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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

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Dated 27-10-1926

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 383. Read the following letter from F. C. BROWN, Esq., to J. D. SIM, Esq., Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Anjarakandy, 10th August 1862:—

SIR,

1. I perceive that the Government has thought the letter I addressed to Mr. Grant, our late Collector, "on the supply of Cotton," worthy of being communicated to the Press. Within these few days I have succeeded in tracing the ultimate disposal of the Bourbon Cotton mentioned in the letter as having been grown here by my father. Both the quality and the sale of the Cotton are detailed in a letter from the Court of Directors to the Government of Bombay, through whom six bales were sent to the Honorable Court. This letter is, therefore, the complement to mine, and as what are now specially wanted are authentic facts, proving the capacity always possessed by India of growing good Cotton, it will be satisfactory to the Government to have the Court's letter. I beg leave to send a copy of it herewith.

2. The Court state, "the six bales of Cotton, the produce of the Rhandatcroa plantation, "were of very excellent quality. The Bourbon sort sold for 2*s*. 2*d*., and the Native at 15$\frac{7}{8}$*d* per lb. "But we have reason to believe that, even in the present *very depressed state* of the Cotton "market, if there had been a quantity sufficient to have excited competition amongst the dealers, "the selling price would have been higher." Higher than 2*s*. 2*d*. a lb! The date of this letter is the 1st June 1803, fifty-nine years ago.

3. Besides its value as evidence on the one essential point of quality, you will not fail to see that the Court's letter is of the greatest historical value at the present time, as contemporary evidence of a fact of a different kind, relative to the production of Cotton, which it attests and records. The letter proceeds: "Surat Cotton has for several months past been at the low price "of 9*d*. to 11*d*. per lb., and we understand that large importations of Cotton are expected from "the Southern Provinces of North America, the cultivation of Indigo having for some time "ceased to be profitable there."

4. It is thus conclusively established, that it was only when the Southern States were driven from the cultivation of Indigo (Slave) by the cheaper Indigo produced by the English Planters of Bengal, that those States began largely the cultivation of Cotton; and that it was only in 1802-3, when the Court describe "the Cotton market as in a very depressed state, and "Surat Cotton for several months as at the low price of 9*d*. to 11*d*. per lb.," that large supplies of American Cotton were beginning to be expected in England.

5. From the beginning of the Cotton famine in Lancashire in 1860, to the present time, the best Surat Cotton has seldom reached 9*d*., it has never touched 11*d*. a lb. At 9*d*., it is notorious that importers are realizing large fortunes. It is, therefore, a matter of interest to inquire, how a price, almost held fabulous in 1862, and so high in 1800-1 and 2, as to force into existence in a few years the overwhelming Cotton production of America, was declared by the Court, then the sole importers, to be a "low price" for Surat.

6. The history of the price of Indian Cotton, and consequently its production, will be best made intelligible, by ascending the stream of recorded evidence from modern times up to the time when it began to be supplanted, and finally well nigh extinguished, by the gigantic growth of America.

7. In the year 1847, I showed from authentic testimony that, from 1785—90 to 1846, the price of Surat Cotton at Bombay, the shipping port, was Rupees 80 per candy of 784 lbs. This price may, therefore, be considered as the natural price of the article at that port during the previous sixty years. The price is equivalent to 2$\frac{1}{4}$*d*. a lb. gross.

8. In 1846, in consequence of the ruin threatening the Cotton trade, the Governor in Council of Bombay assembled a Committee composed of Civil Servants and Merchants, who, after going carefully and minutely into the inquiry confided to them, reported, that from every candy of Surat Cotton costing Rupees 80 in Bombay, the Government had taken Rupees 48 as land tax and sea duty, leaving Rupees 32, or $\frac{3}{4}$*d*. a lb. to be divided among all the parties from the Bombay seller to the Guzerat grower.

9. In 1832, twenty-four years before, when the Company, trading no longer, no longer took the Cotton Tax in kind, Mr. F. Warden, a Member of Council, afterwards a Director, gave in evidence that the money Tax levied upon every candy of Surat Cotton amounted to Rupees 56, leaving to the grower Rupees 24, or Rupees 11 less per candy than had been left to him by his Mahratta masters. This price was two farthings and three-quarters a lb.

10. In 1812, Mr. Rickards, late a Member of Council, represented to the Court, that from the beginning of the Company's monopoly the whole Cotton produce of the District was taken, "without leaving any portion of the avowed share of the Ryots at their own free disposal;" that they "are not even suffered to know what they shall get for it, till after it has been far "removed from their reach and from the country by previous exportation to Bombay; that in "1806, in reference to the Honorable Court's Orders of 30th April, the northern servants fixed "the price of the Company's Cotton at 10 or 12 per cent. lower than the Ryots could get for it "in the neighbouring Mahratta Pergunnah; that the Company's price to the Ryots has consequently 'been *always* under, and, in 1809, was 30 Rupees per candy, or 25 per cent. under *the general "market rate.*"

11. In 1808, the Judge of Broach who, with "the Collector and Commercial Resident, "exercise the whole civil authority of the District over a slavish, patient, and forbearing people, "and who fixed the price of Cotton as the agents of the buyers alone," represented, "that a "price of 79½ Rupees per candy (2¼*d.* a lb. on the spot) would afford a good profit to the "cultivator:"—meaning presumably, a profit equal to what he got on his grain crop, for more than this profit it would occur to no agent to allot to him under the circumstances, and in those times, 2*d.* a lb. was, therefore, the minimum price which the Guzerat grower would have received for his Cotton in a fair and open market.

