

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1273

Press

~~Mis.~~

266-247

Dated

13-7-1918

Not to be folded or roughly handled

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following Minutes:—

MINUTE BY THE HONORABLE THE PRESIDENT.

1. For some time past complaints have been made from all parts of the Presidency, either of a falling off in the supply of labour, or of an increase in the rate of wages tantamount to such a falling off.

2. The Engineers complain that every article, into the cost of which labour enters largely, has been enhanced in price.

3. The Inspector General of Police complains that the pay which he is able to offer is not sufficient to induce good men to join his force.

4. The Officers in command of Regiments complain that the pay of the Sepoy is not sufficient to enable him to provide food for himself and his family.

5. In fact it is a matter of notoriety that the pay which would formerly have secured the services of a good and efficient man is no longer sufficient for such a purpose.

6. There are three causes which have operated in a greater or less degree towards the production of this result:—

First.—An increase in the demand for labour.

Second.—A diminution in the supply.

Third.—A diminution in the value of money, or what is tantamount to this, a rise in the price of commodities.

7. The demand has been increased by the operations of the Railway Companies and the Irrigation Company. The Government, too, in the course of a few years has largely increased its expenditure upon Public Works.

8. On the other hand, there is a steady emigration from India to Ceylon, to the Mauritius and English West Indies, while to this drain has lately been added that originating in the convention with the French, which permits the agents to hire labour all over the country, and to ship it at several ports, while encouragement has been given to the agricultural population to extend cultivation, of which they have largely availed themselves. It would be difficult, if not impossible, to trace the action of any or all of these causes combined with reference to any particular district or work, and it would be still more difficult to analyse the general rise of price which has taken place, into its various elements. As, however, this has been exhibited to a greater extent, and with more steadiness and regularity since 1852, it is but natural to suppose that the increase in the amount of bullion from the Australian diggings, which has averaged for the last ten years about ten millions annually, may have had a striking effect in lowering the value of money.

9. Whether, then, the rise in the rate of wages be attributable to any, or to all of the causes above stated, it is evident that the Government has to deal with a state of things which it is powerless to check or control. The increase of capital, the introduction of new branches of industry and the extension of old, will increase the demand for labour. While it would seem probable that an increase rather than a decrease in the amount of gold poured in from Australia is likely to take place, so that while the services of men are more urgently called for, and the work required to be performed greater both in amount and importance, the means at the disposal of the Government and the community will be relatively, if not absolutely, less than at present.

10. This is a most unsatisfactory state of things, and in the present state of society in India it would be hopeless to rest upon the conviction that the pressure caused by the deficiency of labour would generate within any reasonable period such a mechanical faculty as would meet the urgent wants of the country.

11. In England there are hundreds of minds at work, whose faculties have been well trained and developed, and who look to the invention and construction of every kind of machine as their ordinary means of livelihood. In America, where there has been a steady pressure upon the labour market for many years, the mechanical faculty is still more developed, and every man derives assistance in the most ordinary details of his household arrangements from simple machines of the cheapest possible construction.

12. In those countries the supply and demand fairly balance each other, and any interference on the part of the Government would be not only useless but probably prejudicial.

13. In India, however, the case is very different. Here it would seem that, at one time, the inventive faculty was highly developed, but it now appears to be now, and to have been for many years, an utter stagnation of the intellect so far as relates to mechanical invention or adaptation. I have said that the mechanical faculty was at one time highly developed in India, and I think that the fact that we see in the fields here the prevalent type of the drill plough, and the horse hoe of English agriculture, and that the present is probably the best mode of employing man's labour to the raising of water, will sufficiently bear me out in making such a statement. But it is equally true that for very many years no attempt has been made to improve the present implements, or to invent new ones; that we see the hand-mill, which has been in use for the last 3,000 years and upwards, still the sole means of grinding the daily supply of meal; that the paddy is still, after receiving a preliminary threshing, thrown into a heap when the remaining grain is trodden out by bullocks; that the water is lifted from the well by a bucket or chatty let down and pulled up by a rope without even the mechanical aid of the wheel and axle.

14. In fact, the Indian is essentially an unmechanical man, and under the influence of caste (which is a great maintainer of things as they are) and in the absence of instruction both practical and theoretical, he is likely to remain so.

