M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-22.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 2026	Press Mis.
353-357	
Dated 18-9-1862.	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 18th September 1862.

No. 353. 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, 14th August 1862, No. 32:—

SIR,

1. With reference to my Despatch dated May 2nd (No. 7) 1862, the first instalment of Cotton Seeds which has been received by Mr. Markham from the Peruvian Valley of Piura, will be transmitted to the Chief Secretary of your Government by the Mail which leaves Southampton on the 20th instant.

2. Some delay in forwarding these Seeds has been occasioned by the absence from Piura of the person who had undertaken to transmit them. The parcel now forwarded to Madras contains 25lbs. of Cotton Seeds of the best quality, grown in the Piura Valley.

3. The months of September or October will probably be found to be the best season for sowing these Seeds, if irrigation is resorted to, as it should be in the cultivation of the Peruvian species in sandy or red soils. It is therefore very desirable that there should be as little delay as possible in distributing the Seeds, in order that the experiment may have a fair trial; the results of which you will report to me.

4. I also forward a copy of some remarks on this subject by Dr. Wight, who was formerly in charge of the experimental Cotton Farms in Coimbatore.

Memorandum by Dr. Wight, on the Introduction of the Cotton Plants of the Peruvian Coast Valleys into the Madras Presidency.

July 1862.

I THINK that it is in every way desirable that the Peruvian Cotton plant should be extensively and perseveringly tried in the Carnatic, especially along the wide sandy flats bounding nearly all the larger rivers and streams which intersect the country between the central ranges of hills and the coast. Most of these flats are more or less flooded for a few days once or twice a year, and apparently dry during the rest of it, but still full of water within a foot or two of the surface; also along the sandy flats near the coast, which, in like manner, contain much moisture while apparently perfectly dry, agreeing in these respects with the best Cotton producing Provinces of Peru. But there is this essential difference, that, though a dry climate, the Carnatic is certainly not rainless, demanding due consideration in the choice of the sowing season, so as to ensure the harvest commencing with the hottest and driest season of the year. Heavy rain, when the plant is in full bearing, is sure to injure much of the Cotton near maturity.

In the Carnatic, the dry season extends, almost without a shower, from about the middle of December until July, when what is called the *little* monsoon occurs, the rains of which are often very heavy, and would, if the fields were in full bearing, cause much mischief. On that principle I ground my suggestion that, in the event of irrigation being had recourse to in Cotton cultivation in India, the sowing should be done in September, in which case the plant would be in full bearing, quite independent of rain, in January, and might, by an occasional watering, be kept in a healthy bearing state till May or June, or, perhaps, even till July, by which time the plant, if an annual, would be exhausted. If a perennial, it then might be allowed to rest for a couple of months, preparatory to yielding a second smaller crop during August and September.

In a rainless country, but with opportunities of storing water for future use, nothing is easier than to cultivate Cotton by irrigation. The difficulty lies in having to deal with a climate pretty regularly visited once a year with periodical rains, but these so uncertain, both as to time and quantity, that one is at a loss how to regulate the crop season. Such is the case along the whole Coromandel Coast, from Cuttack to Cape Comorin. But, notwithstanding these irregularities, it is my belief that the American kinds of Cotton might all be profitably cultivated by means of irrigation throughout the whole of the Carnatic.

In cultivating perennial Cotton Plants, a season of rest should be allowed them during several months each year, a point to which attention should be directed, when the Peruvian seeds are forwarded to India. I hope that these suggestions may prove useful in securing success to this very promising plan for adding another and superior variety of Cotton to those already in cultivation in India.

Despatch

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 18th September 1862.

No. 354. ORDER THEREON, 18th September 1862, No. 2,026.

1. Ordered that this Despatch together with the Memorandum by Dr. Wight therewith received, be forwarded to the Board of Revenue in continuation of the Proceedings of Government 12th June 1862, No. 1,294. The Board's attention will be called to the observations of the Secretary of State in paragraph 3, and to the requisition at the end of that paragraph.

2. The sealed packet also received with this Despatch, containing the Receipt of the P. and O. Company for the box of Cotton Seeds forwarded by the Southampton Steamer of 20th August 1862 will be forwarded to the Collector of Sea Customs, with instructions to take steps for clearing the box immediately on the arrival of the steamer, and forwarding it without delay to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue.

3. The Board will, on receipt of the box, lose no time in distributing the Seed to the parties referred to in the Order of Government of 12th June above quoted. The present Despatch together with Dr. Wight's Memorandum should be communicated at once to the same parties.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Revenue Department

No. 2026

Proceedings of the Madras Government
Under date the 18th September 1862.

Read the following Despatch from the Right Honorable the Secretary of State.

(Herewith entered 14th August 1862 No 32)

Reference to his Despatch 2nd (No 7) 1862 states that instalment of Cotton seed from the Peruvian Guiana will be transmitted instantly via Southampton, & certain observations in the experimental cultivation same. — Forwards Memo: both on the subject

Ordered that this Despatch together with the Memo by Dr. Wight therewith received, be forwarded to the Board of Revenue in continuation of the Proceedings of Govt 12th June 1862 No 1294. The Board's attention will be called to the observations of the Secretary of State in para 3, and to the requisition at the end of that para.

2. The sealed Packet also received with this Despatch

Despatch, containing the
Receipt of the C. and O. Co
for the Box of Cotton, Seeds
forwarded by the Southampton
Steamer of 20 Augt 1862
will be forwarded to the Collector
of Sea Customs, with in-
structions to take steps
for clearing the Box imme-
diately on the arrival of the
Steamer, and forwarding it
without delay to the Secretary
to the Board of Customs.

3. The Board will,
on receipt of the Box, lose
no time in distributing the
seed to the parties referred
to in the Order of Genl Pe-
lissier dated 9th ult. The
present Despatch together
with Dr Wight's Memo
should be communicated
at once to the same parties.

1 Bd of Rev: with 9 Copies of Dr Wights Memo Recd 29
2 Collector of Sea Customs
Editor's Table.

Ogn on Home Despatches
No 32 of 1862

12 Lemp 62 Nos 173. 174 & Revenue 1862 Dechartt
& Pro: of Govt for September

No 2026.

Pro: of the Madras Govt
Dy 18th September 1862.

Pro: of the Board of Rev:
of 1 April 163 Cno 791

Forwarding to Revs
Board Home Despatches
reporting that a supply
of Peruvian Cotton seed
will be despatched
by Southampton Mail
of 20th Augt; also Dr
Wights Memo: therewith
received.

No 353 & 354.