12. But the official evidence I have quoted demonstrates past cavil that, for a period of about sixty years down to 1846-7, the grower could not have received on the spot even 1*d.* a lb., and that ½*d.* to ¾*d.* a lb. for his Cotton was the utmost that was credited to him at the close of the season in the books of his village Bunniah. That he continued to grow it at all is only explained, first, by the compulsory system of advances; second, by Cotton, an herbaceous and foddering plant, being essential in the rotation for preparing the land for a food crop. The grower grew Cotton to escape starving. In some years he may possibly have recovered in the price of his grain a portion of what was taken from him in the price of his Cotton. A scarcity or a famine among his neighbours was his best harvest.

13. It is unnecessary to look further than these perennial causes to understand, why East India Cotton has long been the worst in every European market, nor why it has become the grower's settled trade still more to degrade the value of the article by every fraudulent adulteration. It is not from the rack rented Cottier that the Agricultural Society of England expects prize crops, nor hopes for model integrity in farming.

14. From 1785 to 1791, the Company sold their Surat Cotton at 11*d.* to 1*s.* 1*d.* a lb. That the selling price continued without material alteration throughout subsequent years is shown by the Honorable Court's quoting it, in 1803, at 9*d.* to 11*d.* a lb. But if a prime cost of less than 1*d.* a lb. to the Guzerat grower yielded only a low price in London, when the Cotton was sold at an advance of 900 to 1,200 per cent., we are driven to ask by what process of legitimate trade such a result could be accomplished, more especially as, between the years 1806 and 1809, the crop of Cotton was all taken at a reduction of 12 to 25 per cent. upon the market price, "*to save* a branch of trade," as the Honorable Court observe, "to Western India."

15. On examination we find that, in the year 1810, the freight in the Company's regular ships, on every pound of Surat Cotton imported into London, was 7⅛*d.* This had been, was, and continued to be the ordinary rate charged. To this rate it is only necessary to add what would be the Invoice cost of the Cotton, cleaned, bowed, baled, screwed, and put on board in Bombay, say 4*d.* a lb., and to these two sums making 11⅛*d.*, also to add, the monopoly trade and sale charges in London, which we are sure were in proportion to the freight, and we arrive

at an explanation why Surat Cotton must have left a loss when sold at less than 1*s.* a lb. and why in order to throw the loss upon the grower and not upon the East India proprietor, the Sovereign of the country, by his servants, persistently robbed the grower of his crop. We have in the same facts an explanation why the production of American Cotton so speedily overtook and overwhelmed Surat. The average freight on American Cotton to Liverpool was ⅛th to $\frac{3}{16}$ths of a penny a lb. Allowing 5*d.* a lb. as the price to the American grower of that day, his Cotton could be laid down in Liverpool at a liberal cost of 6*d.* a lb. A price of 1*s.* a lb. charged in London for Surat, was, therefore, a bonus of 6*d.* a lb. to the American grower for every pound of Cotton he could grow, a bonus equivalent to three times the natural price of the Cotton produced by the grower in Guzerat: a price, which if this, the Company's grower, had received, the figures demonstrate that not one pound of American Cotton could ever have been grown. In Bengal, as in Bombay, the bazar or natural price of Cotton was 2¼*d.* a lb., when advances were given, 2*d.*

16. The returns of the import of Indian and American Cotton into England complete the history of both growths, and finish the picture of the rapid rise of the one upon the hastening ruin of the other.

17. In 1818, Indian Cotton competed successfully in quantity for the last time with American: the import of Indian was 2,47,000 bales, the import of American 2,07,000. In 1837, the Indian import had fallen to 1,47,000 bales; in 1846, ten years after, to 94,500 bales, of which Bengal, with its sixty millions of people, furnished 196 bales in 1845. In 1837, the American import had arisen to 8,45,000 bales; in 1845, eight years after, to 1,502,000 bales.

18. In 1846, thus wrote Mr. Marriott, another Member of Council, at the end of his fifty years' residence and service in Bombay, words extorted from him in England by what he had left behind in India. "I feel certain that an examination would establish, that a considerable share "of this and other property (the personal ornaments of the peasantry) even to cattle and household "utensils, have been for ever alienated to make good the public revenue. In addition to this "lamentable evidence of poverty, is another of equal force, to be seen in all parts of the country, "in the numerous individuals of the above class of the community wandering about in search of "the employment of hirelings, which they are glad to obtain even for the most scanty pittance. "In short, almost everything forces to the conviction that we have before us a narrowing "progress to utter pauperism." At this time and up to 1847, a sea duty was maintained on Cotton taken from port to port in India, even in the same Presidency.