15. The state of things depicted above does not, however, operate solely on the Native population, it re-acts in the European. There is no demand for machinery therefore there are no workshops; no places, with the exception of a few belonging to the Railways or the Government, where machinery can ever be seen in operation.

16. The Officers of Engineers and others attached to the Department of Public Works, though probably well versed in the theory of Mechanics, never see machinery in action; and from the habit of employing manual labour upon all their works, they lose sight altogether of the advantage to be derived from machinery. They are too much engaged in the daily details of the Government work to be able to devote any time to mechanical invention even were it to occur to them that machinery might be employed upon the works under their superintendence, and thus are still less likely to exercise their power of invention upon machinery for the benefit of Native industry. Under these circumstances, I think it would be well worth the consideration of the Government, whether it might not be possible to prepare the minds of the people of this Presidency for the changes which are slowly but surely coming upon them, by the adoption of some or all of the following suggestions or of some analogous propositions:—

First.—That in all the schools over which the Government exercises any influence or control, special attention should be paid to instruction in the theory of Mechanics generally, while means should be provided for bringing under the notice of the pupils simple applications of mechanical power, with special reference to the saving of labour produced by them. I do not so much wish to see a set of models provided for inspection, as a practical exemplification of the benefits derived from the use of simple machinery, such, for instance, as the wheel and axle.

Second.—That means should be provided for the purchase of a certain number of machines of the simplest possible construction and of the cheapest materials, such machines being adapted to perform easily, rapidly and cheaply the work which has hitherto employed and does still employ a very large number of hands in India in the varieties of agricultural work.

17. There are twenty-four millions of people in the Presidency of Madras, and of these two-thirds or sixteen millions and upwards are employed in agriculture: if by the adoption of mechanical expedients for saving labour 10 per cent. of these people would be made disposable, one million pair of hands would be made available for other work.

18. Threshing machines, winnowing machines, horse or bullock rakes might be introduced with great advantage, and were a slight charge made to cover the expense of working, they might be used in each district for the purpose of showing the Natives what might be done by very simple means.

19. A winnowing machine especially would be most useful. At present, when the grain is beaten or trodden out, the process followed out is similar to that which prevailed upwards of a century ago in England: the grain and chaff is poured from some height, and the wind, when there is sufficient, blows the chaff leaving the corn on the threshing floor. But in this there is a great waste of time and labour: the wind has to be waited for, and when

it does come many hands are employed to do the work, which one man and a bullock would perform in one-sixth of the time.

Third.—That the machines so purchased should be exhibited in different districts throughout the Presidency, four or five specimens of each being purchased.

Fourth.—That special inducements should be held out to inventors of machines, by which the power which nature places at the disposal of every one, may be utilized. I allude to machines driven by wind or water-power, the former would be very applicable to a variety of operations in which regularity of action is not required, as for instance raising water from wells for irrigation, grinding flour, working oil mills, &c.

The latter would be a cheap substitute for steam in places where either a large body of water with a small fall or a small body with a high fall, can be made available.

20. I may be told that many attempts of the kind have been made and have failed, and that it is hopeless to attempt to introduce changes among a people bigotted to their own practices, which are rendered more dear to them as involving, often, some religious or caste feeling.

21. I admit the difficulty, but I think that it has been exaggerated. With reference to former experiments I would observe that, in many of the cases brought under my notice, the machinery introduced was of a character by no means fitted either to the soil or the power by which it was to be worked. Heavy ploughs requiring eight or ten oxen to draw them, heavy tools requiring the powerful muscles of the Englishman to use them, and most of these composed of iron.

