M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-32.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1971 Press ~~Mis.~~

234-235

Dated 13 - 9: 1862.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 13th September 1862.

No. 234. Read the following Despatch from the Right Honorable Sir C. WOOD, Bart, Secretary of State for India (Revenue), to His Excellency the Honorable the Governor in Council, Fort Saint George, dated India Office, London, 9th July 1862, No. 18 :—

SIR,

1. I have had under my consideration in Council the letters from your Government, dated the 4th and 10th March, Nos. 10 and 13 of 1862, in which you report certain measures which you have sanctioned with the view of improving the production of Cotton, both indigenous and exotic, in your Presidency.

2. I observe that you have authorized the offer to a few intelligent Natives, to be selected by the Collectors, of a remission of assessment for five years on such spots of land (not exceeding 30 acres in each case) as they may be willing to devote to the improvement of native Cotton, due care being of course taken to ascertain that the terms of the agreement are satisfactorily fulfilled.

3. You have also entered into an arrangement with the Madras Horticultural Society, for carrying on experiments with the same object in their own grounds at a monthly charge of Rupees 150.

4. In the present state of the supply of Cotton, I do not object to your encouraging any attempt to improve the method of cultivation of Cotton on the quality of that produced in India, and if, under your orders arrangements of the kind authorized by you have been made with any intelligent individuals it is quite right that they should proceed in order that the plan adopted may have a fair trial. But I cannot approve your having given to the Collectors generally a discretion to remit the Government Revenue upon land to the extent of 30 acres in favor of any persons who may display a willingness to devote the land to the improvement of native Cotton. It is essential for any practical purpose that the possibility of growing the improved Cotton to advantage should be shown upon lands subjected to the ordinary charges in India, and therefore any remission of rent is not only objectionable in principle, but renders the trial quite unsatisfactory ; I therefore request that the instructions given on this subject may be withdrawn.

5. I regret to learn that the attempts to cultivate Egyptian Cotton have generally met with little success, although in Ganjam a small quantity was produced which was declared by the Chamber of Commerce to be then worth (June 1861) from 6½*d* to 7*d* per lb. in London. It appears, however, that the people are generally averse, from superstitious motives, to cultivate this particular variety. It is to be hoped that the future experiments, which you are about to try on a larger scale, will yield more encouraging results.

No. 235. ORDER THEREON, 13th September 1862, No. 1,971.

1. Ordered to be communicated to the Board of Revenue for their information and guidance. They will inform all Collectors that they are not at liberty to grant any more land rent free for Cotton experiments without the previous sanction of Government, but that such land as may have been already assigned for that purpose free of tax must be so continued according to the terms on which it was given. Applications for land under the Order of the 29th October 1861, will be submitted through the Board of Revenue, for the consideration and orders of Government with full particulars.

2. It will be explained to the Home Government that the object of Government in the measures adopted by them was not to increase the *production*, but to improve the character of the staple and the *quality* of the produce.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Revenue Department

No. 1971-

Proceedings of the Madras Government

Under date the 13th Octr. 1862.

Read the following Des:
patch from the Right Honorable
the Secretary of State for India

Makes observations on this Govt's letter reporting the measures which have been sanctioned for improving the production of Cotton both indigenous and exotic, and requests that the instructions given in respect to the remission of rent upon land devoted to the improvement of native Cotton may be withdrawn. Expresses his regret that attempts to cultivate Egyptian Cotton has generally met with little success, but hopes that the future experiments will yield more encouraging results.

(Here enter 9th July 1862 No. 18)

Ordered to be communicated to the Board of Revenue for their information and guidance. They will inform all Collectors that they are not at liberty to grant any more land rent free for Cotton experiments.

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with full particulars.

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to the Govt. that the object
of Govt. in the measures adopted
by them was not to encourage
the production but the
character of the Staple to the
Quality of the Province.

14 Copies to the Bd of Revs Dept No 15

Revenue 1862 Septr.
Pro: of Govt for Septr

No 1971.

Pro: of the Madras Govt
Dy 13th September 1862.
Pro: Bd of Rev dy 23 April 62
& No 936 Revn Pro:

On the encouragement of Cotton

Pro: of the Board of R
dy 24 Septr 62 Cover 2743

Communicating to Revenue Board some Despatch on the measures sanctioned by this Government with the view of improving the production of Cotton both indigenous and exotic in this Presidency

No 234 & 235.