19. In 1841, thus wrote a Carolina Planter, Mr. Seabrook:—"Cotton has greatly accelerated "the growth and flourishing condition of the plantation States, aided to build up the prosperity of "their political associates (the northern States), and added vastly to the wealth and greatness of "the union. Of the total exports from the United States (that year) amounting to 106½ millions "of Dollars, cotton furnished 54½ millions of Dollars, or more than half. The production has "increased more than 5,676 in half a century. England now pays to America 35 millions of "Dollars per annum for a single product of our fields. To keep her in this position is a task of "easy accomplishment."

20. The task proved of easier accomplishment year by year until the year 1860. In 1859-60, the production of American Cotton amounted to 4,825,924 bales, of which England ook about 3,000,000 bales, forming ⅗ths of her whole consumption, and for which she paid to he slave States not less than 30,000,000 sterling, exclusive of what she paid to them for slave Tobacco. In the same year, the American Cotton manufacturers retained 810,000 bales for their own consumption, a quantity approaching to that which the English manufacturers worked up welve years before. Not only, therefore, had the American grower inconceivably distanced the Indian in quantity and quality, but the American manufacturer, with home Cotton at his door, and with population and capital doubling every fifteen years, was yearly narrowing the calculation of the time, when he should first rival, next undersell, and lastly, supplant the English manufacturer, certainly abroad, and ultimately in his home market.

21. Without one link wanting in the chain of evidence showing how Cotton was thus systematically up-rooted from India, and sown broadcast in the United States, it is unworthy of upright men to shut their eyes to the truth, and not to acknowledge, that the system was the sole act of Englishmen armed with supreme power; that it was solely planned by their heads and executed with their hands, regardless of all consequences, all considerations, but immediate gain. It was Englishmen alone, who trampling in India upon every right of industry, fashioned in America, fed, nourished, cherished, the slave Cotton Frankenstein, which grasps Lancashire by the throat, and abides its time to strangle England herself. To upbraid the Natives of India with the remotest share in the monstrous creation, is as unjust as it is untrue: to ascribe it to the ordination of Providence is nothing short of blasphemy. There is the Government Proclamation of the 20th June 1838, proving the settled purpose to extirpate Indian Cotton out of the land (see B).

22. The disclosures made by the Bombay Cotton Committee of 1816, the report and evidence of the Home Cotton Committee of 1818, and the revelations published by official men of unquestioned character and high standing, extorted the general revision and signal reduction of the land tax in Bombay, which has been going on from 1850 to the present time.

23. To this tardy and reluctant concession is it solely owing, that Lancashire is not now irretrievably ruined, and the Cotton interest of England hopelessly undone. It is the Indian grower who, restored to life and hope by the modicum of relief given to his Cotton land, supplied Lancashire with 213,000 bales in 1852, with 618,000 bales in 1860, with 1,280,000 bales (of 300 lbs.) in 1861, and in 1862 is pouring in every bale, which the sudden demand and the brief time have allowed him to raise. More he cannot do in a year. A wheat famine would not suffice to double the English wheat-crop in a twelve-month. Lancashire does not yet know that the earth does not spin Cotton like a mill: that the same earth only produces a crop every third or fourth year, and then only after laborious preparation and sedulous cultivation.

24. But that for which Lancashire is starving and crying aloud is for 3,000,000 of bales: it is for quantity, no matter now what the quality, that her noble minded operatives are employing. If the Cotton were only grown, money would drag it to the coast ports over roads, however execrable, and ships in abundance land it in England, after a voyage however long. But not Rupees, not Sovereigns, are Cotton seed. Cotton seed must be sown by the millions of growers in India, each working his patch of land, and each helping to make up with his modicum of clean Cotton the millions of bales that are wanted. No Government prizes, no Government papers, which the growers never hear of, no fraction of the high price of Cotton which is all the middleman will ever give them, if he has yet given them that fraction; (see C) no strange scores of English agents, whose advances they may take, but whose friendly purpose they will disbelieve, and tacitly scout, will serve really and permanently to move them, or to lull their suspicious fears. With the past Cotton history sunk ineffaceably deep in his memory, the grower is so accustomed to see and feel the hand of Government pervading his crops and concerns; here forbidding him to grow a Poppy crop, or produce an ounce of opium; there prohibiting his fermenting the toddy of his trees, and making wine of it; everywhere punishing him if he touches the sun-made Salt at his door; that until he is convinced this heavy hand is taken off his Cotton land, he will set down the present movement as a mere lure to tempt him to increase his growth, in order hereafter to tax it the heavier.

25. Nothing will shake this fixed distrust, but a "CIRCAR" proclamation put forth in the most authoritative manner, and personally circulated by the Collectors of the provinces, suspending for five years the tax on all land that, in the yearly rotation of crops, may be cultivated with Cotton, leaving the tax on all other land untouched.

