M.R.O. 14—13,000—27-9-24.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 1819 Press ~~Mis.~~

49.50

Dated 5-10- 19 18.3

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 5th October 1863.

No. 49. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 19th September 1863, No. 5,952 :—

Read the following letter from the Honorable R. S. ELLIS, C. B., Collector of Madras, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Saidapet, 25th July 1863, No. 285.

SIR,

1. With reference to paragraph 3 of my letter No. 258 of the 16th instant, I have the honor to enclose a report received from Mr. R. P. Campbell on the state and progress of the Cotton grown by him on the sand flats to the north of Ennore from Peruvian seeds supplied to him by Mr. Cunliffe.

2. Mr. Campbell takes, I believe, too sanguine a view in paragraph 5 of the probable extension of cultivation on the sand flats. No Durkhasts have been made by the Ryots; should such be made, they will be submitted to the Board with a view to a reduced assessment being fixed with a view to a reclamation of the sea-board now lying waste.

3. Two other gentlemen, Raguruthnum Naidu, Zemindar of Vengul, and Mr. Fitzgerald who also received a supply from Mr. Cunliffe, have reported that the plants are thriving well, but that they have not yet yielded.

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ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From R. P. CAMPBELL, Esq., to the Honorable R. S. ELLIS, C. B., Collector of Madras, dated 18th July 1863.

SIR,

1. I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 9th instant, asking me for information of the state and progress of the Cotton grown from the Peruvian seeds supplied by Mr. Cunliffe to me at the close of October 1862.

2. The quantity of seed supplied was little above two handsful, but was sown in the sand flats or drifts to the north of Ennore, in portion of the allotment I have for firewood plantations. The sand had been previously turned up by the plough and mamuty, and had received a small quantity of refuse chiefly ashes as manure. The planting of the seeds took place shortly after I had received the supply. The seeds were dibbed into the ground, six at a time, a few inches apart from each other in small spaces two or three feet from each other. The ground was slightly watered by the hand, till the plants appeared above the surface. Heavy rains then followed, and exterminated more than half. The remainder came up, till they were six inches high; then they were occasionally watered till they rose to nine inches. I did not venture to remove any, lest the removal of one out of a batch of three seedlings, in such poor soil, might affect the growth of the others, in the same space or plot. The plants received no watering subsequently, but were left to themselves, and I did not visit this spot between February and June. Some continued to grow till they were two feet high, dependant however entirely for nourishment on occasional rains and on the moisture below the surface of the sand, in which they were planted; such of the plants as had not struck deep root died away, the remainder reached to the height of two and three feet, bore flowers and pods and looked healthy in April 1863; I have since learnt that the pods never came to maturity. A few of the plants still exist, and yielded a crop early in July; but, as the plants were in proximity of nurseries of other plants, trees and vegetables, field rats, which frequent these, damaged the Cotton in the pods, by eating the seeds before the yield was ripe. One plant found its way into a nursery of Cassuarina, and rose five and half feet high.

3. The existing plants show no symptom of decay; but, on the contrary look now better than ever, and the impression of all who have recently seen them is, that they will last for three years, and grow and continue vigorous till the last.

4. Egyptian and Sea Island Cotton have been tried on the same soil with similar results.

5. With ordinary attention, and with more constant irrigation during the hot months, there can be no doubt that a very fair crop can be obtained from any good imported seed Cotton. The soil itself (if such it can be called for it is only sand) is however wretchedly poor. This is immensely compensated for, by the excellent quality and quantity of water available, but the only means of irrigation is by digging holes in the sand, in the wet months a few inches, but in the hot months, ten feet below the existing level, and much trouble is entailed in preventing the sand from drifting back into these hollows. It would never pay any Ryot to cultivate Cotton of itself or Indigo (both of which can and may be made to thrive on these sand flats and drifts) unless he grows them with grain, pulse, or other cereal, or unless the land tax of 14 Annas, and 2 Rupees 10 Annas, respectively, is remitted, and a nominal tax of 4 Annas per Cawny is fixed, to encourage him to reclaim the said flats and drifts, which exist for miles on the sea-board of this coast. As the chief holder of land in that locality, I trust I may be excused in remarking that, while such immense tracts are available and are not turned to any useful purpose, but are allowed to be waste; some encouragement by Government during the Cotton crisis, for the culture of that commodity, would have induced many a Ryot to have turned his attention to it. And, from my communication with them, I am sure they would extensively grow Cotton and Raggy together, if they had only a nominal assessment to pay. As for Indigo they showed me no later than last week a very fair specimen growing a mile away from the experimental Cotton to which this letter refers, and they expressed their willingness to undertake its culture largely, if the assessment, on the sand flat on which it can be grown, is taken off, or reduced to the four Annas per Cawny, above which no survey would fix it, if compared with the real and some times rich soil on the west of the canal, a particle of which is not contained in the sand flats and drifts to the east of it. Many years ago, the hollows of these sand flats from which old jungle had been previously cut away, used to be planted with Raggy and other grain, watered in the way described by me. But in recent years very little, and some times none, of it has been so planted, as it is well known among the Ryots that, after the payment of the heavy Kist of Rupees 2-10-0 per Cawny, no profit to the Ryot is over.

6. In concluding this report, I cannot refrain from observing that, under all circumstances, this experiment in Cotton planting is so far satisfactory and encouraging, as to establish, beyond all doubt, that seed Cotton of the description given to me by Mr. Cunliffe, will thrive upon these sand flats and drifts, forming the sea-board to the north of Madras, within reach of the Northern Canal, and that the advantages thereby for transport of produce should be a further inducement to an extension of the experiments; but I am of opinion that it never can be a remunerative speculation, unless grown with grain, to enable the grower to pay the existing assessment, or if grown by itself, then only when the assessment is a nominal one, I am also of opinion that the past experiments would have been more satisfactory, if the seed had reached me earlier, and had been sown in August or September, as in that case the plant would have withstood the monsoon, the root would have sooner struck more deeply, more prepared for the dry season, and would thus have obtained moisture from below, from February to June. They might then have been quite independent of any watering and perhaps of any rain, during that period, and would most probably have been bearing in May, June and July. But for the irregularity of my having sown the seeds early in November, as I only then received them shortly previous from Mr. Cunliffe, I think I should have been able to show you superior results.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) R. S. ELLIS, *Collector.*

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1. The Board thank Mr. Campbell for his report, copy of which will be submitted to Government. Copy will also be communicated to the Honorary Secretary to the Agri-Horticultural Society.

2. There can be no doubt but that the seed was sown too late in the season to ensure a fair trial, and the result reported is consequently more favorable than might have been expected under

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
5th October 1863.

the circumstances. The Board would be glad to learn how the experiment progresses in the current year.

No. 50. ORDER THEREON, 5th October 1863, No. 1,819.

Ordered to be communicated to the Home Government.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

N. 1819. 3

Ordered to be communicated to the Home Govt. —

Fort St. George
5th Octr. 1638

14 Copies Lr. to the Bd. of Revl. Octr. 6 Octr.

Copy in a Ltr to England
Dy 5th Octr. 63. No. 106.

Copy in a Letter to Engd.
D/5 Octr/63 No. 106.

Rev. 1863. Department.
Pro: of Govt for October

No. 2298.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

Dated 19th *September* 1863.

Received 25th Sept.

No. 5,952.

Submitting letter from the Collector of Madras forwarding a report received from Mr. Campbell on the progress of Cotton grown by him.

No 49 & 50.

No. 1819. 5 Octr

With Order

Rd 1 October 1863