jas
10 Sept/62

MK

16 Copies To the Bd of Revd Dept Pt
1 — Interim Secy of the Cotton
Supply Association
Manchester