26. No measure but this will directly reach the grower, and secure his receiving the price which he ought to get for his Cotton, for no other will enable him to hold his Cotton, and save him from being obliged to take the Bunniah's price for it in order to pay his land tax. Let him once feel that the whole and the highest price is his own, a feeling he no more knows than that of a sixth sense; the stimulus will rouse him to grow not only the Cotton immediately required

to stay the urgent wants of England, but animate him to make the sustained effort needed in order to re-sow, afresh and permanently, the vast fields of his country with the Cotton rooted out of them by sixty years' oppression.

27. Without the same security as this for his outlay, and in the face of more than suspicion, that Lancashire would rush again, if it could, to the United States for its Cotton, no prudent Englishman ought to be tempted to sink, in the remote interior on permanent buildings and indispensable machinery, the considerable capital required for founding a Cotton agency on a remunerative scale. The re-payment of such a capital must necessarily be spread over several years, and can only begin after a prosperous business has been established. But such a business can be hoped for only on a reasonable certainty that the growers will bring yearly to market a quantity of Cotton adequate to employ remuneratively the buildings and machinery erected, and at a price that will find a ready sale in the other manufacturing markets of the world, if the market of England should again be saturated with the Cotton of the United States. The land and the labor necessary for this great production, the Indian grower has, the indispensable capital he has not, nor can he get. Put it into his power to save this capital, and fearlessly to invest it in his occupation, and he will demonstrate, without preaching or boasting, that the quality of Cotton in India is as much a question of a sufficiency of farming capital, as the quality of the wheat crop is in England, apart from the operation of the seasons.

28. What are the interests at stake in the adoption or rejection of the simple and direct remedy I venture to recommend, to meet and finally to end the present difficulty?

29. On the 19th of June, Mr. Bazley, the Member for Manchester, told the House of Commons: "If the Cotton industry of this country should be altogether suppressed, the loss of revenue "would exceed £2,000,000 sterling, while a continuation of the present distress for twelve months "would result in an immediate loss to the Exchequer of £10,000,000." Mr. J. B. Smith, the Member for Stockport, told the House, that "one hundred and sixty millions of people would be required to "manufacture by hand labor the Cotton goods, which 1½ millions, aided by "machinery, now produced." If India were joined on to the lands end, would it be possible to Tax her Cotton land one farthing in the face of revenue and moral responsibilities such as these? That India is 14,000 miles away from the lands end, three times as far as the Cotton States, and her Cotton subject to three times the voyage, the delay, the freight and charges of the American, are reasons unanswerable why her Cotton should be Tax-free, even if she could boast of having the same roads and rivers and harbours, the same unexampled facilities for internal transit and shipment to sea, which the States possess. But when notoriously she has not one of these advantages, when every pound of her Cotton pays for carriage a full freight to England before it is shipped from a coast port, to tax her Cotton direct is, in view of the interests of England, material and moral, a suicidal act.

30. For fifty years and more were the Indian cultivator and his land yearly visited, surveyed, classified, inspected, "Jummabundied," himself harried "sumjaished" by lean hungered revenue officials, sent forth periodically "more Munro" to see that he ploughed his fields, sowed them with seed, weeded, hoed, watered, and watched his growing crop, reaped it when he got leave, and finally, did not make away with it before his pittance of revenue had been got, by fair means if possible, but at all events got, whether the seed sown had been returned or not. This paternal driving, very much like the goading of one of his own starved bullocks, ended in this figured result, that eight years out of every ten the general revenue of the country was deficient more or less; the larger the territory, the greater the deficiency. I humbly and respectfully ask that a trial be made, for no more than five years, of leaving the Cotton cultivator alone. A loss of revenue, there cannot be from this boon, because every pound of Cotton he will raise will come back from England, invested in some commodity of twice or thrice the value of the price he will receive for the Cotton on the spot, and furnish on import in that shape a large fund, which cannot escape contributing in Customs duty to the revenue. Before the disruption of the United States, they received annually from England 30,000,000 sterling for their Cotton, and charged by the Morrill Tariff 15, 40, and 75 per cent. upon English imports.

31. But should Cotton, land-tax free, leave, most improbably, a temporary loss of revenue, the immediate and certain remedy is in the hands of the Government. The Government have only to restore to the fifty millions of cultivators in Madras and Bombay, the right of which they have been stripped for more than sixty years, the right of producing Opium on their lands on the same terms as the cultivators of the Drug in Bengal. The twenty millions of foreign cultivators in Malwa are producing 40,000 chests a year, and paying 600 Rupees a chest for the license of taking their Opium through Bombay. They are unmolested and unquestioned, because they showed unmistakeably in 1817, that they would not tolerate any Bengal prohibition to grow Opium on their lands (see D). Patient and silent Madras and Bombay submitted. It is on their fields alone that the growth of one of the most valuable crops in tropical agriculture has been prohibited, and an unwholesome, and eventually another fatal, monopoly has been pampered with the people's money, in Bengal, based on reasons that will not bear a moment's honest examination. The people of Madras and Bombay are the Queen's subjects equally with the people of Bengal. If their land will not grow the Poppy, the prohibition is needless: if their land will grow it, the injustice strips them of their common birthright as the Queen's subjects, that of devoting their land and labor to the growth of any production which is neither forbidden nor injurious to their fellow subjects. The care of deriving an Opium revenue may be safely trusted to the Governors of Madras and Bombay, as it is trusted to the Governor of Bengal.

