M.R.O. 14—13,000—27-9-24.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 164 — Press ~~Mis.~~

57-60

Dated 3 - 2 - ~~19~~ 1864

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 3rd February 1864.

No. 59. Read the following letter from W. FISHER, Esq., Resident of Travancore and Cochin, to the Honorable A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Trevandrum, 19th January 1864, No. 7:—

SIR,

1. I have the honor to forward, for the information of Government, copy of a letter addressed to me by Captain White, the Assistant Resident, on the subject of an experiment made by him to test the suitableness of the climate and soil of Travancore for the growth of Brazil Cotton, some samples of which accompanied his letter, and are herewith transmitted.*

* Sent by banghy.

2. The three samples in question are, it will be observed, the produce of trees of different growth, but of the same stock, and I think it is desirable to ascertain as Captain White proposes to do, firstly, whether this Cotton is of good staple and quality; secondly, whether the sample of later growth shows signs of deterioration; and thirdly, whether the produce of the third year is inferior to that of the second year.

3. There is reason to think, I believe, that this Cotton is of superior quality, and that it could be successfully grown on the laterite uplands of Travancore, and on those of the Western Coast generally.

4. The climate of South Travancore, however, in which this Cotton has been grown, differs very considerably from that of Canara or Malabar, inasmuch as whilst the monsoon is not nearly so heavy as it is further north, the porous soil is continually refreshed almost throughout the year by frequent showers.

5. There can be little doubt that if this Cotton is planted at the proper season, it at any rate requires no irrigation. Of course the weight of the crop depends on the mode of cultivation, but it would certainly appear that common care, even such as is bestowed on ordinary crops, would probably prove remunerative, and at any rate, I have reason to believe, that the Circar would thoroughly test the possibility of growing this Cotton, if it is determined by competent authority that the quality and staple of the produce are such as under ordinary circumstances would always make it marketable.

6. Under these circumstances, I think it desirable to bring the experiment tried by Captain White to the notice of Government, for though made on a very small scale, the mode which Captain White has adopted to test the relative value of several growths will perhaps afford better means of ascertaining the value of the produce, and the fitness of the climate and soil of the country for producing Cotton, than could be obtained from the outturn of one year's crop from a large number of plants.

7. I need hardly say that should the growth of this Cotton on a large scale give an average yield of half the quantity per tree gathered from Captain White's plants, the waste uplands of Travancore may be turned to great account, and that another very valuable product will be added to the list of which this rich country can already boast.

From Captain C. M. WHITE, Assistant Resident, to W. FISHER, Esq., Resident of Travancore and Cochin, dated Trevandrum, 15th January 1864.

SIR,

1. I have the honor to address you on the subject of an experiment which I have been making to test the adaptability of the Brazil Cotton tree to the soil and climate of this part of Travancore, and to request you would favor me by taking such steps as you see fit for ascertaining the value of the results arrived at.

2. The soil which I have selected as most suitable for the trial is ordinary laterite, firstly, because I was under the impression that its nature was somewhat similar to the red upland soil of Brazil, where the Pernambuco Cotton reaches the greatest perfection, and, secondly, because it appeared to me that it would be a considerable advantage to the country, if Cotton of superior staple could be grown on a description of land so free of timber, so comparatively untilled, and of such extent as is the laterite upland of Travancore.

3. I obtained about three years ago, from an acclimatized tree, a few seeds which I planted in fine laterite soil which had been dug up and dressed with stable manure; from one of these grew the tree which produced, when two years old, the Cotton marked No. 1, and next year when it was three years old the Cotton marked No. 2. It was at this latter period, a large healthy shrub with strong lateral branches covering an area of about 17 feet in diameter and reaching, although it had been considerably topped, a height of 8 or 9 feet; the amount of clean Cotton produced, when two years old was half a pound, and by the time it has finished bearing this season, the amount promises to be still larger.

4. The trees which produced the Cotton marked No. 3, were sown in June and July 1863; the soil selected was rather fine laterite in which holes were dug to loosen the earth, a little stable manure mixed with the returned soil, and the plants then left to themselves, with the exception of being occasionally freed from weeds.

5. Those sown in June just before the heavy rains are very strong and healthy. Though only eight months old they cover an area of about 7 feet diameter, and had they not been topped to 5 feet, would have reached a considerable height. The only tree which was sown in June without any manure is healthy and in bearing though not so large as the others, which may however be in some measure accounted for by its having been twice eaten down by cattle. The trees sown in July and August have not succeeded so well as those sown earlier, and none of those sown in these months in coarse laterite without manure have thriven, though two trees sown in July in very coarse laterite with only a few dead leaves for manure are healthy and in bearing.

