

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1761

Press
~~Mis.~~

321 322

Dated

25-9-1863

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
25th September 1863.*

No. 321. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 12th September 1863, No. 5,753 :—

Read the following letter from H. G. SMITH, Esq., Acting Collector of Cuddapah, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 31st August 1863, No. 135.

SIR,

1. With reference to the Board's Circular letter dated 11th October 1862, No. 6,818. I have the honor to enclose copies of the reports on the cultivation of the Peruvian Cotton from those gentlemen who received seed from Mr. Wedderburn.

2. From what I have myself seen of the trees, I think there can be little doubt that the cotton would thrive well in the District; but it is almost impossible to judge from so limited a trial.

3. Should it be the wish of Government to introduce it on a large scale, I beg to recommend that some few acres be selected and a thoroughly trained gardener sent to superintend it; for it is impossible for people having other occupations which frequently take them away from the localities where they may be making experiments to look properly after the culture.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From F. B. MOLONY, Esq., Sub-Collector of Cuddapah, to H. G. SMITH, Esq., Acting Collector of Cuddapah, dated Madanapully, 21st July 1863, No. 137.

SIR,

1. I have the honor to inform you of the result of the experiment with Peruvian Cotton seed, forwarded to me by Mr. Wedderburn in September last. I selected a piece of land in my garden at this place sheltered from the north-east wind, which blows violently here in the month of November. The soil was perfectly fresh, no crop having been raised on it for at least four years; when turned up with the plough, it seemed to me to be a rich loam, and I did not think it necessary to use manure.

2. On the 9th October I sowed some seed in rows with a distance of six feet between each row, and the same between each plant. Each seed was planted where it was intended the shrub should stand.

3. Unfortunately there was very heavy rain that night, and I lost many of the seeds.

4. On the 15th some of the plants were above ground, and as the weather was more promising I planted the rest of the seed except a few which I kept to plant in places where the first sowing should fail. Altogether I put down 164 seeds. They germinated generally in from five to ten days, though a few which I imagine had got deeply buried from the heavy rain took a much longer time, and I even found some coming up after the seed had been a month in the ground. The seed last sown was much more successful than that sown on the 9th October from which I infer that a good deal of the first had rotted from too much water.

5. I have now 113 plants varying in height from two to eight feet, and I notice that those most sheltered have fared the worst, and that those where the water used for irrigation has drained off quickly are better than those where it has stood about the roots.

6. The crop I regret to say was a failure. In the month of April and beginning of May there was every prospect of a large yield. The pods were numerous and very large but they burst just as the rain set in. I found many eaten by a small maggot and almost all discoloured. Nearly the only good pod in the garden. I sent down to Messrs. Binny and Co. having previously taken out the seed, and they inform me that "the Cotton is of good colour and staple, but is rather harsh in fibre. Its present value in the English market is about 22½d." This is encouraging, and I hope the next crop will turn out better, I shall then be able to give you the average yield for each plant and the proportion of cotton to seed.

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7. I may here remark that the seed produced is fully as good as that I received from Mr. Wedderburn, and I think even better. It seems to me to be rounder and better filled.

8. The plants were irrigated about once in four days during the hot weather, not so often in the cold.

9. My plants are now too much crowded in some places. I shall commence pruning after the next crop, and shall transplant some immediately to see if they will bear that test, and that the others may have more room.

10. The plant appears to like rather a light soil, plenty of air, and occasional water. I see no reason whatever why it should not thrive under wells in this country as vigorously as it does in the valley of the Peru, and give a cotton of as good quality and commanding as large a price.

From Mr. J. W. SAALFELT, to H. G. SMITH, Esq., Acting Collector of Cuddapah, dated 18th July 1863.

SIR,

1. I have the honor to inform you, that owing to the failure of water in the well of the garden, where I sowed the Peruvian Cotton seeds, the plants, which were looking remarkably well till then, withered away.

2. I have no doubt that where an abundant supply of water is near at hand during the hot weather, its cultivation will be attended with success.

From F. S. CHILD, Esq., Civil Judge of Cuddapah, to H. G. SMITH, Esq., Acting Collector of Cuddapah, dated 24th August 1863, No. 326.

SIR,

I have the honor to state in reply to your letter of the 17th July last, that a few days after the receipt of the seed from Mr. Wedderburn, I had the seeds planted two and two at a distance of about a yard apart. They germinated well, being watered, and the weeds were removed, and they have been watered since once a month, and have grown most vigorously to the height of from four to nine feet, but as yet there is no flower. The soil is a light red soil of a very good description.

From A. W. BARCLAY, Esq., to H. G. SMITH, Esq., Acting Collector of Cuddapah, dated Budwail, 25th July 1863.

SIR,

1. I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 17th instant, requesting me to report upon the cultivation of the Peruvian Cotton seed sent me by the Collector towards the end of the last year.

2. I received only a very few seeds, half of which I planted in a blackish soil where the means of plentiful irrigation were at hand, and the rest were sown in a sandy soil where they only received water now and then.

3. The seeds were sown in the end of October last year, and of the first mentioned portion the plants have grown to a considerable height, some of them being as high as eight or nine feet, but they have not branched to any extent, nor have any pods appeared except upon one tree, from which I gathered three in April last. The latter portion did not all come up, and the plants are very stunted in appearance, from one to three feet in, but with the stems much thicker in proportion than the others. They also have not branched to any extent and no pods have yet made their appearance. The plants have a much more "shrub" like look than the other.

4. I ought to mention that I planted the seeds much too close together, not being aware at the time of the proper distance to be maintained between them, which I have since observed is six feet. I must also observe that the nature of my duties necessitating frequent moving about,

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I have not been able to attend closely to the carrying out of my orders as to the watering of the plants, &c.

(True Copies.)

(Signed) H. G. SMITH, *Acting Collector.*

1. Ordered to be submitted to Government and that copy be furnished to the Agri-Horticultural Society and Chamber of Commerce.

2. The Board request the Acting Collector to keep them informed of the further progress of the experiment.

No. 322. ORDER THEREON, 25th September 1863, No. 1,761.

1. These Proceedings will be brought to the notice of the Secretary of State.

2. The Board will convey to Messrs. Molony, Saalfelt, Child and Barclay the thanks of Government for their respective communications.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,

Deputy Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

„ Editor's Table.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Copy in a letter to England
of 26th September 1863 No 2

Proc = 1863. Department.
Proc: 1863 for Sept.

No 2218.
PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated 12th September 1863.
No 2162

No. 5,753.

Submitting letter from the Collector of Cud-
daph forwarding the reports on the cultiva-
tion of the Peruvian Cotton Seed from those
Gentlemen who received seed from Mr. Wed-
derburn.

No 221/1822.

2218/1822

18-1761.

These proceedings will
be brought to the notice of the
Secretary of State.

The Board will convey the
message through Messrs. Child and
Barclay the thanks of the Board for
their previous communication.

Printed by the
25th Sept 1863

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Editha Stalk

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