32. To address this argument to persons would be vain, who at the present day continue to maintain, that from monopolies only can an adequate revenue be got from one hundred and fifty millions of an ancient, a civilized and industrious people, inhabiting a fertile territory 1,200,000 square miles in extent. Such persons must regard a Native to be a different creation from themselves. I can look for faith in what I recommend only among those, whose reason, whose religion, and whose consciences tell them, that the Hindoo is the work of the same Almighty hand who made the Englishman, and who has inspired both alike with the desire of bettering their material condition; a desire which the history of civilized man has invariably shown, that the more it is allowed free scope by rulers and Governments, the more does it distinguish progressive man, and elevate him above the stationary brute, as, interfering forcibly with its development, degrades him the more surely to the brute level.

33. There is a remaining subject which I must be permitted not to pass over, because without an impartial consideration of it, the force and applicability of the measure I recommend cannot be understood. It is a fact beyond dispute that it was the English Indigo of Bengal which, sixty years ago and under great impediments, extinguished the slave Indigo of the United States. Bearing this fact in mind, and surveying the globe in its present state; witnessing in its various and distant regions the Englishman transforming, in a score of years and in climates widely different from his own, the wildest wastes into great and prosperous communities; no unprejudiced man can doubt, when he also beholds English enteprise supplying the world with Indian Sugar and with Mauritius Sugar grown by Natives under Englishmen, and sees it beginning to supply the world with Indian Tea and Indian Coffee, for the Coffee of Ceylon is grown by them with Indian labourers; no man can doubt, that if English enterprise had been permitted to have free access to the Cotton marts of India eighty years ago, when the price of Indian Cotton was 2¼*d.* a lb at the shipping port, and when Cotton was not yet an export from the United States, that not a pound of American Cotton would ever have seen the light, and that the vast wealth, which has created America, would in its natural course have been spread by Englishmen, calling into action the industry and intelligence of the Natives, over the face of India. The monopoly of Indian Cotton in the first place, and the long, rigid and penal prescription of Englishmen from India in the second, were demonstrably, therefore, the causes, if not of the rise, certainly of the continuance, of American slavery in 1780, when poverty and want of employment were driving the masters to emancipate their slaves; as they were the causes of its subsequent rapid growth, until in 1860, four millions of slaves in the Union were employed in growing Cotton, chiefly for England.

34. The labor of their slaves being engrossed by this vital crop, the United States turned to Cuba for the supply of their annually increasing want of Sugar, and to Brazil for all their Coffee, both countries being near neighbours. With the English money received for their slave Cotton did they pay for this slave Sugar and this slave Coffee. With this money Cuban and Brazilian slavers sped to Africa, and packed their slaveholds with living human cargoes, bought at 20 Dollars, to be sold at 500 Dollars a head. With English money was the African slave trade in this manner unceasingly nourished and increasingly fed. Not alone on the Spaniard, the Portuguese, or the Brazilian, ought our indignation to be heaped. The Indian Cotton monopoly is as much the primary door of the slave trade, as it is of American slavery. It is before English eyes that ought to be present, the man hunts, sweeping at this hour over the length and breadth of Central Africa; the pestilence breathing slave Barracoons, which stud the shores, the creeks, the rivers, on both coasts of that Continent; the low black slaver, with its cargo of manacles and slave deck eighteen inches high; the middle passage, marked by trails of black corpses, and following shoals of ravenous sharks; the British cruizers chase, directed by a line of Negro heads thrown overboard to give wings to the slaver's flight; the Cuban slave-pen, whence a strong man is daily driven forth to be worked out in seven years. These are the scenes, which we know are now going on to compass the stealing of fifty thousand men and women annually from their African homes, and running them to the Cuban slave marts, in order that the American demand for Havannah Sugar may be met. Lastly, there is the internecine slavery war now raging between the States.

35. Whosoever traces these things to their real origin, whosoever pauses over them, and reflects that, except the last, they have been going on for countless years, and have defied every check, because of the enormous gains they continue to bring to their perpetrators, will grieve profoundly at the sufferings of Lancashire: he will lament to hear of millions of his innocent countrymen expiating the greed and the guilt of the sordid few in the misery they are enduring; but he cannot be surprised. His reason and his conscience must see in this result, the solemn warning which has been proclaimed to all the dwellers upon earth; that retribution shall, in the fullness of time, overtake that people, even the most powerful on earth, who, in the lust of conquest, and the pride of irresistible power, lay distant nations at their feet, and who spurn in their treatment of the prostrate millions that command, the first and most impressive delivered by the Almighty, "to do Justice, and to love Mercy."

