## *Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 24th June 1863.*

No. 377. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 12th June 1863, No. 3,444:—

Read the following letter from the Honorable D. ARBUTHNOTT, Collector of Salem, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 8th June 1863, No. 104.

SIR,

1. With reference to Board's Proceedings dated the 20th June 1862, No. 3,964, I have the honor to enclose a copy of a letter received from Mr. J. Fischer, of Salem, with the sample of Cotton which accompanied it.

2. I request that the Cotton may be sent to the Secretary to the Agri-Horticultural Society for his remarks, as requested by Mr. Fischer.

3. The Board will observe from Mr. Fischer's letter, that, contrary to expectation, the Cotton plants required irrigation during the hot season, but as the plant is said to be perennial it is quite possible that it may not require irrigation in succeeding years when it has acquired more strength and has pushed its roots further into the soil.

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ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From J. FISCHER, Esq., to the Honorable D. ARBUTHNOTT, Collector of Salem, dated 30th May 1863.

SIR,

1. You will remember that you were good enough to send me a small quantity of Peruvian Cotton seed for experiment on the 28th September last, the result of which I was requested to report to you for the information of the Board of Revenue and Government. Immediately on receipt of the seed I had a small plot of ground in my garden prepared for the purpose, and I planted out the seeds in beds on the 1st October following. The soil I selected for the experiment is rather dry, loose, somewhat reddish and partially sandy. By means of judicious irrigation the whole of the seed germinated *within a week*, and when the plants were about a span high, and during the rains in October, I transplanted them very carefully and placed them three feet apart from each other in regular rows. I have since had the plants weeded twice and watered occasionally, generally about once or twice a week according to the state of the weather, by means of narrow channels in the middle of the rows. During the hot weather in March and April, I found that it was absolutely indispensable to irrigate the plants very *abundantly*, or they would have all most certainly perished. I have, as may be imagined, carefully watched the steady, but luxuriant growth of the plants, and hoped ere now to have had a small crop of Cotton from them. A few pods made their appearance at the commencement of the present month, but the heavy rains which followed not only destroyed many of them, but has injured the staple of those I have very fortunately since removed. I have had the Cotton from the pods which I secured, ginned by the common country Churka; the accompanying is a sample of the same which I exceedingly regret is so small. But as only eight months have elapsed since the seed was first planted, it would appear to be premature "to expect to gather anything to speak of till June," or perhaps even later, when I hope to realize a better out-turn and again to do myself the pleasure of reporting to you the further results of this experiment. Mr. Marden who, the Secretary of State in his Despatch of the 16th March last, states is engaged in the cultivation of Cotton in the Piura valley I observe says that "the plant does not come into its full bearing until it is three years of age when it is a bushy tree;" whether as Mr. Marden states each plant will then yield two pounds of clean Cotton on an average remains to be seen; but if this result can be realized, the present experiment might in that case be regarded as eminently successful.

2. I have at present about 200 plants in my garden, and they are mostly all about three feet high, and are certainly very healthy and promising. It is my intention to trench the soil upon which they are flourishing, and to continue the system of irrigation, which I consider

absolutely essential to the successful culture of this species of Cotton, and I shall keep you informed of the progress of the experiment. Meanwhile I beg to request that the sample of Cotton which accompanies this letter may be sent to the Secretary to the Agri-Horticultural Society for any remarks that he may be good enough to offer and through him to Government.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) D. ARBUTHNOTT, *Collector.*

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Ordered that the above correspondence be communicated with the sample of Cotton to the Honorary Secretary Agri-Horticultural Society as requested for his remarks, and that copy of the letters be submitted for the information of Government, and communicated to the Chamber of Commerce.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON, *Secretary.*

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No. 378. ORDER THEREON, 24th June 1863, No. 1,113.

1. The Board are requested to forward a sample of the Cotton for transmission to the Home Government with Mr. Fischer's letter.

2. The Board will convey to Mr. Fischer the thanks of Government for his communication.

(Signed) J. D. SIM,
*Secretary to Government.*

essential to the successful culture of this species of cotton, and I shall keep you informed of the progress of the experiment. Meanwhile I beg to request that the sample of cotton which accompanies this letter may be sent to the Secretary to the Agri-Horticultural Society for any remarks that he may be good enough to offer and through him to Government.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) D. ARBUTHNOTT, Collector.

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Ordered that the above correspondence be communicated with the sample of cotton to the Honorary Secretary Agri-Horticultural Society as requested for his remarks, and that copy of the letters be submitted for the information of Government, and communicated to the Chairman of Commerce.

(True Copies and Extract.)

Secretary.

To A. Hunter, Esq., M.D,. Honorary Secretary to the Agri-Horticultural Society,
with samples of Cotton.

Copy to J. D. Sim, Esq., Secretary to Government, R. D.
" W. H. Crake, Esq. Acting Chairman Chamber of Commerce.
" Honorable D. Arbuthnott, Collector of Salem.

Exd. J. Wright.

1863. Department.

No.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

No. 3,444.

Communicating to the Agri-Horticultural Society correspondence on Peruvian Cotton cultivated by Mr Fisher, and forwarding the sample of Cotton accompanying the same for their remarks