22. What is wanted here are tools of a simple construction which the Native can, when duly instructed, make for himself, or, at all events, have made by the village artist out of materials such as are available in the country, and if specimens of such are introduced, either from England or America, I think it by no means unlikely that a better result would be obtained. The objection arising out of the opposition to change on the part of the Natives may have some greater weight, but even this has been pressed beyond reasonable limits. I do not think that the Hindoo when once fully convinced of the advantages presented by a new tool or instrument, or machine, would have so little sense of his own interest as to be induced to refuse to avail himself, of these on any but economical grounds. Indeed, I believe them to have a clear conception of what is best for their interests. I have direct evidence to the fact that the young men in the Engineer Workshop at Dowlaishweram have willingly adopted the English mode of working at the bench, and have been able in consequence to turn out better work, and therefore to earn better wages. Again, I have direct evidence that men are easily taught, and easily induced to use a scythe by which the labour in reaping many crops is diminished to an extraordinary extent. In fact, I believe that the main difficulty which will be experienced in the introduction of machinery will arise out of the tendency of Engineers to select the very best without much reference to price or to the material of which it is composed, whereas in a country like this, when the interest of money is very high, economy is a matter of primary importance. Wood must be substituted for iron wherever practicable; bamboo for wood, for it must be remembered that though the price of labour is rising, it is, as compared with that paid in England or America, very low.

23. The following machines which are likely to be useful and to force themselves upon the attention of the Natives, have suggested themselves to me, and might be sent for as a first instalment. Hereafter I have no doubt others will be found of equal or greater value, and I should, I confess, be glad to see a steady annual importation by the Government of tools and implements adapted to the wants and the physical capability of the Natives. Threshing machines with winnowing machine attached driven by horse or bullock power, to be made portable so as to be easily moved from one Talook, or one District to another; of these I should like to have six.

24. Three of them should be worked by the American horse or bullock power machine, in which the animal moves up a sort of treadmill. Three by the ordinary horse or bullock power machine, in which the animals move round in a circle moving a central axis to the arms from which they are attached.

25. Winnowing machines of the very simplest structure, made in great measure of wood, to be worked by hand, or by a strap from one of the power engines. Six of these would be usefully distributed about the country. They should of course be portable, that is, so light as to be easily moved; but I do not lay any great stress upon their being mounted on wheels.

26. American portable wind-mills, two. This number will be sufficient, for when once the principle is seen machines can be made of cheap and simple materials, better adapted to the circumstances of the Ryots.

27. Burrows' (American) Rice huller, if there are more than one description of rice huller, I should be glad to have three or four of each kind. The great mass of the people exist upon rice, and the amount of labour expended in hulling this, that in getting off the outer pellicle, in reducing in fact the paddy to rice, may be understood from the single fact that the price of rice is about double that of paddy, the difference being due altogether to the labour expended in cleaning it, a machine simply constructed and easily worked would be invaluable, and would save a very great amount of labour. It must be understood, however, that this is a machine for domestic use, to replace the sorts of pestle and mortar with which each family prepares its food. A larger description might be sent out for use in the gaols, where many of the prisoners are kept at work in the preparations of the food of the remainder.

28. I should like very much to see a good steam plough at work upon many of the dry plains of India. I feel certain that the effect of deep ploughing and sub-soiling the ground would be to double the crop, and to secure it, in great measure, from the operation of drought, but I am aware that such a machine is far in advance of the present wants, or, I should rather say, of the present circumstances of the country, and would have to be looked upon more as a means of educating the people, than as an implement which would ever, or, at all events, for many years to come, be made use of for agricultural purposes; still, however, it might be used, and a charge made for ploughing by it in proportion to the benefit which a year or two would show to result from it. The charge for ploughing would not of course pay any interest on the outlay and maintenance of the machine, but I am disposed to think that the stimulus which would be given to the improvement of agriculture would well repay the Government for the outlay upon one of the best of these machines, with all the appliances required to work it, among which must be included a competent Engineer, who might be engaged for three years.

(Signed) W. T. DENISON.

MINUTE BY THE HONORABLE MR. MALTBY.

The experiment proposed by the President of obtaining samples of useful and simple tools should be tried.

(Signed) E. MALTBY.

MINUTE BY THE HONORABLE MR. PYCROFT.

1. I quite concur in the President's proposals, and should be glad to see action taken on them as soon as possible.

2. I believe the idea that Hindoos are more bigotted in their attachment to old customs than other people, to be a pure fallacy. I do not believe that they are worse, if so bad, in this respect as the Chawbacons (as Cobbett called them) of Somersetshire or Wilts. Show a Hindoo a machine that can be easily worked, cost little, and will economize labor, and he will use it fast enough.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT.

ORDER THEREON, 13th July 1863, No. 1,273.