P. S.—The measure I recommend is no new thought. Twenty-five years ago I urged it in London and Manchester, when seeking to show that a Cotton dearth would occur either from a war with America, or a slave rebellion. An American *civil* war has proved the cause. That cause and every previous Cotton event have confirmed the stedfast conviction, that there is no issue to the Cotton difficulties of England, industrial, social and fiscal, which is safe, sure and permanent, other than making Indian Cotton land Tax-free for a given time; and no other way out of her political complications with the United States, which are ever recurring and always are smoothed down, than making her chief industry, at any cost, independent, or *quasi* independent of American supply. I myself do not grow Cotton, and am in no way concerned in the trade.

No. 384. ORDER THEREON, 29th October 1862. No. 2,312.

1. In the foregoing letter Mr. Brown of Malabar continues his former paper, recorded in the Proceedings of the 3rd of July last, No. 1,446, on the Cotton History of India. He attributes the ruin of the trade to the suicidal policy of Government in years long gone by, and he proposes, as the only mode of reviving it, the suspension for five years of the Tax on all land that, in the yearly rotation of crops, may be cultivated with Cotton, leaving the Tax on all other land untouched.

2. This remedy has often been suggested, but as often negatived, and the Home Government have more than once* expressly prohibited its adoption. Such a mode of encouragement is not only opposed to sound policy, but it renders every experiment

* Ex. Mins. Cons. 17th July 1838, No. 1,006, and 13th September 1862, No. 1,971.

unsatisfactory and inconclusive. It is objectionable in principle to force the course of trade and industry into new channels by such unnatural stimulants, and it is essential for any practical purpose that every experiment should be made subject to all ordinary charges. It might perhaps be found that Cotton could be profitably grown on land not burdened with assessment, whilst under ordinary circumstances the speculation would only entail a loss on the cultivator.

3. Mr. Brown himself shows conclusively that it is the want of a remunerative price alone that prevents the extension of the cultivation of Cotton, and his plan therefore resolves itself into a proposal to make the price remunerative by deducting that large portion of the outlay which constitutes the rent of the land. Such an interference on the part of Government would be mischievous in the highest degree.

4. As to opium, it is not the intention of Government to enter into any discussion of the question of the Bengal monopoly. There is no express prohibition against the cultivation of the Poppy in this Presidency, but a very heavy duty, which is in effect prohibitory, is levied on the export of the drug. The Government have on several occasions taken action in the matter with a view to secure some of the advantages of the trade to Madras, but without effect. It was considered that to extend the production of opium over the continent of India would very materially injure the revenue realized in Bengal under the monopoly, and the Supreme Government would not consent to risk so large an item of their income.* Under present circumstances the Governor in Council could not anticipate a more favorable verdict.

* Ex. Mins. Cons. 18th July 1836, No. 903; 30th March 1837, No. 407.

(Signed) P. P. HUTCHINS,
Acting Deputy Secretary to Government.

A. page 1.

Tellicherry 16 February 1864.

From Thomas Warden, Princ.l Coll.r to Murdoch Brown Esq.r

Sir,

The enclosed copy of a letter from the Secretary to the Board of Revenue with copies of its accompaniments, conveying the opinion of the Honble the Court of Directors upon the quality of the Cotton produced on your Plantation at Rhandaterra, I have the pleasure to forward for your information, and am, Sir, &c. &c. Thos Warden,
signed Princ.l Coll.r

Extract from the Honble Company's Commands in their Commercial Department, dated the 1st June 1863.—

"Malabar Cotton."

Para 9. "The six Bales of Cotton, the produce of the Rhandaterra Plantation, were of very excellent quality— The Bourbon sort sold for 2/2d, and the Native at 15 7/8 pfd. But we have reason to believe, that, even in the present very depressed state of the Cotton market, if there had been a quantity sufficient to have excited competition amongst the dealers, the selling price would have been higher. The native sort* was not so much inferior to the other quality as the difference in price would seem to point out— but was not so well cleared from seeds and extraneous matter— Surat Cotton has for several months past been at the low price of 9d pfd to 11d pfd. and we understand that large importations of Cotton are expected from the Southern Provinces of North America, the cultivation of Indigo having some time ceased to be profitable there."—

* The beautiful indigenous Hill Cotton of Malabar.

June Extract.

[signed] A. Bonnevier
1st Asst to Public Department.

Bp. 6 "Notification". Bombay Govt Gazette, 20th June 1868.

"The Hon'ble the Court of Directors having been pleased to disapprove
"of the Notifications of the 24th February and 1st August 1835, and of
"the 1st and 17th November 1836, issued under the authority of Government
"by the Revenue Commissioner, granting certain exemptions from assess-
"ment to (waste) land cultivated with Cotton and the Mauritius Sugar
"cane, and to direct that such Notifications be immediately recalled;
"the Right Hon'ble the Governor is pleased to cancel them from this date."

"Pleased to disapprove"!! Two years after this Proclamation to India,
"of pleasure", the two American Planters arrived in Bombay, 1840; and
the cheated and beggared Dekkan Cotton growers, who had spent their
all in growing Cotton and Sugar on their waste grants, and who only
obtained grants on the condition that they continued to pay their
annual assessment on their cultivated land, were invited and effected
to come and learn how to grow American Cotton for England!

