M.R.O. 14—10,000—27-3-24.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1064 Press ~~Mis.~~

274-275

Dated 17- 6. ~~-19-~~1863

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 17th June 1863.

No. 274. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 5th June 1863, No. 3,309 :—

Read the following letter from G. A. BALLARD, Esq., Collector of Malabar, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Tellicherry, 19th May 1863, No. 91A.

SIR,

1. As requested in the last paragraph of the enclosed letter,* I have the honor to submit it, and the sample† of Cotton, accompanying it, for the consideration of the Board, and, should they think fit, submission to Government.

* From Mr. Brown of Anjarakandy, dated 18th May 1863.
† Sent separately by banghy.

2. I must observe, that though I have heard casual complaints of the scarcity and dearness of Cotton, and the inability of the local weavers to supply themselves in consequence with the raw material, I have not heard any thing to lead me to suppose that they, or any other class in the District, are in so distressed a condition as Mr. Brown's letter might lead one to suppose.

3 This does not detract from the desirability of encouraging the re-introduction of Cotton cultivation in Malabar.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From P. J. BROWN, Esq., to G. A. BALLARD, Esq., Collector of Malabar, dated Tellicherry, 18th May 1863.

SIR,

1. As a very small return for the liberal supply of Cotton seed you have been so good as to send to me for distribution in the country, I beg leave to send herewith a sample of Cotton grown on, and lately picked from, one shrub at Anjarakandy, and cleaned by the native Churka. Two small samples of the same kind of Cotton, the produce of another shrub, were sent to Madras, and were valued by a very competent judge at 1s. 4*d.* to 1s. 6*d.* a lb. The present sample No. 1, is of superior quality to both those two.

2. The history of the samples is briefly this.—About four or five years ago, long before the Cotton famine, my notice was attracted to a solitary Cotton shrub, growing neglected in a large orchard, in consequence of seeing its head brilliantly white with a crop of expanding bolls. The gardener's account was, that it had been growing there, just as I saw it, for several years, and was either chance-sown or bird-sown.

3. I had the remaining bolls gathered, the seeds separated, and these distributed in twos and threes among a few of my labourers, with instructions to sow the seed in their grounds, and when the plants should bear, carefully to gather the Cotton and bring it to me. Sample 1 is this, the first year's produce from one seed and one shrub. The gross produce was $1\frac{5}{4}$lb., of which clean Cotton $\frac{1}{4}$lb., seeds $1\frac{1}{4}$lb., and a fractional quantity or refuse, not dirt. In Cotton properly gathered there is no dirt: by the native spinners what there is of refuse, after seeding, is turned to account.

4. Samples 2, sent to Madras, were the produce of another shrub, which I afterwards found growing *wild* in one of the grounds, my attention being now drawn to this Cotton. The account given of it by the labourers living near was the same as of No. 1, that it was self-propagated, neither sown nor planted by them. This shrub survives in site No. 1 has since dried and decayed.

5. From these accounts it is clear, that both shrubs are foreign perennials originally from foreign seed, not native annuals. From the superior quality of the Cotton they have produced, as well as from the situations and the manner in which they were found growing, I cannot have a doubt that both shrubs are the lineal and undegenerate descendants from the original Bourbon seed, which my father obtained from Madras, and sowed at Anjarakandy in February 1798, the very first month after he settled there; of which he sent the first produce to the Court of Directors, and the Court sold in London at 2*s.* 2*d.* a lb. in 1802, at the time the Court were selling the best Surat Cotton at 9*d.* to 11*d.* a lb.

6. This decisive trial and introduction of Bourbon Cotton date, therefore, so far back as upwards of 65 years ago. But the peculiar value of sample I at the present time, when Cotton growing facts, not theories, are what the Cotton grower seeks to guide him on his way, is the proof it furnishes, that this foreign Cotton has continued to grow spontaneously and vigorously from that year to this. The soil in which it has grown is the very opposite to that which *par excellence* is called in India, Cotton soil: it is the ordinary ferruginous, stiff, red clay, composing the steep hills and hill sides of Malabar, and which was no doubt erected from mud volcanoes in a former geological era. This Cotton has not only withstood, but flourished, under a rain through this flood of more than 12 feet perpendicular of water falling upon it in the course of eight months, this one shrub flowered and produced half a round of superior clean Cotton. The average rain-fall in England is 26 inches, or 2,600 *tons* an Acre; consequently the rain-fall of the West Coast at the same computation is at least 125,000 *tons* an Acre.

