M.R.O. 14—13,000—27-9-24.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1585 Press ~~Mis.~~

305-306

Dated 28-8-~~19~~-1863

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 28th August 1863.

No. 305. Read the following letter from A. D. ROBERTSON, Esq., Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Revenue Department, to the Secretary to the Government of Fort Saint George, Madras, dated Bombay Castle, 14th August 1863, No. 2,720 :—

SIR,

I am directed by His Excellency the Governor in Council to forward, for the information of the Government of Madras, four printed copies of the Resolution passed by this Government, under to-day's date, No. 2,716, appointing Dr. G. F. Forbes a Commissioner, with instructions to devote his exclusive attention to questions regarding the improvement and extension of the cultivation of Cotton, and the invention and manufacture of Cotton-cleaning Machinery.

No. 306. ORDER THEREON, 28th August 1863, No. 1,585.

The foregoing letter and the Resolution which accompanied it will be communicated to the Board of Revenue and the Chamber of Commerce.

(True Extract.)

Deputy Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
„ Chamber of Commerce.
Editor's Table.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

APPOINTMENTS.

No. 2,716.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Bombay Castle, 14th August 1863.

Memorandum from the Under Secretary to the Government of India, No. 2,438, dated 13th April 1863—Forwarding an extract from the Proceedings of that Government in the Financial Department, No. 1,280, dated 31st March preceding, according temporary sanction to the salaries, aggregating to Rupees 1,600 per mensem, allowed by this Government to Dr. G. F. Forbes, for holding the appointments noted in the margin.

Extra Assistant Collector and Magistrate with charge of the Revenue and Magisterial duties of Sudashewghur.
Extra Assistant Collector of Customs, Salt, and Opium, and in that capacity Port Officer at Sudashewghur.
In charge of the Wood Depôt at Sudashewghur.
Superintendent of the Cotton Gin Factory at Dharwar.

RESOLUTION.—The Government of India have intimated that they do not approve, as a permanent arrangement, of the proposals submitted by this Government for combining Dr. Forbes' duty as Superintendent of Sudashewghur with those of Superintendent of the Cotton Gin Factory at Dharwar, and have directed their separation after the expiration of six months.

2. It has been ascertained that of the two duties Dr. Forbes would much prefer to retain those duties which are connected with the Cotton Gin Factory, even at a considerable sacrifice of pecuniary emolument.

3. It is indeed clear that the manufacture of the improved Gin, which is one of the few substantial improvements effectively introduced into native practice, and likely to exercise any extensive influence on the production of Cotton in India, is not yet in a state to be safely left to the chance of its being taken up by private enterprise.

4. The value of one of these Gins depends not on the general design only, nor even on the correct manufacture of the iron-work, so much as on the accurate fitting together of the parts, and general finish of the completed machine.

5. But it has hitherto been found in practice impossible to secure this except at the Government Factory. His Excellency the Governor in Council is informed that workmen trained at the Dharwar Factory have been tempted away by offers of high wages, and employed by private parties to manufacture Gins, which entirely fail in some of the many requisites of a good Gin; yet so eager is the demand for them, that sooner than wait their turn to be supplied at the Government Factory, the Ryots readily pay 600 or 700 Rupees for a spurious and comparatively inefficient imitation of a Gin, which the Government Factory would supply at Rupees 300. The Government Factory now turns out eight Gins per diem, and there were, a few weeks ago, upwards of one thousand applications on the books of the Factory and fresh applications were being daily registered.

6. While the demand for Gins is so pressing, and the means of supplying anything like a perfect machine are so entirely confined to the one establishment, it would be impossible for Government to give up the manufacture of Gins without perceptibly diminishing the supply of the best Cotton which is now exported from Western India.

7. There is, moreover, still much to be done in perfecting a Gin suited to other varieties of Cotton; for it is a well ascertained fact, that Gins of the pattern now manufactured at Dharwar, although thoroughly well adapted for cleaning Cotton of the New Orleans species as naturalised in the Dharwar Districts, are not suited for other varieties. Gins have, in fact, yet to be invented which shall do for the native Deccan Cotton what Dr. Forbes' Gin has done for the Dharwar American, and a different modification of the Gin is needed for each variety of Cotton. Such inventions are among the prime desiderata for extending the production and improving the quality of Indian Cotton.

