M.R.O. 14—18,000—27-9-24.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1165 Press Mis.

85-20

Dated 6-7- 19 Clerk

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 6th July 1864.

No. 89. Read the following letter from H. E. JACOMB, Esq., Officiating Under Secretary to the Government of Bombay, to J. D. SIM, Esq., Secretary to the Government of Madras, Revenue Department, dated Bombay Castle, 17th June 1864, No. 2,274B:—

SIR,

I am directed by His Excellency the Governor in Council to forward herewith copy of a letter* addressed by the Collector of Canara to the Revenue Commissioner, Southern Division, and to request that this Government may be favoured with any information the Government of Madras may possess relative to the seeding of the bamboo, and whether it is connected, as far as they are aware, with the prevalence of fever or otherwise.

* No. 874, dated 16th April 1864.

No. 2,274.

EXTRACT from the Proceedings of the Government of Bombay in the Revenue Department, dated 17th June 1864.

Read the following papers:—

Letters from Mr. M. J. SHAW STEWART, Collector of Canara, to Mr. W. HART, Revenue Commissioner, S. D., No. 874, dated 16th April 1864.

1. I have the honor to report that a very large number of people have migrated from the Dharwar and Belgaum Districts to this (Soopa) Talook for the purpose of collecting the Bamboo seeds, which are very plentiful this year. They come from Nepanee, Kittoor, Nurgoond, and the Hooblee Talook, in small parties, and remain for ten days or a fortnight, during which time they collect as much seed as the whole party can carry away. It is estimated that about 50,000 persons have in this manner visited the Soopa jungles during the present season, including inhabitants of Canara as well as those belonging to other Districts. I am glad to be able to report that no disturbance whatever has been caused by those persons, who have conducted themselves in a peaceable and orderly manner.

2. I believe that the supply of grain thus afforded by the bounty of nature has proved a providential benefit to the poorer classes during the present scarcity of food. It is calculated that each party takes away enough for home consumption during the monsoon months, and that there is some for sale also.

3. Both the large Bamboos (Bidurguloo) and the medium-sized or common Bamboo (Shiboo) have seeded in many parts of the Soopa Talook this year. The seed of the large Bamboo is like oats in shape and taste, and is preferred to the other as being more easily prepared and more digestible. The supply of seed from the large Bamboo is now almost over for the season, and the people are collecting the seeds of the smaller kind.

4. I am informed that it is expected that the seeding will be more general next year than it has been during the present season.

5. I am unable to give much information regarding the supposed periodical seeding of these gigantic grasses. The Natives all appear to think that a general seeding takes place at periods variously estimated at from 30 to 60 years. There is no doubt that partial seeding takes place irrespectively of these periods, probably more or less every year. I frequently observed Bamboos in seed and young plants growing during the years 1850—55. But there is no doubt that the seeding in the present season is quite exceptional. The appearance of the forests is much altered by the effect of the novel crop with which the Bamboos are covered.

6. It is well known that all the Bamboos that seed die during the same year. The seeding of this and the following season will therefore cause a great diminution of the number of these useful plants.

7. You will doubtless remember that the prevalence of fever in Canara has been attributed to the great increase of Bamboo jungles. If this theory be correct, we may expect that the fever will now decrease. In point of fact a very considerable decrease has been observed

since the last monsoon. It would be interesting to know if the Bamboos have seeded generally in the other Districts where fever has been prevalent of late years, and whether it has been followed by a decrease of the epidemic.

Such as Coimbatore, Coorg, Salem, and Mysore.

8. With reference to the supposed periodicity of the Bamboo seeding, I hope it will not be considered out of place to note that about sixty years appear to have elapsed since this District was scourged by an epidemic fever similar to that which has been prevalent for the last few years. Dr. Buchanan, who was commissioned in 1806 to visit the countries recently conquered from the Sultan Tippoo, mentions in his report that the northern parts of this Collectorate in 1806-1807 suffered greatly from fever, by which some villages were almost depopulated. Since that time, so far as I can ascertain, Canara has been considered a remarkably healthy and salubrious District.

Memorandum from Mr. W. HART, Revenue Commissioner, S. D., to Government, No. 1,718, dated 13th May 1864.

1. Submitted for the information of Government.

2. The Revenue Commissioner begs to add that he has, with the assistance of the Collectors of Canara and Belgaum, been able to obtain upwards of two cart-loads of Bamboo seed, which he proposes to distribute at Poona to any persons wishing to sow it.

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1. RESOLUTION.—Copies of this letter should be forwarded to the Governments of Madras and Bengal, with a request that they will favour this Government with any information they may possess relative to the seeding of the Bamboo, and whether it is connected, as far as they are aware, with the prevalence of fever or otherwise.

2. The Conservator of Forests and the Collectors in whose Districts the Bamboo abounds should also be requested to procure any information they can on the above points.