7. Adjoining to, and in contrast with, this unfailing climatal deluge, Mr. (Chinchona) Martin was struck, he says, by the similarity of the nearly rainless climate of Coimbatore and Madura with the vast rainless tract of Peru, extending for 1,600 miles along the Coast: in the broken, rugged vallies of which, wherever watered by streams descending from the Andes, has been produced from the time of the Incas the long-stapled Peruvian Cotton, the most beautiful Cotton yet known. The intelligent traveller, acutely alive, Englishman like to the wants of England, strongly urges a trial of Peruvian Cotton being made in both those Provinces of India, in the first of which Georgian Upland Cotton was successfully grown for thirteen years by the Native farmers under Dr. Wight's supervision.

8. There is, therefore, existing positive evidence: *first*, that good Cotton of the foreign kinds most required for the manufactures of Lancashire, can be naturalized in India, and grown there in every climate; ranging from that which is rainless, where the plant receives its indispensable moisture either from the copious dews of heaven alone, or from artificial irrigation, to the tracts where the annual rain-fall is from 120 to 140 inches; *second*, that Cotton of those kinds can be successfully grown of every soil in India, from the rich, black, lacustrine deposit, in which the plant delights, extending over vast surfaces in the interior, from the remote south to the far north, to the ordinary red clay constituting more or less the rest of the agricultural soil.

9. Taking the ancient population of India at the present rated number of 200 millions, there is undisputed historical testimony to the fact that this population were abundantly clad in native manufactures made of home-grown Cotton, so far back as 3,000 years ago. On the other hand, every English dweller in the interior has the opportunity of seeing for himself the numerous other uses for which Cotton, when cheap and procurable, is wanted by the natives, and may satisfy himself that the consumption of the article in every state, from raw to worked up, for the every-day purposes of life among them, must be enormous, and cannot be estimated approximately with any approach to accuracy.

10. In the face of this vast, universal, and ever-present demand, you, Sir, have the confidence before you in this large Maritime Province, containing a population of [illegible] millions, that there is scarcely one pound of raw Cotton to be had for money for their domestic uses. All, and [illegible] have been swept away to feed the weavers of Lancashire. In a [illegible] poverty, given to me experience with the wealth of England.

11. With regard to the peculiar local manufactures which the [illegible] and female, have been hitherto exclusively and distinctively clothed in, you may safely [illegible] in the interior, these native cloths are not to be [illegible] any price whatsoever, for they are no longer [illegible] spread immemorially and apart over every District of the country, [illegible] helpless, starving women and children, to help [illegible] out Bengal, says Sir C. Trevelyan in his Budget speech, "[illegible] been prostrated by the blow which staggered [illegible] "*nor any charitable friends to help them*, they have [illegible] raw material, and the excessive stocks of the manufacture [illegible]

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"*houses*; they have *emigrated*, or gone upon the Railways, or other Public Works, or have given "themselves up entirely to agriculture.—when Manchester sets to work again, she will find her "rival local manufacturers converted to an unexpected extent into ready-money customers."

12. These, except the first, have not, I fear, been the resource and the refuge of the hand-loom weavers of Madras. In South India, the caste of weavers, men and women, are generally nothing but weavers. They are physically, and I may say intellectually, inapt for any other, especially for any laborious, occupation. I have proved, by employing the men and boys around me in the country, that, however willing and industrious, they are incapable of doing the work and earning the wages of an agricultural labourer. The women have not the strength to handle the ordinary field mallet, and break clods like other women. I cannot help fearing that weakness and want combined have driven, and are driving the men and boys on French ship-board, to swell the mass of Madras natives, who, under an English treaty, are made to labour at Bourbon, at works, and under circumstances too painful to be revealed to the House of Commons.

13. I confess I am unable to perceive how the expatriation, or say, the absorption in the general population, of the weavers of India, and the annihilation of their manufactures, will confer upon the body of natives at large the capacity of paying to Manchester double the price for their future English clothing, that has been hitherto paid. If the boundless capital of England, after buying up all the raw Cotton of India, enables English houses firmly to hold, as Sir C. Trevelyan states, their excessive stocks of the manufactured article, until the price has already risen one hundred per cent; where is the price to stop? The great Home competition, which regulated the foreign price, is at an end. If the price of raw Cotton in England is to regulate the price to be demanded for English piece-goods in India, it is certain this price will be an increase of 100 and 500 per cent.