8. It seems to His Excellency the Governor in Council not only right that Government should do their best to aid such inventions by sharing the expense of feeling the way by experiment towards the desired end, but more than probable that perseverance in experiment will lead to success.

9. The Governor in Council knows of no one so likely as Dr. Forbes to hit on what is required, whether in adapting his own Gins now in use, or in inventing something new; all that seems to be required is that Government should afford him the means of applying his experi-

ence in the manufacture of Gins, and his great mechanical ability and the mechanical resources of his Factory to the new problem to which hitherto his attention has been little directed.

10. His Excellency the Governor in Council is therefore pleased to extend the sphere of Dr. Forbes' operations in instructing him to try whether he cannot, if left unfettered to make such experiments as occasion may suggest, do for the native Deccan varieties of Cotton and for the Cotton of Berar and Guzerat what he has done for the American Cotton of Dharwar.

11. In the event of a successful result in cleaning the Cotton of any one District, an important end will have been gained; Poona, Surat, and Ahmedabad all offer facilities for establishing Factories for their manufacture within reach of the cultivator such as Dr. Forbes could hardly have found at Dharwar when he commenced the experiments which have been so fruitful in result.

12. But Government would not restrict Dr. Forbes' attention to the one object of providing machinery for cleaning Cotton. They would generally utilise his great experience in all matters connected with Cotton, and see whether he could not achieve some success in introducing new varieties of Cotton, and new modes of culture as well as cleaning.

13. The Governor in Council would not by any means despair of adequate useful result in this attempt, even if the person employed were less highly qualified than Dr. Forbes by his previous habits and experience.

14. The Dharwar New Orleans is the only new variety as yet successfully introduced as an acknowledged staple of native agriculture. Its growth can probably be much extended. It has recently been found to thrive in Mysore beyond what was till lately supposed to be the limit of the District suited to it, and doubtless it might be extended towards Bellary and elsewhere in regions the soil and climate of which assimilate to those of Dharwar. The great obstacle complained of by those who wish to try this and other varieties is the difficulty and delay in obtaining good and suitable seed. This would be to a great extent obviated by the appointment of an officer to whom all could apply with a certainty of having their applications attended to, and with some chance of being corrected if they asked for the wrong kind of seed; for besides New Orleans there are, as is well known, other varieties, such as the Peruvian, Sea Island, and Egyptian, which are doubtless all more or less well suited to one or other of the various climates and soils of India, or capable, by careful acclimatisation, or by crossing, of being naturalised in India.

15. Much, too, might probably be done for the improvement of indigenous Cotton, and as great results may possibly be obtainable from an improved mode of its culture as from the introduction of new varieties.

16. His Excellency the Governor in Council does not expect that Dr. Forbes, or any other one man, will be able to do much personally in conducting such experiments; but it is certain that advantage must result from having one central authority, to whom all can refer for advice or assistance, who knows what has been done, what has been fairly tried, and what has conclusively failed; who can make promising experiments more widely known, and ensure their repitition, as well as save amateur experimentalists the trouble and disappointment of going again over a track which has been repeatedly traversed before.

17. Even in the distribution of seeds and information, Government constantly find the want of some one to give his exclusive attention to the matter. At present the public depend entirely on the volunteer exertions of merchants and commercial bodies generally interested in the Cotton trade, and on botanists, the Forest Department, &c, but merchants have few opportunities and little leisure, and botanists and foresters, while often affording valuable aid, possess only a part of the knowledge or opportunity needed for successful agricultural experiment in Cotton-growing.

18. Government would much have preferred to have left the task of improving and extending the Cotton supply to private enterprise. Two years, however, have now elapsed since a crisis, such as was calculated to bring forward such enterprise had it been forthcoming, arose, but little, as far as Government are aware, has been done by private enterprise, either here or in other Presidencies, in the way of improving either the staple of the Cotton, or the machinery for cleaning it. Indeed, the first result of the crisis has been to render the grower and the native trader who supplies the Presidency market less particular than before as to the quality of their Cotton. So ready has been the sale, and so high the price of inferior Cotton, that there is even less immediate inducement than formerly to produce it good and clean.

19. But at any time, as regards private efforts to discover new varieties of Cotton or new methods of cleaning it, it must be borne in mind that there are obstacles to success in this country such as greatly enhance the difficulties which private parties have to encounter. It is certain that the failures before any tangible result can be attained must be numerous, and the loss will necessarily tend to deter private experimentalists, who, moreover, if successful, hold a less advantageous position than Government for testing any success which might be attained, and getting it recognized.