1. Ordered that the foregoing Minutes be forwarded to the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for India.

2. Paragraph 16 of the President's Minute will be communicated to the Educational Department in view to the necessary orders being issued.

(True Extract.)

Secretary to Government.

To the Educational Department.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

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In some some parts of India have been made from all kinds of the Presidency & other in falling off in the country of labour, or of an increase in the rate of wages & in the amount to be made.

The Government are anxious that every article which is a good which labour will be doing has been increased in price.

The highest price of labour is paid for the pay which he is able to get in what he is able to do in not doing it is in the

lost men in the country. The officers in command of the Government are anxious that the pay of the labour is not sufficient to enable him to provide food for his family.

In fact it is a matter of course that the pay of the labour is not sufficient for such a purpose.

There are three causes which have operated in a greater or less degree towards the production of the results, 1st An increase in the demand for labour.

2nd a diminution in the supply

3rd a diminution in the value of money.

The demand has been increased by the operation of the Railway companies and the Impetation company. The Government too in the course of a few years has largely increased its expenditure upon Public works.

On the other hand there is a steady emigration from India to England, to the Mauritius & English West Indies, while to this drain has lately been added that originating in the connection with the French, which permits them agents to hire labour all over the country and to ship it at several ports. While encouragement has been given to the agricultural population to extend cultivation, and have largely added

the Chambers of commerce called upon of Somersetshire or hitherto - There is a loss of machinery that can be easily worked, cost little, and will economize labour, and he will not it for a long time.

themselves - It would be difficult if not impossible to trace the action of these causes without reference to any particular district or work, and it would be still more difficult to analyse the general rise of price which has taken place, into its various elements, as however this has been exhibited to a greater extent, and with more steadiness & regularity since 1852 it is but natural to suppose that the increase in the amount of Bullion from the Australian diggings which has averaged for the last ten years about 10 millions annually may have had a striking effect in lowering the value of money.

Whether then the rise in the value of money be attributable to any, or to all of the causes above stated, it is evident that the Govt has to deal with a state of things which it is powerless to check or control. The increase of Capital, the introduction of new branches of industry and the extension of old, will increase the demand for labour - while it would

is probable that an increase rather than a decrease in the amount of gold mined in from Australia is likely to take place - so that while the number of men more exactly called for, and the work required to be performed, greater both in amount & importance in means at the disposal of the ^{and the Government} Govt, will be, relative of not absolutely, to the present -

This is a most unsatisfactory state of things, and in the present state of society in India it would be difficult to look upon the conviction that the progress caused by the deficiency of labour would penetrate within any considerable period such a mechanical faculty as would meet the urgent wants of the country. In England there are thousands of men at work whose facilities have been well trained & developed and who look to the invention and construction of every kind of machine as their ordinary means of livelihood. In America where there has been a steady increase

upon the labour market for many years, the mechanical faculty is still more developed, and every man derives assistance in the most ordinary details of household arrangements from simple machines of the cheapest possible construction - In those countries the supply and demand fairly balance each other and any interference on the part of the Govt would be not only useless but probably prejudicial -

In India however the case is very different. Here, it would seem, that, at one time, the inventive faculty was highly developed, but then appears to be now, and to have been for many years, an utter stagnation of the intellect so far as relates to mechanical invention or adaptation. I have said that the mechanical faculty was at one time highly developed in India

It is I think that the fact
that we see in the gold
the evident type of the
drill & loam, & the Bone
of English Agriculture
and that the method is
probably the best mode
of employing human labor
to the raising of water,
will sufficiently bear
me out in making such
a statement. - But it
is equally true that for
very many years no
attempt has been made
to improve the present
implements, or to in-
vent new ones - that
we see the hand mill,
which has been in use
for the last 8000 years
and upwards, still
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the daily supply of
meal - that the Saddy
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The state of things depicted
above does not however
operate solely on the native
population, it reaches in
the European - There is
no demand for machi-
nery, therefore there are
no workshops, no plans,
with the exception of a
few belonging to the Rail-
ways or the Govt. when
machinery can ever
be seen in operation -
The officious Europeans
and others attached to
the Dept of public works