14. For an English mind to realize the revolution being wrought in India he must suppose all the raw-wool of England, the immemorial manufacturing staple of the country, bought up, and swept off, and worked up in India, none left to weave broad cloth or camlet for the rich, or shoddy for the poor, the weavers and their families universally cast adrift without one to help them; woollen clothing risen to double the weavers' price, and every piece of it imported and held at their own price by a few Indian houses established in London, Liverpool and Hull, all largely backed by Indian capital. The benefit to India in this utter and sudden industrial revulsion, he might see, but where the benefit to England? On the contrary next to starving, what greater calamity can befall a people than being suddenly stripped of their domestic manufacture, and driven to depend on a foreign and remote supply? If the Lancashire spinners and weavers be wholly innocent and guiltless, what conceivable share have the natives of India had in bringing this calamity upon themselves? It is the fruit, the fruit slowly of their connection with England. The least measure of justice they deserve is, that every mitigation be applied to their losses, and every adequate and counterbalancing PROTECTION in import duties be given to induce the resumption of native manufactures. Such would be the unanimous shout of England, such its shout and its irresistible demand from the Land's End to John O'Groats were the power and the position of the two countries reversed. Blessed would be the day for the enduring connection and prosperity of both, though Manchester be bent on not seeing it, when every hank of yarn to be woven in Lancashire has been spun in India. This would be the legitimate and beneficial exchange of their natural industries: let us hope that it is the energy and patriotism of Englishmen in India, working and supported by natives, that will yet bring it about.

15. I request you will do me the favor of submitting this letter and sample of Cotton to the Government.

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1. Ordered to be submitted for the information of Government with one-half of the sample of Cotton.

2. The remainder, with copy of the correspondence, will be forwarded to the Chamber of Commerce for their information.

3. The Board have supplied the Collector with a considerable quantity of seed for distribution, and do not doubt but that, under the present encouraging circumstances, the cultivation of Cotton in Malabar will be fully and fairly put to the test.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON, *Secretary.*

No. 275.

ORDER THEREON, 17th June 1863, No 1,061.

1. The Board will convey to Mr. Brown the acknowledgments of Government for his communication and the sample of Cotton which accompanied.

2. The high price of raw Cotton must seriously affect the hand-loom Weavers of India, but it is impossible for the Government to adopt the remedy suggested by Mr. Brown

3. The grower of Cotton has a right to sell his produce to the purchaser who will give him the highest price, and the Government would not act either justly or wisely if by a prohibitive export duty they sought to deprive him of this right, in order that cheap Cotton might be available for the local manufacturer. Piece-goods on import now pay a duty of 5 per cent, to increase this would be to sacrifice the interests of the many who consume to those of the few who manufacture such goods. The Weavers of the Madras Presidency have lately been relieved of the Mohturfa Tax, and much as the distress they may now be suffering is to be regretted the Government cannot resort to such an expedient for their relief as Mr. Brown advocates

4. The sample of Cotton will be forwarded to the Home Government.

(Signed) J. D. SIM,

Secretary to Government.

Revenue Department

No. 1064.

Proceedings of the Madras Government

Under date the 17th June 1863.

Read the following

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue.

Submitting for information a letter from Mr Brown of Madras on the subject of the Cotton cultivation in the District, and also a sample of Cotton forwarded by him.

(Here enter 5th June 1863 et 3,309)

The Board will convey to Mr Brown the acknowledgments of Government for his communication and the sample of Cotton which accompanied.

The high price of raw Cotton must seriously affect the hand-loom weavers of India but it is impossible for the Government to adopt the remedy suggested

6th

by Mr. Brown.

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The Sample of Cotton ~~will~~ to be forwarded to the Home Govt.

Jos

Copy of a Letter to Colonel Munro dated 6th June 1803

Extract 1803 Despatch
No. 9 Secret Para.

No. 1304.

Extract Madras Govt
Dated 1st Sept. 1803.

No. 274 & 275.

Transferring for record
Mr Brown's communi-
cations relative to the
Cultivation of Cotton in
Malabar.