20. Nor will Dr. Forbes' employment in the manner above proposed in any way discourage private efforts in the same direction. On the contrary, it will, the Governor in Council considers, stimulate such efforts, and aid in a very important degree those who are inclined to devote time and trouble to experiments, but who, from want of leisure, of means, or of full information, are so ill able to supply the place of those wealthy and well-informed experimentalists to whom European agricultural owes so much.

21. It is a further argument against depending entirely on the slow operation of private enterprise and self-interest in this matter, that whatever can be done must be done speedily; opportunity now offers which, if not at once taken advantage of, may not be again presented for years to come, if at all.

22. The objection that "trials have been made and failed," if seriously raised, cannot long be sustained. The experiments that have been made, if carefully analyzed, are far from conclusive, and Government would not except from this judgment even the numerous and costly experiments conducted some years ago by the American planters.

23. Some of the experiments most relied on as establishing a negative result were conducted by persons ignorant of the nature of the soil and climate on which they were to experiment, frequently with bad seed, or at the wrong time of the year; other experimentalists were ignorant of or misunderstood by the people with whom they were dealing—often too imperfectly acquainted with the proper mode of dealing with the plant it was desired to introduce, even in its own soil. Under such circumstances, it is surprising that any result at all should have been attained, and the successful introduction of the New Orleans variety of Cotton is a result which of itself would compensate for a host of failures.

24. His Excellency the Governor in Council is therefore pleased to appoint Dr. Forbes a Commissioner, with instructions to devote his exclusive attention to questions regarding the improvement and extension of the cultivation of Cotton, and the invention and manufacture of Cotton-cleaning machinery. Government would not restrict his operations to any particular part of the Presidency, but leave him to visit any part of the area whence our supplies of Cotton are drawn in which he thinks a favourable field for his inquiries is likely to be found.

25. Dr. Forbes should be directed to communicate freely on the subject of his duties with the Chamber of Commerce, and with all associations and individuals interested in the subject, and invite any suggestions which may occur or be offered to him for promoting the great object of improving the Cotton of Western India, and increasing its supply.

26. It should be recommended to the Government of India that Dr. Forbes, whilst so employed, should draw the same salary as at present allowed for his combined duties of Superintendent of Sadashewghur and of the Dharwar Cotton Factory, viz., Rupees 1,600 per mensem.

27. Government would guard themselves against being supposed to expect too much from Dr. Forbes' employment. They are doubtless prepared for many failures, and for some unproductive expenditure, and His Excellency the Governor in Council will be content with a very moderate measure of success. But one success such as the introduction of the New Orleans variety of Cotton, as suited to two or three large Districts, or the discovery of a cleaning-machine like Dr. Forbes' Gin, will, in the opinion of His Excellency the Governor in Council, more than repay any outlay in which this proposal will involve Government.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,
Deputy Secretary to Government.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

No. 2720 of 1863.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

To the SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT of FORT ST. GEORGE,
Madras.

SIR,—I am directed by His Excellency the Governor in Council to forward, for the information of the Government of Madras, 4 printed copies of the Resolution passed by this Government, under to-day's date, No. 2716, appointing Dr. G. F. Forbes a Commissioner, with instructions to devote his exclusive attention to questions regarding the improvement and extension of the cultivation of Cotton, and the invention and manufacture of Cotton-cleaning Machinery.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient Servant,

Secretary to Government.

Bombay Castle, 14*th August* 1863.

Rev = 1863 Oct 1st
Pro: of Govt for August 1991

From the Secty to the
Govt of Bombay —

Dated 14th Augt 1863.
Received 24th Augt
No. 2720.

Sir/-

Forwarding copies of a Resolution passed by the Government of Bombay expressing Dr J. H. Flowers acknowledgements with the instructions to devote his exclusive attention to questions regarding the improvement and extension of the cultivation of Cotton —

No 1585 - 28th Augt

With due Order

No 305 + 306 —

c 26 Augt p 3 R 27th

15/5 No. 1585

The foregoing letter and the Resolution which accompanied it will be communicated to the Board of Revenue and the Chamber of Commerce. —

Fort St George
28th August 1863

To Chief Bd of Rev. with an Enclosure Copy 31st Augt
— Ch: of Cond. with an Enclosure
Editors' Table —