

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1278

Press

Mis.

256.257

Dated

13. 7 - 19 1863

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
13th July 1863.*

No. 256. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 2nd July 1863, No. 3,999:—

Read the following letter from J. FRASER, Esq., Acting Collector of North Arcot, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Chittoor, 27th June 1863, No. 115.

SIR,

1. I have the honor to forward a Memorandum on the experiment in cultivation of Peruvian Cotton seed made by me at this station, and referred to in my letter No. 91 of the 1st instant. I think it will be found to give all the information required.

2. I gave small parcels of the seed to four people in this neighbourhood. In one case, the plants were eaten by sheep soon after they got above ground. In the other three, the plants are vigorous and well grown, but have not yet flowered, though the seed was sown at the same time as mine. I look, however, on these last as valuable, because neither manure nor artificial irrigation has been used at all. When the plants do bear fruit, I shall let the Board know, and send specimens of the produce if I am in the District at the time.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

Memorandum regarding experiment with Piura Valley Cotton seed

SOIL.—Light, and rather poor, being a mixture of mould with a large proportion of sand gravel, and disintegrated rock-felspar I believe. It was manured at a cost of 2 Rupees with the refuse obtained from back-yards in the town. The ground was originally intended for growing vegetables in, and had been well dug to incorporate the manure with the soil thoroughly.

EXTENT PLANTED.—Two hundred and forty square yards, or very nearly one-twentieth of an Acre; the quantity of seed used was a small handful.

DATE OF SOWING AND MODE OF CULTURE.—On the 30th September 1862, about half the ground was laid out in raised drills five feet apart, and the seeds dibbed in singly six inches apart. The ground had been well moistened by rain previous to sowing, and the seeds were watered by hand, as occasion required, till they appeared above ground which they did, with scarcely a single blank, on the 5th October. They were slightly watered by hand till about six inches high. On the 27th October, the plants were thinned out to eighteen inches, or two feet apart, and the thinnings transplanted into the remaining half of the ground, on raised drills as above, and at distances of two feet apart. These were watered by hand till they had recovered the effects of removal, and have thriven nearly as well as those left were originally sown. From this time, the whole were allowed to depend on the local rains (with the exception of being thrice artificially irrigated, the water being run into the channels on either side of the raised drills) till the plants began to flower, which was in the first week of February 1863. The plants were then in many cases from 5½ to 6 feet high with lateral branches 3 feet long. I found I had made the mistake of planting much too close. The drills should be at least 10 feet apart, and the plants 8 feet, to allow of free growth. One row only of twenty-six has thriven badly and bore hardly a single pod. From the middle of February till the end of May, the plants were well watered once a week as just described.

The pods began to ripen in the first week of April and several were picked on the 7th. I send the contents of two, one with, one without seeds, fully developed and well ripened, which were picked on that day. Many similar ones were picked afterwards, so that these may be considered fair specimens.

The picking continued at intervals as the pods ripened till the end of May. The produce has been at 135 lbs. of seed Cotton per Acre; when cleaned it has been at 45 lbs. fibre, and 90 lbs. seed for the virgin crop. If the plant produces any thing like what it does in Peru at the second crop, the yield in December next should be very good.

The number of bearing plants was 250. There are now in the ground 276. They were all cut to the height of about 4 feet on the 15th instant, and the side branches shortened to 2 feet

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
13th July 1863.*

or thereabouts. They all look very healthy, and many are $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter at the base and were nearly 7 feet high when cut over.

SEASON.—From the time of sowing till the 20th of November there was rain enough to render the plants almost independent of all artificial irrigation. After that date no rain fell worth mentioning. The north-east monsoon failed almost entirely.

CHITTOOR, 26th June 1863.

(Signed) J. FRASER, *Acting Collector.*

1. The Board are much obliged to Mr. Fraser for his full report, which will be submitted for the information of Government, and copies communicated to the Chamber of Commerce, the Agri-Horticultural Society, to Dr. Shortt, to Mr. Fischer, and to all Collectors.

2. The Board request Mr. Fraser to keep them informed of the further results of the experiment.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON, *Secretary.*

No. 257.

ORDER THEREON, 13th July 1863, No. 1,278.

Ordered to be communicated to the Home Government and laid on the Editor's Table.

(Signed.) J. D. SIM,

Secretary to Government.

No. 3,999.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 2nd July 1863.

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(True Copies and Extract.)

Secretary.

To J. D. Sim, Esq., Secretary to Government, R. D., with samples.

„ W. H. Crane, Esq., Acting Chairman Chamber of Commerce.

„ Revd. J. R. Macfarlane, M. A., Officiating Honorary Secretary to Agri-Horticultural Society.

„ Doctor Shortt, Chingleput.

„ H. Fischer, Esq., Salem.

„ All Collectors.

Exd. J. Wright:

1276 *18-1278.*
Ordered to be communicated
to the Home Government and laid
on the Editor's Table

13th July 1863
14 Board of Revenue Dept 11

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated 2nd July 1863.

Despatched 5th

Received 7th

22-*Chingleput*

No. 3,999.

No. 1608.

1863.

Department

1860 =
20 of 13th July

Forwarding a Memorandum from the Collector of North Arcot on the experiment in cultivation of Peruvian Cotton seed.

1863. 13 July
With Mr. Crane