3. The seed should be distributed.

Ordered that Copies of the above be forwarded to—
The Revenue Commissioner, S. D.,
The Revenue Commissioner, N. D.,
The Conservator of Forests.

Offg. Under Secretary to Government.

No. 90. ORDER THEREON, 6th July 1864, No. 1,165.

Forests. Communicated to the Board of Revenue and the Officiating Conservator of Forests, who are requested to obtain and submit the fullest information procurable on the subject.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.
" the Officiating Conservator of Forests.

E. d. S. T. Augustin.

No. 2274.

EXTRACT from the Proceedings of the Government of Bombay in the Revenue Department, dated 17th June 1864.

Read the following papers:—

Letters from Mr. M. J. Shaw Stewart, Collector of Canara, to Mr. W. Hart, Revenue Commissioner S. D., No. 874, dated 16th April 1864.

I have the honor to report that a very large number of people have migrated from the Dharwar and Belgaum Districts to this (Soopa) Talook for the purpose of collecting the Bamboo seeds, which are very plentiful this year. They come from Nepanee, Kittoor, Nurgoond, and the Hooblee Talook, in small parties, and remain for ten days or a fortnight, during which time they collect as much seed as the whole party can carry away. It is estimated that about 50,000 persons have in this manner visited the Soopa jungles during the present season, including inhabitants of Canara as well as those belonging to other districts. I am glad to be able to report that no disturbance whatever has been caused by these persons, who have conducted themselves in a peaceable and orderly manner.

2. I believe that the supply of grain thus afforded by the bounty of nature has proved a providential benefit to the poorer classes during the present scarcity of food. It is calculated that each party takes away enough for home consumption during the monsoon months, and that there is some for sale also.

3. Both the large Bamboos (Bidurguloo) and the medium-sized or common Bamboo (Shiboo) have seeded in many parts of the Soopa Talook this year. The seed of the large Bamboo is like oats in shape and taste, and is preferred to the other as being more easily prepared and more digestible. The supply of seed from the large Bamboo is now almost over for the season, and the people are collecting the seeds of the smaller kind.

4. I am informed that it is expected that the seeding will be more general next year than it has been during the present season.

5. I am unable to give much information regarding the supposed periodical seeding of these gigantic grasses. The Natives all appear to think that a general seeding takes place at periods variously estimated at from 30 to 60 years. There is no doubt that partial seeding takes place irrespectively of these periods, probably more or less every year. I frequently observed Bamboos in seed and young plants growing during the years 1850—55. But there is no doubt that the seeding in the present season is quite exceptional. The appearance of the forests is much altered by the effect of the novel crop with which the Bamboos are covered.

6. It is well known that all the Bamboos that seed die during the same year. The seeding of this and the following season will therefore cause a great diminution of the number of these useful plants.

7. You will doubtless remember that the prevalence of fever in Canara has been attributed to the great increase of Bamboo jungles. If this theory be correct, we may expect that the fever will now decrease. In point of fact a very considerable decrease has been observed since the last monsoon. It would be interesting to know if the Bamboos have seeded generally in the other districts where fever has been prevalent of late years, and whether it has been followed by a decrease of the epidemic.

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of this Collectorate in 1806-1807 suffered greatly from fever, by which some villages werd almost depopulated. Since that time, so far as I can ascertain, Canara has been considered a remarkably healthy and salubrious district.

Memorandum from Mr. W. Hart, Revenue Commissioner S. D., to Government, No. 1713, dated 13th May 1864.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. The Revenue Commissioner begs to add that he has, with the assistance of the Collectors of *Canara and Belgaum*, been able to obtain upwards of two cart-loads of Bamboo seed, which he proposes to distribute at *Poona* to any persons wishing to sow it.

RESOLUTION.—Copies of this letter should be forwarded to the Governments of Madras and Bengal, with a request that they will favor this Government with any information they may possess relative to the seeding of the Bamboo, and whether it is connected, as far as they are aware, with the prevalence of fever or otherwise.

2. The Conservator of Forests and the Collectors in whose districts the Bamboo abounds should also be requested to procure any information they can on the above points.

3. The seed should be distributed.

Ordered that copies of the above be forwarded to—

The REVENUE COMMISSIONER S. D.,
The REVENUE COMMISSIONER N. D.,
The CONSERVATOR of FORESTS.

Offg. Under Secretary to Government.

Revenue 18th Dept.
Pro: of Govt for July.
No. 1664

From the Offg Under
Secretary to the Govt of
Bombay.

Offce 3 June 1864.
Recd 25

No 2276 B.

Forwarding Copy
of a letter from the Collr
of Canara and request-
-ing to be favored with
any information rela-
tive to the seeding of
the bamboo, and the pre-
-valence of fever by the in-
-crease of Bamboo jungle.
(No 1155 of 30th Ult.)

With an order

From the Offg Secy
of Govt Revenue Dept
Pro No 2584

Pro of the Board of Rev
of 11th December 1863 No 3270

No 30 of 30

By Com for Bldy