In 1846, the Revenue Commissioner, Mr. Pelliamion, wrote as follows:

"The extent of waste land capable of producing Cotton, compared with
"that which produces it at present, is very great in all the Provinces sa-
"turated (sown) - the impression of a stranger travelling through Berar or
"Candeish would be, that the country was very imperfectly cultivated
"- he would constantly travel through miles of country fully equal in
"natural resources (to the cultivated) but destitute of population - he would
"also find - that a very slight encouragement was sufficient to attract
"cultivators, and that they greedily accepted terms which would be
"deemed hard by the most enterprising farmers in England" The re-
deemable waste lands of India are computed to be from two to three seconds
of its surface. Thus we know what Englishmen are doing when unob-
structed, in covering their wastes with boundless wealth. "So regarded
"the Llama (imported from Peru), such prosperous results have been
"already achieved (in Australia) that some of the colonial papers are
"predicting the time, about half a century hence, when the coast grazing
"grounds of the interior shall be covered by millions of the animals and
"the trade in Llama wool extend the trade in gold." Chambers Journal May
1862, p 362.

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The Bombay Gazette 30 July 1862. "The Cotton that was selling
" in Bombay a few days ago for Rs 450 a Candy, did not cost the first
" buyers of it more than about Rs 80 a Candy,— that is, the ryots did
" not realize more than that for it. They sold it to the village dealer
" at about Rs 80 a Candy. The village dealer sold it to the town dealer
" at a small advance. The town dealer sold it to the Bunder dealer
" /so called/ at a small advance. The Bunder dealer sold it to the
" Bombay dealer at a small advance. The Bombay dealer sold it
" to the merchant at the fabulous price above mentioned. With respect to
" one division of the country, from which a very large portion of our
" cotton supply comes, we know that what we have just stated, in
" regard to the number of hands through which the cotton passes is
" perfectly true. The ryot has made nothing out of the unprece-
" dented rise in price in the Bombay and Liverpool markets. He is
" profoundly ignorant of the state of these markets— designedly kept
" in ignorance of the great demand for the produce of his fields. It
" stands to reason, then, that if European agents were in direct com-
" munication with the ryots, it would be vastly better for the ryots,
" and for the merchants— indeed, for the whole cotton interest.

Dft 10

The Calcutta prohibition to grow Opium in Malwa was sent to Sir J. Malcolm almost the first thing at the end of the Mahratta war of 1817. Sir John made answer direct to the Marquis of Hastings, that his Lordship must at once prepare for a second Mahratta war, bloodier and fiercer than the first. Before this certainty, the prohibition dropped. Then followed the Pass system, by which the Bombay people continue to have the yearly gratification of seeing thousands of Chests of Malwa Opium carried through their lands, on which they are prohibited from producing an ounce. In 1836 or 37, the Madras Chamber of Commerce made a timid attempt, under Lord Elphinstone's Government, to get justice for their Presidency in the matter of Opium growing. The Chamber was silenced by Calcutta reasons of state, which really amounted to this, that Opium Agencies were too valuable appointments to be risked by being shared with Madras or Bombay. — In 1861, Major Sarell and Capt. Blakiston, two of the explorers who ascended the Yangtse Kiang as far as they were allowed to go, or between 2 and 3000 miles, have reported that they found "miles of Poppy fields extending along both banks of the great river." These were their words. They are proof that devastating, that Opium is being largely grown throughout Central China.

The Chinese prefer Indian Opium to every other, even to their home grown. India might, therefore, have a natural monopoly of the drug throughout China, and might be sure of drawing from it permanently a much larger revenue than can be calculated on from the unnatural Bengal monopoly, if she were suffered to produce it in quantity commensurate to the demand of 300 millions of consumers, who, however wrongfully, prefer Indian Opium to English gin, and who have now legalized this preference. But the Bengal monopoly is palpably forcing the Poppy out of India into China, just as Cotton culture was driven out of India into the Us States; and the people of India at large, first injured and pauperized by it, will be compelled to make up by increased taxation the loss of revenue in which it is certain to end. Strange, that a nation should go 15000 miles for the other side of the globe, possess itself of a great and peopled country, declare that it looks to the land of that country as its chief source of revenue, and then prohibit that same land from growing the most valuable crop it can produce; and do this, under the name of security "the revenue! Let there be no revenue, and the security would be complete. And this nation regards itself eminently as a Christian nation!

[illegible]

Lieut: L Rowe fr[illegible]
should not risk his
large revenue depen-
dent on the monopoly
at present on change
of a Ministry which
could be made
indeed - I think in
therefore that all that
is needed is a firm
& steady hand
in drawing the bill
can be done

Pol: Econ: Lec 2
finish not 8 to 13
that his policy is
anticipated.

Yours
L Dalton

Mr Hutchins.