It is probably well
recalled in the history of
mechanics, never see
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and from the habit of
employing manual
labour upon all their
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Even were it to occur to
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ticipate the likelihood of exercise
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benefit of their industry.
Under these circumstances
I think it would be well
worth the consideration of
the Govt whether it might
not be profitable to prepare
the minds of the people of
this Presidency for the
change which is slowly
but surely coming upon
them by the adoption of

some of the following
legislative measures.
1st That in all the Schools
under the Government
express any influence
in control special attention
should be paid to instruction
in the theory of mechanics
and the while means
should be provided for
practical work under the motto
the pupils should apply
their mechanical power
to the actual reference of the
saving of labour, produce
nothing - Do not do me
kind to see a set of models
provided for inspection
as a practical example
of the benefits
derived from the use of
simple machinery and
for contact with the wheel
and axle.

2nd That means should be
provided for the purchase
of certain number of
machines of the simplest
possible construction of
the cheapest materials
and machines being adapted
to perform easily, rapidly
& cheaper the work which

He is not ^{employed} and does not
employ a very large sum:
of hands in India
& runs the societies of Agri-
cultural work. —

There are 24 millions of people in the Presidency of Madras, and of these two thirds or 16 millions & upwards are employed in agriculture, & by the adoption of mechanical appliances for saving labour 1 m. l. of these people could be made disposable. - one million of ^{men of hand} ~~men~~ would be made available for other work.

loose.
Threshing Machines, Mowing
Machines, ^{or mowers} Horse rakes.
might be introduced
with great advantage,
and were a slight charge
made to cover the expense
of working they might
be used in East districts
for the purpose of showing to
the natives what might
be done by very simple
means. — Machine

meant. —
A swimming machine.
Especially would be
most useful. at present
when the pain is beaten
out, the breath
followed out in similar
and what would be called a

appearance of a child
as in England. The
cotton chaff is found growing
some height and the seed
which there is sufficient
blow away the chaff
leaving the cotton in the
machine. Then - but in
the there is a great waste
of time & labour. The
seed has to be sorted for
and when it does come
many pounds are lost
delayed to do the work
which one man and a
Bridgman would perform
in one week of the time -
3. That the Machines be
purchased should be
exhibited in all United
districts throughout the
Presidency, four of the
specimens of each being
purchased.

What special inducements
should be held out to
inventors of Machines
by which the power which
nature places at the
disposal of every one
may be utilized. I
allude to Machines
driven by Wind or
Water Power - the power

It will be very applicable
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in which regularity of
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as for instance raising
water from wells for irrigation
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oil mills &c.

The latter would be a
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mean felted rather to the
loss of the power by which
it was to be worked.
Heavy shafts requiring
much power. In some
cases too requiring the
employment of much
labour. It is all these
things, &c. &c. &c. &c.
I think that a better
result would be obtained
if the question arising out of
the opposition to change
in the part of the natives
may have some practical
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has been pressed beyond
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-mical grounds - indeed
I believe them to have a
clear conception of what
is best for their interests -
I have direct evidence to
the fact that the young
men in the dry work
at Worcester have
willingly adopted the
English mode of working
at the Press, and
have been able in con-
sequence to turn out
better work, and more
-~~cheaply~~ ^{than} to can better
paper. - Again I have
direct evidence that
men are easily taught,
and easily induced
to use a scythe by
showing the labour in
reaping many crops
is diminished to an
extraordinary extent.

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in the introduction of
Machinery will arise
from the tendency of
- ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~people~~ ^{people} to select the
very best without much
reference to price, and
the material of which it
is composed. Whereas in
countries like this where
the interest of money
is very high economy
is a matter of primary
importance - Wood
must be substituted
for iron wherever prac-
-ticable - Bamboo for
wood for it must be
remembered that though
the price of labour is rising,
it is as compared with
that paid in England.
America very low -

Mersey
The following ~~kind~~ ^{kind} machines
which are likely to be useful
and to draw themselves upon
the attention of the natives
have suggested themselves
to me and I thought

put on as a great metal man.
 hereafter I have no doubt
 others will be found ^{of great value}
~~in the same way~~
~~of the same kind~~
 and should I could be glad to
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 implements adapted to
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 capability of the natives

Threshing machines with
 overrunning machine attached
 driven by horse or bullock
 power - to be made portable
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 animal moves up a sort
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 they are attached -

Steam sawing machines of
 the very simplest structure
 made in great measure of
 wood, to be worked by
 hand, or by a strap from
 one of the power engines
 & others would be useful.