6. The sample of Cotton No. 3, from the eight month trees, is not so good as what they promise to give in three weeks or a month hence, when the fine pods which now cover them shall have ripened, but as my duties will call me away from Trevandrum shortly, I have sent a sample of what I had picked. Several gentlemen in this place to whom I have given some of this seed; have trees equal in health to those described by me.

7. My object in addressing you is with a view to ascertain,

First.—Whether the Cotton is of a good staple and quality.

Second.—Whether No. 3 shows any sign of deterioration from No. 1 the parent stock.

Third.—Whether No. 2, the produce of a tree three years old, is inferior in quality to No. 1 the produce of the same tree at two years of age.

8. In case it should be considered worth while to make an experiment on a larger scale than that attempted by me, the seed in my possession is available, and would suffice to plant a considerable plot of land as each tree requires about five square yards to stand on.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) W. FISHER,
Resident of Travancore and Cochin.

No. 60. ORDER THEREON, 3rd February 1864, No. 194.

The Board of Revenue are requested to submit Captain White's samples to competent judges, and report the result.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. D. SIM,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue with three samples.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Resident's Office.
Trevandrum, 19th January 1864.

No. 7.

From

W. Fisher Esquire
Resident of Travancore & Cochin

To

The Honorable A. J. Arbuthnot
Chief Secretary to Government
Fort St George

Sir,

I have the honor to forward, for the information of Government, copy of a letter addressed to me by Captain White the Assistant Resident on the subject of an experiment made by him to test the suitableness of the climate and soil of Travancore for the growth of Brazil Cotton, some samples of which accompanied his letter, and are herewith transmitted.

sent by Bangly

2. The three samples in question are it will be observed the produce of trees of different growth but of the same stock, and I think it is desirable to ascertain as Captain White proposes to do 1st whether this Cotton is of good staple and quality. 2nd whether the sample of later growth shows signs of deterioration and 3rd whether the produce of the third year is inferior to that of the second year.

3. There is reason to think I believe that this Cotton is of superior quality, and that it could be

be successfully grown on the laterite uplands of Travancore, and on those of the western coast generally.

4. The climate of South Travancore however in which this Cotton has been grown, differs very considerably from that of Canara or Malabar, inasmuch as whilst the monsoon is not nearly so heavy as it is further north, the porous soil is continually replenished almost throughout the year by frequent showers.

5. There can be little doubt that if this cotton is planted at the proper season, it at any rate requires no irrigation. Of course the weight of the crop depends on the mode of cultivation, but it would certainly appear that common care, even such as is bestowed on ordinary crops, would probably prove remunerative; and at any rate, I have reason to believe, that the Circar would thoroughly test the possibility of growing this cotton, if it is determined by competent Authority that the quality and staple of the produce are such as under ordinary circumstances would always make it marketable.

6. Under these circumstances, I think it desirable to bring the experiment tried by Captain White to the notice of Government, for though made on a very small scale, the mode which Captain White has adopted to test the relative value of several growths will perhaps afford better means of ascertaining the value of the produce, and the fitness of the climate and soil of the country for producing cotton, than could be obtained from the out turn of one year's crop from a large number of plants.

7. I need hardly say that should the growth of this cotton on a large scale give an average yield _____ of half the quantity per tree gathered from Captain White's plants, the waste uplands of Travancore may be turned to great account, and that another very valuable product will be added to the list of which this rich country can already boast.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most Obedient Servant
W. Taylor
Resident.

The Board of Revenue are requested to submit Captain White's samples to competent judges & report the result.

[illegible]

Fort St. George
3d February 1864.

14 Copies to the Bd of Revenue with samples Circ[ular] 5 Feb[ruary]

Rev[enue] Public
From Sec[retary] to Govt 3d February 1864
No. 729
The President &
To Travancore & Cochin
The Chief Secretary
to Government
Fort St George

Dated 19th January 1864
Received 25th
26th

No 7

From Bd of Rev. dy 30th Jan[uary] 64
6 No 2394 in Pub[lic]

Enclosure one
No 3 Samples of cleaned & uncleaned
Travancore Cot[ton] No 2334/54 Bd of Rev[enue]

No 104
dt 19th 3d Feb[ruary]

Forwarding copy of letter from Capt[ain] White on the subject of an experimental cultivation of Brazil Cotton in Travancore for the information of Government

1059 to 60