My dear Pycroft

On Friday I sent down a long letter from Mr Brown of Augusta Canada about Cotton. It got among the other papers intended for despatch or I should have annexed the memo to serve for a draft. The pot wished a little more said on the unfitting of hiring a practicum on one Canadian Cotton to the disparagement of other producers of pot in tempering & making our cupellation & so on. This you can easily put in. I did not mention the adjustments as they are now regulated on all sides about the duties for much

be provided by the petitioners
our office which the latter should
come look into. If I recollect
rightly, the import is liable
to a heavy duty & the Export
prohibited but there is no
law to cultivate for home
consumption.

I enclose a note
just received from Sir William
Manning the Irrigation Co.
please return it with the

collection of papers which he
requires - as soon as possible -

also a petition against
Mr Landis conduct upon
opinion imported by the Petrs
A copy of the Petn should
be sent to D.B. as the original
has remarks on it -

Yours
Sid Olive

Mr. Brown of Bir-
ja country, Malabar,
has continues, his
account of the Cotton
History of India -
He describes the mun-
ner of the trade & the
Commercial Policy
of the Province in years
long ago and pro-
poses, as the only mode
of reviving the trade,
the suspension
for 5 years of the tax
on all land that, in
the yearly situation of
crops, may be cul-
tivated with cotton

leaving the tax on all other lands untouched".

This remedy has often been suggested and as often rejected, if I recollect rightly, the Home Govt. have more than once expressly prohibited the adoption of such a measure.

Mr. Brown thinks with Dilfo Shaw, conclusively that it is the want of a remunerative price that prevents the extension of the cultivation of

- The proposed remedy cannot be allowed - to against sound policy & the Secty of State has on recent occasions declared himself opposed to such a mode of encouragement -

EHC

cotton, and his plan therefore resolves itself into making the price remunerative by giving up, to the Ryot merely the land tax - but that large portion of it which in reality constitutes the rent of the land -

As to Opium there is no prohibition against its cultivation in Madras but a heavy duty is levied on its export in the view of course of protecting the Bengal

Madras Records

Madras Judicial - The
Subject is in fact his-
torical - The subject
was discussed some
years ago but there
not the papers here

GDT

Proceedings

516

of Sept 1852

R D

No 2312

Proceedings of the Madras Government
under date the 29th October 1852.
Read the following letter
from Mr J. C. Brown.

Contains, with observations, his account of the Cotton History of India.

(Here enter 9/10th August 1852 No 2)

In the foregoing letter Mr Brown of Malabar continues his former paper, recorded in the Proceedings of the 3rd of July last, No 1446, on the cotton History of India. He attributes the ruin of the trade to the suicidal policy of Govt in years long gone by, and the proposes, as the only mode of reviving it, the suspension for 5 years of the tax on all land that, in the yearly rotation of crops, may be cultivated with cotton, leaving the tax on all other land untouched.

2 This remedy has often been suggested, but as often negatived, and the Govt have more than once* expressly prohibited its adoption. Such a mode of encouragement is not only opposed to sound policy, but it renders every estimate unsatisfactory, & inconclusive results fallacious. It is objectionable in principle to force the course of trade & industry into new channels by such unnatural stimulants, and it is essential for any practical purpose that every experiment should be made subject to all ordinary charges. It might perhaps be found that cotton could be profitably grown on land not burdened with assessment whilst under ordinary circumstances

* G. Gn. C. 17 July 80, No. 1006
& 13 Sept. 82, No. 1971

the speculation would only entail a loss on the cultivator.

3. Mr. Brown himself shows conclusively that it is the want of a remunerative price alone that prevents the extension of the cultivation of cotton, and this plan therefore resolves itself into a proposal to make the price remunerative by deducting that large portion of the outlay which constitutes the rent of the land. Such an interference on the part of Govt would be mischievous in the highest degree.

4 As to opium, it is not the intention of Govt to enter into any discussion of the question of the Bengal Monopoly. There is no express prohibition against the cultivation of the poppy in this Presidency; but a very

heavy duty, which is in effect prohibitory, is levied on the export of the drug. The Govt have on several occasions Taken action in the matter with a view to secure some of the advantages of the trade to Madras, but without effect. It was considered that to extend the production of opium over the Continent of India would very materially injure the Revenue realized in Bengal under the monopoly, & the Supreme Govt would not consent to risk so large an item of their income. Under present circumstances the Govt in Council could not anticipate a more favorable verdict

- P. M. C. 10 July 1036, No 903; 30 March 37, No 407

1 Copy Govt C. Brown Esqre Calcutta
1 do do B of Revenue

Copy mx Letter to England
dated 2nd Dec.r No.186 of 1862

37-38
3.7.62.
2 2nd 229

Revenue 1862 Deptt.
Pro: of Govt. for October.

No. 2312.

Pro: of the Madras Govt.
Dt 29th October 1862.

From F. C. Brown Esqre
Dt 21 Octr 1862 C No. 310 9

Further G.D. 17 June 1863 No. 1064.

Letter from Mr. Brown
of Malabar on the Cotton
Exports of India, with
orders thereon -

No 383 & 384 -