18. Apr. 1863 R22

Peru 1863 Oct

No. 885

Minute by the Hon^{ble}
the President

Voted
 Received 17th 3 Sept-1863.
 9^o

Recording views on the
 general complaint of scarcity
 in the supply of labor in the
 various Departments caused
 by an increase in the rate of
 wages or a falling off in the
 supply, and suggesting means
 for overcoming the evil.

distributed about the
 country - they should be
 made portable, that
 is to say easily to be
 moved but I do not lay
 any great stress upon their
 being mounted on wheels.

American portable
 windmills. Two -
 This number will be
 sufficient for when once
 the principle is seen
 machines can be made
 of cheap & simple ma-
 terials better adapted
 to the circumstances of
 the place -
 Burrows (American)

Rice huller -
 of them are more than one
 description of Rice huller
 I should be glad to have
 three or four of each - the
 great mass of the people
 exist upon rice, and the
~~inconvenience~~ the amount
 of labour expended in hulling
 this, that in getting off the
 peltide - in reducing in
 fact the ^{quantity} of rice, may
 be understood from the
 single fact that the price of
 rice is about double that
 of paddy the difference being
 due altogether to the labour
 expended in cleaning it for
 consumption.

for a machine simply constructed & easily worked
it would be invaluable & would save a very great amount of labour - it must be understood however that this is a machine for domestic use to replace the sort of spade & mortar with which each family prepares its food - a large description might be sent out for use in the Galle where many of the prisoners are kept at work in the preparation of the food. The remainder should be very much to save food & even though at work upon many of the day claims of India I feel certain that the effect of deep ploughing and subsoiling the ground would be to double the crops and to secure ~~the crops~~ in great measure from the operation of drought - but I am aware that such a machine is far in advance of the present wants or I should rather say of the present circumstances of the country and would have to be looked upon more as a means of educating the people than as an implement which would be of use in all events for many years to come, he made use of for agricultural purposes still however it might be

used, and a change made for ploughing by it in proportion to the benefit which a few stores would show to result from it - The charge for ploughing would not of course pay any interest in the outlay and maintenance of the machine, but I am disposed to think that the stimulus which would be given to the improvement of agriculture would well repay the Govt for the outlay upon one of the best of these machines with all the appliances required to work it, among which must be included a competent Eng who might be engaged for three years -

W. Wilson

P D
No 005

Rec^d from Bangalore
27/6/63. J.D.P.

Virginia Littera Eng lina
4/13th - 4th 1/2 of 1863
Rep to H of 1864

Revenue 1863. Report
Chas of Govt for July.

c 10885.

c 101767.

Minute by the Hon. Mr.
Pyers.

Minute by the Hon. Mr. the
President.

Concurring in the

President's proposal to
obtain samples of useful
and simple tools.

According to the
general complaint of scarcity
in the supply of labour in the
various Departments caused
by an increase in the rate of
wages or a falling off in its
supply, and suggesting
remedies for overcoming the
evil.

c 101766.

Minute by the Hon. Mr.
Maitland.

Concurring in the sug-
gestion of the President to
obtain samples of useful
and simple tools.

c 244@246.

N. 1273-13 July

Revenue Depart

N 1273-

Proceedings of the Madras Government
Under date, the 13th July 1863.

And, the following Min

By this Excellency, the Governor.

(The order April 1863)

" the Honorable Mr. Maitland

(The order - - -)

the Honorable Mr. Pyers.

(The order - - -)

1 Ordered, that
the foregoing Minutes
be forwarded to the Right
Honorable the Secretary
of State for India.

2 Paragraph 16 of the
President's Minute will be
communicated to the Edu-
cational Dept. in view to
necessary orders being issued.

5 Copies to the Educational Dept. 13 July

8/13
D. 24 1864

Revenue 1863-1864
D. of 1863
D. 12/23

P. of the Madras Port
D. 13 Aug 63.

from

Minutes of the Minutes
of Council proposing to
obtain from England some
kinds of useful and simple
tools for use in the
District of Madras.

Letter to England
113 24 1863

24 1864